

A Study of Cases Found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's Speech at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women Plenary Session

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Abstract

This research intends to study the use of cases in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech . The objectives of this research are to explore cases found in the speech, to classify them into six types of cases and to determine the most frequently used case and the least frequently used case. Data are collected and interpreted to fulfill these objectives. The present research studies "cases" found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women Plenary Session based on Charles J .Fillmore's (1967) Case Grammar Theory. It is found that Agentive case is the most dominant case and Instrumental case is the least frequently used case in the speech. This research may benefit the readers who are interested in the use of cases for improving reading and writing skills.

1. Introduction

The present research studies the use of 'cases' found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary section based on Fillmore's Case Grammar Theory (Fillmore 1967). Fillmore used the term 'case' to identify the underlying syntactic-semantic relationship.

Case grammar is the substantive modification to the theory of transformational grammar which distinguished between deep and surface structure. Case grammar is a system of linguistic analysis focusing on the link between the valence, or number of subjects, objects, etc, of a verb and the grammatical context it requires. By studying the uses of 'cases' in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech, readers can understand the function of nouns or noun phrases based on specific verb and can know the usage of 'cases'. This research studies the different kinds of cases found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech. Readers can improve all four English language skills and enrich vocabulary by investigating a well - known native speaker's popular speech. There are varieties of interesting information in her speech. Of all her knowledgeable speeches, the speech at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women Plenary Session is selected to study cases, to find out the use of cases in a kind of language full of persuasive, informative and thought provoking choice of words. By doing so, this research can study varieties of cases in different uses of nouns or noun phrases to express the roles and plans, suggestions and warnings, experiences and feelings, and so on.

There are many related researches which applied Fillmore's Case Grammar. In this research, a related research is presented. It is Joshi's (2011) *Case system in English and Bajhangli*. In this research, the use of cases found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech is revealed according to Fillmore's Case Grammar Theory. The aim of this research is to study the use of 'cases' found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech. The objectives of this research are to identify cases in the speech, to classify them into six types of 'cases' and to find out the most frequently use and the least frequently use of cases. This research includes introduction, literature review, theoretical background of this research and a related research is revealed. Research methodology that contains data collection, data analysis and data interpretation is discussed. And then, finding

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and discussion are mentioned. Finally, conclusion of this research followed by references is presented.

2. Literature Review

This research studies cases found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary Session according to Fillmore's Case Theory (1967). This section reveals a biography of Hillary Rodham Clinton and a brief account on the selected speech of Hillary Rodham Clinton, theoretical background and a related research.

2.1 A Biography of Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton served as Secretary of State, Senator from New York, First Lady of the United States, First Lady of Arkansas, a practicing lawyer and law professor, activist, and volunteer. Hillary Rodham Clinton was born on October 26, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois, United States of America. Hillary grew up in a middle class home in Park Ridge, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. Her father, Hugh, was a World War II Navy veteran and a small business man with a drapery business that designed, printed, and sold his draperies. Hillary's mother, Dorothy, worked as housekeeper and babysitter while she went through high school. Her mother's experience sparked in Hillary a lifelong commitment to championing the need of children. Hillary attended public schools and was Brownie and a Girl Scout. Hillary graduated from Wellesley College and then went to Yale Law School. She graduated with honors in 1973. After serving as a lawyer for Congressional Committee in investigating President Nixon, she moved to Arkansas where she thought law and ran legal clinics representing poor people. She co-founded Arkansas Advocates for Children and families, and of the state's first child advocacy groups. And on October 11, 1975, she married Bill Clinton. As First Lady of Arkansas, she was a forceful champion for improving educational standards and health care access. Bill was first elected president in 1992 and re-elected in 1996. As First Lady, Hillary tenaciously led the fight to reform health care system so that all families have access to the care they need at affordable prices. In 1995, Hillary led the U.S. delegation to Beijing to attend the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women and delivered a speech. Hillary was elected in 2000 as the first female senator from New York. In early 2007, Hillary announced her plans to run for the presidency. After winning the U.S. presidential election, Obama nominated Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State. She accepted the nomination and was officially approved as the 67th U.S. Secretary of State by the Senate on January 21, 2009. During her term, Clinton used position to make women's rights and human rights. She became the first female candidate to be nominated for president by a major U.S political party. Although she won a popularity of the national popular vote, she lost the presidency to her Republican rival Donald Trump.

2.2 A Brief Account on the Selected Speech of Hillary Rodham Clinton

In this research, data are collected from the speech delivered by Hillary Rodham Clinton, as the First Lady of the United States, on September 5, 1995, at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The conference's informal name is "the Beijing Woman's conference." She supported women's human's right, leading to resulting document, "The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action". (www.un.org/geninfo/bp/women.html).

2.3 Theoretical Background

American linguist Fillmore (1967), in an article entitled 'The case for case', suggests that the underlying of a sentence contains a verb and one or more noun phrases, each noun phrase being associated with the verb in a particular case relationship. He also proposed that the grammatical notion, 'case' deserves a place in the base component of the grammar of every language. In the past, research on 'case' has amounted to an examination of the variety of

semantic relationships which can hold between nouns and other portions of sentences. Case elements which are optionally associated with specific verbs, will serve to explain various co-occurrence restrictions. Case grammar analyzes the surface syntactic structure of sentence by studying the combination of deep cases (i.e. semantic roles) which are required by a specific verb. Case grammar is a system of linguistic analysis, focusing on the link between the valence, or number of subjects, objects, etc., of a verb and the grammatical context it requires.

According to Fillmore, each verb selects a certain number of deep cases which form its case frame. This, a case frame describes important aspects of semantic valency, of verbs, adjectives and nouns. A fundamental hypothesis of case grammar is that grammatical functions, such as subject or object, are determined by the deep semantic valence of the verb.

Fillmore suggested that verbs are selected according to the case environments which the sentence provides and verbs are distinguished from each other not only by specification of the case frames into which they can be inserted, but also by their transformational properties. To recapitulate, Fillmore also suggested that the deep structure of every simple sentence is an array consisting of a V plus a number of NPs holding special labeled relations are provided for categorically and include such concepts as Agentive, Instrumental, Dative, Factitive, Locative, Objective, and several others.

The case notions comprise a set of universal presumably innate, concepts which identify certain types of judgments. The definitions of the cases that Fillmore proposes are:

Agentive (A): Agentive case is the case of the perceived instigator of the action identified by the verb, typically animate. Agentive case is marked by the preposition "by".

* John opened the door.
A V

* The door was opened by John. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.47)
V A

* John is an idiot. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.126)
A V A

Instrumental (I): Instrumental case is the case of the inanimate force or object causally involved in the action or state identified by the verb. The instrumental case is marked in preposition phrases (by, with, etc.....).

* Your speech impressed us with its brevity.
V I

* The brevity of your speech impressed us. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.44)
I V

* The key opened the door.
I V

* John opened the door with the key.
V I

* John used the key to open the door. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.48)
V I

* Nutcracker cracked the walnut.
I V

Dative (D): Dative is the case of the animate being affected by the state or action identified by the verb.

* We persuaded John that he could win.
V D

* It was apparent to John that he would win. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.48)
 V D

Factitive (F): Factitive case is the case of the object or being resulting from the action or state identified by the verb, or understood as part of the meaning of the verb.

* The construction workers build the house.
 V F

* The house is built by the construction workers. (Source: <http://m.grin.com>)
 F V

* John had a dream about Mary.
 V F

Locative (L): Locative case is the case which identifies the location or spatial orientation of the state of action identified by the verb.

* John keeps his car in the garage. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.48)
 V L

* Chicago is windy.
 L V

* It is windy in Chicago. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.48)
 V L

* There are many toys in the box. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.73)
 L

The box contains many toys.
 L

Objective (O): Objective case is the semantically most neutral case, the case of anything representable by a noun whose role in the action or state identified by the verb is identified by the semantic interpretation of the verb itself; conceivably the concept should be limited to things which are affected by the action or state identified by the verb.

* John gave the books to my brother. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.64)
 V O

* The book was given to my brother by John. (Source: Fillmore, 1967: P.48)
 O V

2.4 Related Research

As a related research, Joshi's research on *Case system in English and Bajhangli* (2011) is presented. The aim of his research is to find out the cases in Bajhangli and to find out similarities and differences between Bajhangli and English cases. The researcher collected data both from primary and from secondary Bajhangli sources to conduct the research. The sample population was eighty native speakers of the Bajhangli dialect, who were selected using judge mental/purposive sampling procedure. A questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. The major findings of this research clarify that Bajhangli has a complex case system, showing that common cases in English and Bajhangli are nominative, objective, instrumental, locative, possessive, dative, comitative, vocative, and temporal. The main case makers in Bajhangli dialect are the post-positions. Natural force is taken as an instrument in the Bajhangli dialect. Bajhangli has more number of case makers than English but the Bajhangli case makers are flexible in nature than English case makers. Some case makers in Bajhangli are overused.

Of many of the related researches, his research is based on the theory developed by Fillmore (1968) Case Grammar. The present research is based on the theory of Fillmore (1967).

3. Research Methodology

In this research, Fillmore's case grammar is based to analyze the cases in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary section . According to Fillmore's Case Grammar (1967), cases are identified in terms of verb used in the sentence. In this research, data collection, data analysis and data interpretation are presented.

3.1. Data collection and analysis

Data are collected from Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary section to study the different kinds of cases according to Fillmore's case theory. The following tables show six types of cases found in the speech.

Table 1 Cases found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the U.N. 4th World Conference on Women Plenary Session

Sr. No.	Sentence No.	Original Sentence	Cases					
			A	I	D	F	L	O
1.	1.	I would like to thank the Secretary General for inviting me to be part of this important United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.	1 1		1 1			
2.	2.	This is truly a celebration, a celebration of the contributions women make in every aspect of life: in the home, on the job, in the community, as mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, learners, workers, citizens, and leaders.	1 1				1	
3.	3.	It is also a coming together, much the way women come together every day in every country.	1				1	
4.	4.	We come together in fields and factories, in village markets and supermarkets, in living rooms and board rooms.	1				1	
5.	5.	Whether it is while playing with our children in the park, or washing clothes in a river, or taking a break at the office water cooler, we come together and talk about our aspirations and concern.	1		1		1 2	1 1
6.	6.	Our talk turns to our children and our families.	1		1			
7.	7.	However different we may appear, there is far more that unities us than divides us.	1		1 1			
8.	8.	We share a common future, and we are here to find common ground so that we may help bring new dignity and respect to women and girls all over the world, and in so doing bring new strength and stability to families as well.	2 1				1	1 1 1
9.	9.	By gathering in Beijing, we are focusing world attention on issues that matter most in our lives - the lives of women and their families: access to education, health care, jobs and credit.	1				1	1
10.	10.	There are some who question the reason for this conference.	1					

Sr. No.	Sentence No.	Original Sentence	Cases					
			A	I	D	F	L	O
11.	11.	Let them listen to the voices of women in their homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces.			1			1
12.	12.	There are some who wonder whether the lives of women and girls matter to economic and political progress around the globe.	1					
13.	13.	Let them look at the women gathered here and at Huairou -- the homemakers and nurses.			2	1		
14.	14.	It is conferences like this that compel governments and peoples everywhere to listen, look, and face the world's most pressing problems.	1		1			1
15.	15.	Wasn't it after all -- after the women's conference in Nairobi ten years ago that the world focused for the first time on the crisis of domestic violence?	1				1	1
16.	16.	Earlier today, I participated in a World Health Organization forum.	1				1	
17.	17.	In that form, we talked about ways that government officials, NGO, and individual citizens are working to address the health problems of women and girls.	1 1					1 1
18.	18.	Tomorrow, I will attend a gathering of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.	1					1
19.	19.	There, the discussion will focus on local -- and highly successful -- programs that give hard-working women access to credit so they can improve their own lives and the lives of their families.	1 1		1			1 1
20.	20.	What we are learning around the world is that if women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish.	1 1 1				1	
21.	21.	If women have a chance to work and earn as full and equal partners in society, their families will flourish.	1 1 1			1		
22.	22.	And families flourish, communities and nations do as well.	2					
23.	23.	That is why, every woman, every man, every child, every family, and every	1					

Sr. No.	Sentence No.	Original Sentence	Cases					
			A	I	D	F	L	O
		nation on this planet does have a stake in the discussion that takes place here.				1	1	
24.	24.	Over the past 25 years, I have worked persistently on issues relating to women, children, and families.	1					1
25.	25.	Over the past two and a half years, I've had the opportunity to learn more about the challenges facing women in my own country and around the world.	1			1	1	
26.	26.	I have met new mothers in Indonesia , who come together regularly in their village to discuss nutrition, family planning and baby care.	1		1		1	1
27.	27.	I have met working parents in Denmark who talk about the comfort they feel in knowing that their children can be cared for in safe.	1		1			1
28.	28.	I have met women in South Africa who helped lead the struggle to end apartheid and are now helping to build a new democracy.	1		1			
29.	29.	I have met with the leading women of my own hemisphere who are working.	1		1			
30.	30.	I have met women in India and Bangladesh who are taking out small loans to buy milk.	1		1			
31.	31.	I have met the doctors and nurses in Belarus and Ukraine who are trying to keep children.	1		1			
32.	32.	The great challenge of this conference is to give voice to women everywhere whose experiences go unnoticed, whose words go unheard.	1		1			1
33.	33.	Women comprise more than half the world's population, 70% of the world's poor, and two-thirds of those who are not taught to read and write.	1			1		
34.	34.	We are the primary caretakers for most of the world's children and elderly.	2					

3.2 Data interpretation

1. I would like to thank **the Secretary General** for inviting **me** to be **part of this important United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women**. (Sent No.1)

In this sentence, two kinds of cases can be found. They are Agentive, Dative and Objective. "I" is Agentive because the pronoun refers to Hillary and it is animate and instigator of the action identified by the verb "thank". "The Secretary General" and "me" which are animates and affected by the action identified by the verbs "thank" and "invite" are Dative cases.

2. **We** come together **in fields and factories, in village markets and supermarkets, in living rooms and board rooms**. (Sent No.2)

This sentence contains Agentive and Locative. Agentive is "we", an instigator of the action identified by the verb "held". Locative is "**in fields and factories, in village markets and supermarkets, in living rooms and board rooms**" which shows the location.

3. It is **a violation of human rights** when **women** are doused **with gasoline**, set on **fire**, and turned to **death** because **their marriage dowries** are deemed too small.

The sentence involves Agentive, Objective, Instrumental and Factitive. "**a violation of human rights**" is Agentives, it is instigators of the action identified by the verb "is". "**women**" is Dative because is the case of the animate being affected by the verb doused. "**death**" is Factitive. It is a resulting from the action identified by the verb turned. "**Their marring dowries**" is Objective because it is noun whose role in the state is identified by the verb deemed. "**with gasoline**" and "**fire**" are Instrumental, being the case of the inanimate objects causally involved in the action or state identified by the verbs doused and set on.

4. Findings and Discussion

In this research, the uses of cases found in are studied based on Fillmore's case theory. According to Fillmore's Case Theory (1967), there are Agentive case, Instrumental case, Dative case, Factitive case, Locative case and Objective case.

In the following tables, cases found in the three types of news articles of the newspapers *Myanmar Times* are shown.

Table 2. The frequency and Percentage of Cases found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary section.

Sr. No	Cases	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Agentive	141	40.87%
2.	Instrumental	12	3.48%
3.	Dative	59	17.10%
4.	Factitive	20	5.80%
5.	Locative	31	8.98%
6.	Objective	82	23.77%
	Total	345	100%

In table 2, cases found in. Agentive case is 40.7%, Instrumental case is 3.48%, Dative case is 17.10%, Lactitive case is 5.80%, Locative case is 8.98 %and Objective case is 23.77%. Agentive case is most frequently used and Factitive and Instrum8al cases are least frequently used.

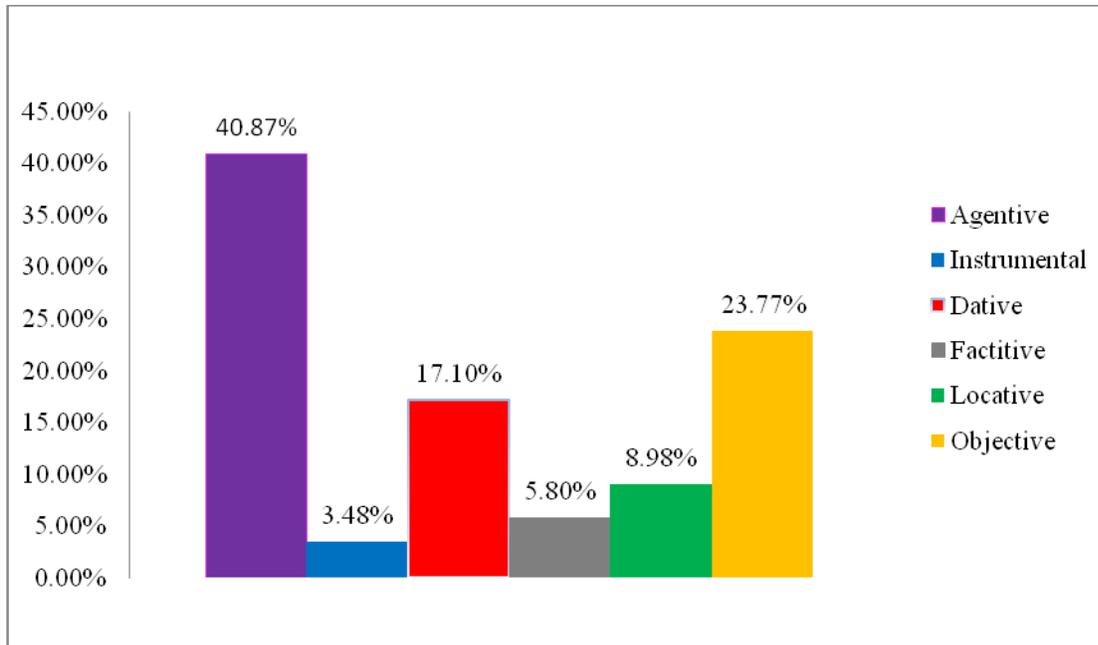


Figure 1 The Percentage of Cases found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary section.

In the above tables, Agentive case is the most frequently used case because it is the instigator of the action identified by the verb and newspaper writing usually emphasizes on the subjects. And Instrumental which is the inanimate force or object involved in the action or state identified by the verb is the least frequently used case. Although Instrumental case is used in some sentences, the usage of instrumental case is rare in the speech. As Instrumental case, the inanimate force can be seen in the . In accordance with the findings of this research, the most prominent is Agentive because it is the subject and the action of the sentences in the speech.

5. Conclusion

This research studies cases found in Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary Session according to Fillmore's Case Theory. In this research, it is found that Agentive case is the most frequently used case in the speech. The least frequently used case is Instrumental case.

It is hope that the results of this study may be summarized by pointing out that the knowledge on understanding the use of cases can make the readers improve reading skill as well as thinking skill. The readers can also know the usage of noun or noun phrase based on verb. According to the nature of conference speeches, most articles are intended to share the knowledge to the readers with the help of the best use of cases properly. This research will be more beneficial to the readers who are interested in studying the use of cases if the research studies more than one speech or other types of written text. To be more effective the result, there should be more than a speech in the research. In conclusion, this research can help the readers to understand the information and main themes of the speech delivered by Hillary Rodham Clinton at the United Nations World Conference on Women Plenary Session with the help of the knowledge on the use of cases based on Fillmore's Case Grammar Theory.

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Grammar and Syntax. Module No. Eng-611 Department of English, Yadanabon University

Internet Resources

[http:// en.m.wikipedia.org>wiki>Case](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case)
[http://: www.grammar.about.com>Case-Grammar](http://www.grammar.about.com>Case-Grammar)