

The language of detection: A study of Forensic and Linguistics Analysis in "Holmes" and "Dupin" stories

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received June 27, 2024

Revised June 30, 2024

Accepted July 3, 2024

Available online July 5, 2024

Keywords:

**Forensic_Linguistics
Analysis; Holmes and
Dupin_Stories**

Abstract

This study explored the applications of forensic linguistics concerning two of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, and the detailed linguistic analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue.' The key to the analysis of the two Sherlock Holmes stories involved the examination of how language was used to construct narratives of crimes and detection, the areas of discourse, narrative structure, and character development. The linguistic analysis of Poe's text involves discourse analysis, and pragmatic, and forensic linguistics revealing how language builds up mystery, tension, and resolutions as well as how character's speech signals their aspirations and interactions. Additionally, it was shown not only how to engage the formalist principles in the interpretation of those texts directly connected with this movement but also, how linguistic methodology can be useful in the analysis of other works and in general, in the literary investigation. The study also highlighted the canonical significance and diversity of cases in the selected stories, demonstrating the varied methods through which language shapes the detective genre. By integrating secondary literature and employing rigorous analytical methods, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of forensic linguistics and its applications in both literary and legal contexts. The findings underscored the importance of linguistic analysis in enhancing the narrative structure and aiding in the detection of crime within detective fiction.

INTRODUCTION

Forensic linguistics, a subfield of applied linguistics, focuses on the application of linguistic knowledge and techniques to legal issues. It encompasses areas such as authorship attribution, phonetic analysis, semiotics, discourse analysis, and the interpretation of language within legal and investigative contexts. In literature, particularly detective fiction, forensic linguistics plays a critical role in constructing narratives of crime and detection. This study examines the application of forensic linguistics through an analysis of Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Reigate Squires" and "The Hounds of Baskervilles" and an in-depth analysis of linguistic elements i.e. Discourse Analysis, Pragmatic Analysis, and Forensic Linguistics in Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue.' By exploring these classic texts, we aim to uncover how language is used to create mystery, tension, and resolution, as well as how linguistic clues aid in the detection of crime.

The primary aim of this study was to explore the role of forensic linguistics within the realm of detective fiction, specifically focusing on the narratives of Sherlock Holmes and Auguste Dupin. The analysis will delve into how linguistic clues are utilized in the storytelling of these iconic detectives. By conducting a detailed linguistics examination of selected Sherlock Holmes stories and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," the research uncovered how language constructs the narratives of crime and detection. Furthermore, it compared the linguistic strategies employed by Sherlock Holmes and Auguste Dupin, revealing the unique approaches of each detective. The study also highlighted the canonical significance and diversity of the cases in the selected stories, demonstrating the varied methods through which language shapes the detective genre. Integrating secondary literature and existing research, the analysis enriched, and provided a comprehensive understanding of the linguistic elements that contribute to the enduring appeal of these detective narratives.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The field of forensic linguistics has garnered significant academic attention, particularly in its application to legal contexts and its portrayal in literature. Scholars such as Coulthard and Johnson (2010) have explored the use of language in legal settings, emphasizing its importance in interpreting and constructing legal narratives. In detective fiction, the works of Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allan Poe are seminal, with extensive analyses conducted on their narrative techniques and character development.

Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories have been the subject of numerous studies, focusing on Holmes' deductive methods and the role of linguistic analysis in solving crimes. For instance, Helt (2003) discusses Holmes' use of semiotics and linguistic clues in 'The Adventure of the Dancing Men.' Similarly, Poe's 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' has been analyzed for its pioneering role in detective fiction and Dupin's analytical prowess, as noted by Silverman (1991).

This study built on these foundational works by applying forensic linguistic techniques to a comparative analysis of Holmes and Dupin. It aims to contribute to the ongoing scholarly debate by providing fresh insights into the linguistic strategies employed in these classic detective stories.

METHOD

This research adopts a qualitative approach, focusing on the detailed and methodical analysis of primary textual sources. The primary sources consist of selected stories of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle and Auguste Dupin by Edgar Allan Poe. Qualitative research is particularly suited for this study because it allows for an in-depth examination of the narrative techniques, linguistic elements, and deductive methods employed by Edgar Allan Poe and what forensic linguistic strategies were employed by Sherlock Holmes while working on the cases.

Selection Criteria:

To ensure a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the detective strategies of Sherlock Holmes and a comprehensive linguistic analysis of the story of Auguste Dupin, specific criteria are established for selecting the stories to be examined. These criteria are designed to highlight the prominence of forensic linguistic techniques in the narrative, showcase a diverse range of cases, and ensure the inclusion of canonically significant works. The selected stories are "The Reigate Squires" and "The Hounds of Baskervilles" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe.

Prominence of Linguistic Clues:

The primary criterion for the selection of stories is the prominence of linguistic clues within the narrative. Priority is given to the stories where linguistic analysis played a critical role in solving the mystery. This comprises of instances where the detectives interpret written documents, decipher codes, or analyze spoken language to draw conclusions. By meticulous analysis of the stories, the study aims to highlight how Holmes and Dupin employ forensic linguistics as a key component of their investigative methods. For example, stories, where Holmes decodes a hidden message in a letter or where Dupin interprets the nuances of a suspect's speech, provide rich material for examining their use of linguistic evidence.

Variety of Cases:

To show the variety of methods, a set of different cases has been presented with examples of the application of forensic linguistics by both, Holmes and Dupin. This includes; whether the cases involve different classes/ categories of crimes and circumstances like murder, theft, and blackmail among others. In this way, through the presentation of several examples, the study will demonstrate the effectiveness of the linguistic strategies undoubtedly applicable to detectives. It also enables one to grasp how numerous kinds of linguistic cues are mandatory in several diverse investigative situations. This diversity also mitigates the risk of focusing exclusively on a narrow set of linguistic applications while describing the activities of detectives which might incorporate a vast spectrum of techniques and tools.

Canonical Significance:

Another factor was in how the stories were canonical, or from the tradition of sacred literature. To make sure that the analysis includes points that refer to the general characteristics of Sherlock Holmes and Edgar Allan Poe's detective techniques, the literature works that are believed to portray the detective methods of the main characters comprehensively were chosen. Reference stories can be described as those that were originally written and are used most frequently to illustrate the detectives' work. By encompassing these stories, the work locates its analysis in line with literary theory and contributes findings that are useful to a readership that is familiar with the characters, which are also discussed in these stories.

Availability of Secondary Literature:

Last but not least, the emphasis was made on the stories that had become the object of research and analysis in the frameworks of academic forums. As I found secondary sources, a comparative analysis is enhanced by the broader range of already published interpretations and critiques on the subject. This enables the study to discuss, develop, and set up paradoxes with previous studies and therefore contributes to the ongoing scholarly debate on forensic Linguistics and Detective fiction. They serve the purpose of including many case stories that have been the subject of rigorous academic study in the past thereby enabling the study to build upon the extensive knowledge already existing in the literature but at the same time bring in fresh thinking as well.

Analytical Framework

The theoretical framework entails combining forensic linguistic approaches with literary analysis features to conduct this investigation. The following forensic linguistic areas and literary analysis methods were employed: the following forensic linguistic areas and literary analysis methods were employed:

Forensic Linguistic Techniques:

Authorship Attribution:

Establishing the authorship of a specific document or a text within the histories. This concerns itself with features of style, variance in words employed, and structures to seek out or eliminate suspects using written material. For example, Holmes uses his offense detection skills to identify that it is writing, or at least the writing style, of a forger.

Discourse Analysis:

Investigating the occurrence of language in legal or investigative speaking contexts. This includes interactions between lawyers and clients or witnesses in the courtroom, police interviewing suspects or individuals, or dialogue between two characters to learn more about coercing power, influence, or the reveal of new information. For instance, how Dupin carries out interviews especially to elicit certain details from a witness.

Sociolinguistics:

Observing the function of language differences between different social settings and its role in societies' legal systems. This includes the study of dialects, sociolect, and usage of language with intending social class or group identity as Holmes used accents and speech patterns to get a feeling of a person's origin.

Semantics and Pragmatics:

Exploring the content and the literal and figurative application of words in legal documents or crucial discourses. This involves comprehension of not only the surface structure of language but also the underlying message in an attempt to discover fakes and duplicity or simple misinterpretation of what the other person is saying. This type of reasoning is evident in Holmes's solving of puzzles or Dupin in the Murders in the Rue Morgue when he tries to unravel codes or meanings of ambiguous statements.

Literary Analysis Methods:

Close Reading:

Two samples of texts where the author studies all the possible passages to determine which of them can be used to explain the Forensic Linguistic techniques. This involves ensuring extra caution especially concerning language, style, and organizing the structure of the narrative.

Comparative Analysis:

In this paper, the author discusses and analyzes the differences between the sleuthing techniques of Sherlock Holmes and Edgar Allan Poe's C. Auguste Dupin with an emphasis placed on how both detectives use language as a part of evidence.

Contextual Analysis:

To comprehend the relevance of the employed techniques and also to place the stories into their socio-historical context to analyze their value to modern detectives.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Results of Data Analysis

Sherlock Holmes:

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional detective character created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He made his first appearance in 1887 in the novel "A Study in Scarlet" and went on to become one of the most prominent and enduring characters in literature. He is described as a tall, lean gentleman with sharp grey eyes, an aquiline nose, and clean-shaven black hair. He is known for his exceptional powers of observation, deduction, and

logical reasoning, which he employs to solve complex criminal cases. Referring to himself as a "*consulting detective*", Holmes is frequently called upon by Scotland Yard and private clients to investigate crimes that have baffled the police. Holmes is accompanied in many of his adventures by his friend and biographer, Dr. John H. Watson, who narrates the majority of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Holmes and Watson share a strong friendship bond as well as they share lodgings at 221B Baker Street in London, where Holmes conducts his investigations. The two characters left an everlasting impact on American and British minds. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's literary excellence captivated the minds of the readers. The only known relative of Holmes is his older brother Mycroft, who holds an important position in the British government. Despite his brilliance, Holmes is portrayed as an eccentric and sometimes difficult character. He is known to lapse into periods of ennui and depression when not working on a case, and he occasionally indulges in the use of cocaine to stimulate his mind. However, he is also shown to be highly capable physically, with skills in boxing, fencing, and singlestick. Holmes has the potential to solve the case with his exceptional observational and deductive reasoning skills. He can solve the cases with minimal effort and intelligence, gaining a name in the detective circle. He can solve many cases that are left unsolved by others. He is also known as the "second highest expert" in Europe and due to his intellectual abilities, many consulted him for mysterious cases. He can piece together puzzles with his remarkable skills in detection. He believed in nothing till all facts were known to him (Doyle, A., 2008). In one instance of the series, Holmes declares that a wound inflicted on a victim was caused by the victim's own knife. This fact remained in disbelief till the very end, and none of the fellow detectives could accept the idea put forth by Holmes, and they seemed irrelevant and unwanted to the case at hand (Doyle, A. & Roberts, S.). Sir Arthur upon reaching the saturation point of Sherlock Holmes, stopped writing the series, the people began writing to him and made "Keep Holmes Alive" clubs in the hope of its continuation (Pierce, J.). However, he discontinued the series by ending it with the detectives' death.

Sherlock Holmes identifies the author of a note by analyzing handwriting and style in "*The Reigate Squires*" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In the story, Holmes scrutinizes a scrap of paper carefully which was found in the dead man's hand, and deduces that it was written by two individuals. He points out the differences in handwriting strength and style between the words "*at*" and "*to*" compared to "*quarter*" and "*twelve*," indicating two different writers. Holmes concludes that the man with the stronger hand who wrote "*at*" and "*to*" was the ringleader behind the note.

"My dear sir," cried Holmes, "there cannot be the least doubt in the world that it has been written by two persons doing alternate words. When I draw your attention to the strong t's of 'at' and 'to', and ask you to compare them with the weak ones of 'quarter' and 'twelve,' you will instantly recognize the fact. A very brief analysis of these four words would enable you to say with the utmost confidence that the 'learn' and the 'maybe' are written in the stronger hand, and the 'what' in the weaker."

Doyle, A. C. (1893). *The Reigate Puzzle*. *The Strand Magazine*, June; *Harper's Weekly*, June 17; *The Strand Magazine* (U.S. edition), July.

Later on, Holmes examines a piece of paper brought by the Inspector and analyzes its torn corner. He deduces that it is a part of a very important document.

"And now I made a very careful examination of the corner of paper which the Inspector had submitted to us. It was at once clear to me that it formed part of a very remarkable document. Here it is. Do you not now observe something very suggestive about it?"

He pointed out faults in style. Holmes gets the impression that two people have written alternating words in the message, which provides a view of the discourse. This way, he can also determine the questionnaire's origin and link it to the crime based on his analysis of the ink and the paper type. This methodical analysis of such inconspicuous elements is a brilliant demonstration of what was and still remains unique in the case of Sherlock Holmes: his deductive reasoning and remarkable reconstructing of the case.

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And also,

“Obviously the business was a bad one, and one of the men who distrusted ... The man who wrote all his words first is undoubtedly the man who planned the affair.”

In “The Reigate Puzzle,” Holmes astutely discerns family relations through handwriting. He is able to pick details of resemblance between two folks based on the kinship they have, by paying close attention to details in the script. These unique and rather striking characteristics left in the gesture of the letters and their curves reveal the existing kinship and thus add another layer to the plot. By observing such subtle details, Holmes can identify people and expose the threads of familial mannerisms, unravel the intricate bonds woven within the family's unique handwriting patterns, and illuminate hidden connections that conventional investigation might overlook.

“There is a further point, however, which is subtler and of greater interest. There is something in common between these hands. They belong to men who are blood relatives. It may be most obvious to you in the Greek e’s, but to me, many small points indicate the same thing. I do not doubt at all that a family mannerism can be traced in these two specimens of writing. I am only, of course, giving you the leading results now of my examination of the paper. Twenty-three other deductions would be of more interest to experts than to you. They all tended to deepen the impression upon my mind that the Cunninghams, father, and son, had written this letter.

Doyle, A. C. (1893). *The Reigate Puzzle*. *The Strand Magazine*, June; *Harper's Weekly*, June 17; *The Strand Magazine* (U.S. edition), July.

In “*The Hound of the Baskervilles*,” Sherlock Holmes showcases his expertise in the analysis of handwriting to identify the author of the note. He inspects the handwriting style by examining the slants, size, spacing between words, choice of words, and other subtle clues to deduce the identity of the writer. He notices that the address on the note is written in rough characters, which is an attempt to appear uneducated. Nevertheless, the diction and the effort to conceal the writing style pose that the writer is educated and trying to pose as uneducated. Furthermore, he says that the writing style was unique and the recipient could identify the author at first glance, implying that the writer had forged the hand which he or she was trying to cover. In addition, Holmes examines the text of the note concerning concrete details concerning some of the written words and expressions. For instance, the relative use of a type of word such as ‘moor’ seems remarkably low, this suggests that the writer may have had difficulty in finding this word in the printed material and thereby giving a clue to the writer. Indeed knowledge transforms into power through the means of reasoning and observation when Sherlock Holmes applies his knowledge of handwriting analysis to deduce the identity of the note writer and therefore solve the given enigma.

“I presume, Doctor, that you could tell the skull of a negro from that of an Esquimau?” “Most certainly.” “But how?” “Because that is my special hobby. The differences are obvious. The supra-orbital crest, the facial angle, the maxillary curve, the—” ... “That is so. Someone, then, cut out the message with a pair of short-bladed scissors, pasted it with paste—” “Gum,” said Holmes. “With

gum onto the paper. But I want to know why the word 'moor' should have been written?' ... We may take it, therefore, that the letter was composed by an educated man who wished to pose as an uneducated one, and his effort to conceal his own writing suggests that that writing might be known, or come to be known, by you. Again, you will observe that the words are not gummed on in an accurate line, but that some are much higher than others.

(Doyle, A. C. (1902). *The hound of the Baskervilles*. George Newnes Ltd)

First of all, Holmes introduces the audience to his capabilities in the field of typography analysis. He likens how he is capable of telling the difference between the different typefaces of newspapers as that of an anthropologist telling the difference between the human race. The physical clue of 'the cut-out words' is then revealed to have come from *The Times* newspaper by the police detective. He insists that any person with a certain level of journalism expertise as he is, recognizes that the *Times* has a specific type of font: "*the leaded bourgeois type of a Times article*" vs "*the slovenly print of an evening halfpenny paper*".

Holmes then examines the features of the physical text by pleading with the particle for its physical features. He concludes that the nail scissors were used to cut out the words observing that 'some of the words looked like two snips were taken across them ... the cutter had to take two snips over 'keep away ' All of them were gummed and not pasted on the paper, this dispels Sir Henry's conclusion on the adhesive used. These specifics go to show that Holmes was keen on the factual aspects of the document in question.

The detective then proceeds to elaborate why out of all the words it was only 'moor' that was handwritten, instead of being ripped out from the newspaper. He deduces that this particular word could not have been obtained from the newspaper since the other commonly used words could easily be obtained. This observation sheds light on the kind of message the opponent intended to post and the challenges that they have to deal with.

Holmes continues by concluding other attributes of the composer of the message. He deduces that it is written by an educated man who wants to mimic an uneducated one. This conclusion is made by the utilization of *The Times* as a newspaper geared toward the educated, upper classes, coupled with intentionally unrefined writing of the address. Also, Holmes relates that some effort has been made to disguise the composer's handwriting so the act of disguising the writing implies that it could be recognized.

The regional distribution of the words is also considered by the detective as quite odd, and specifically, he or she points at the word 'life' as being off. It may point to carelessness, but he dismisses this in favor of an inference of haste in constructing the tape, especially since the contents of the message seem to be significant.

Finally when it comes to the timing and urgency of the message Holmes has some uncertainties. He questions whether the sender was keen, on sending the letters considering that an early morning delivery would have reached Sir Henry before he departed from his hotel. This leads Holmes to explore the hindrances or pressures that the sender might have experienced adding another layer of intrigue to the mystery.

Throughout his examination, Holmes demonstrates how forensic linguistics principles, especially document analysis come into play. He considers both the attributes of the document and basic assumptions, about who may have produced the paper and under what circumstances. While this passage advances the storytelling it also effectively showcases how scientific analysis methods are utilized in criminology within a Victorian-era context.

Linguistic Analysis of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allen Poe

This article delves into the linguistic analysis of Poe's writing "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", which includes discourse, pragmatic analysis, and forensic linguistic techniques that have been employed by Auguste Dupin to solve the mysterious and petrifying case of "Murders in the Rue Morgue".

Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis examines how language is used in a text to convey meaning, establish social relationships, and create a coherent narrative. Here are some instances in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue".

The narrative structure of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" is meticulously crafted by Edgar Allan Poe to engage the reader and build suspense as the story proceeds. The story begins with the narrator, narrating his first encounter with Auguste Dupin in Paris, setting up the background and introducing the exceptional analytical abilities of Dupin: *"He sought knowledge for the mere sake of knowledge."* This introductory section not only establishes the setting but also positions Dupin as a figure of remarkable intellect. As the plot progresses, the petrifying murders in the Rue Morgue are described in detail, creating a sense of mystery and horror. The narrative scrupulously details the crime scene, witnesses' accounts, and the initial confusion surrounding the murders, which heightens the reader's curiosity: *"The screams were heard by several neighbors, and they came running to the house."* His methodical approach to solving the mystery is highlighted, which showcases his logical reasoning and attention to detail, which stand in stark contrast to the police's ineffectual methods: *"The Prefect of Police was much surprised to see us."* The resolution of the story is both surprising and unconventional, with Dupin uncovering the truth behind the murders and demonstrating his superior intellect: *"A wild beast's hideous ferocity, combined with the knowledge and the power of the man, had accomplished the murder"* (Poe, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue").

The characterization in the story plays a crucial role in driving the narrative forward. Auguste Dupin is portrayed as highly intelligent, observant, and somewhat eccentric just like Doyle's fictional character Sherlock Holmes. His dual nature is emphasized, showing him as both a meticulous analyst and a detached observer. This is reflected in the narrator's depiction of Dupin's investigative methods and his ability to draw insightful conclusions from seemingly trivial details: *"He could tell what I had been thinking of..."* The narrator himself serves as a foil to Dupin, often expressing amazement at his abilities and providing a more relatable perspective for the reader: *"I felt my soul enkindled within me by the wild fervor and the vivid freshness of his imagination."* The victims, *Madame L'Esplanade and her daughter* are described in a way that elicits sympathy and horror, making their brutal deaths more impactful: *"The body of the daughter was so terribly mutilated that it could scarcely be recognized."* Witnesses provide varying accounts that add to the confusion and mystery which further complicated the investigation: *"All agreed that the voice was that of a foreigner, but they could not agree on the nationality"* (Poe, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue").

The themes and motifs are related to the story plot and are hardly noticeable in as much as they blend with the story plot. The given work also emphasizes the concept of rhetoric and logical thinking as the plot is majorly focused on demonstrating how Dupin solves the case through rational analysis: *"It is not sufficiently understood that no matter how unusual, all events are governed by logical rules."* Another significant feature: is the opposition of the supernatural and the rational, as the murders at first are hardly believable and seem almost supernatural, while their rational explanation by Dupin reduces the events to the level of reason. *"The case is a particularly complicated one, and there is a good deal of confounding within it."* The setting in Paris and the isolation of the victims in their homes reflect themes of urban loneliness and the potential for hidden violence in the

city, adding depth to the atmosphere of the story: *"The secluded neighborhood, the unusual stillness in the middle of a bustling city"* (Poe, *"The Murders in the Rue Morgue"*).

Poe's language and writing style make the telling more effective. Detailed descriptions create vivid images of the crime scene and the investigative process, building suspense and engaging the reader's imagination: *"The apartment was in the wildest disorder — the furniture broken and thrown about in all directions."* The language is formal and somewhat archaic, fitting the 19th-century setting and adding a sense of gravity to the narrative: *"The Prefect of the Parisian police was known for his infallible judgment and astuteness."* Dialogues, especially those involving Dupin, are precise and logical, reflecting his analytical mind. The narrator's dialogues often serve to highlight Dupin's brilliance and the unfolding of the mystery, making the investigative process more intriguing: *"You are mistaken," Dupin retorted with a smile* (Poe, *"The Murders in the Rue Morgue"*).

Intertextuality and cultural references in the story enrich its intellectual backdrop. Dupin and his references to stereotomy and Epicurus' atoms show Poe's engagement with contemporary scientific and philosophical ideas: *"I was absorbed in contemplation of the peculiarities of the stereotomy of these windows."* Literary devices such as foreshadowing, irony, and metaphors are employed to enhance the narrative. For instance, the comparison of the investigation to a chess game highlights the strategic nature of Dupin's thinking and adds a layer of intellectual engagement for the reader. *"The game of chess, as he played it, was nothing more than an elaborate puzzle"* (Poe, *"The Murders in the Rue Morgue"*).

The story also provides social and psychological insights. It delves into human psychology, both in terms of Dupin's ability to read people and the violent impulses that lead to the crime: *"It was a murderous maniac's fit of passion."* The inefficiency of the police force is discussed and compared to the intellect of Dupin, which shows Poe's suspicion of officialdom. This critique adds a layer of social commentary to the story, making it more than just a simple mystery: *"The Prefect and his cohort had followed the routine; they had failed to think outside the conventional"* (Poe, *"The Murders in the Rue Morgue"*).

Pragmatic Analysis:

Pragmatic analysis involves examining how characters use language in specific contexts to achieve their goals, focusing on the intentions behind their speech, the effects of their words, and the social dynamics at play. Here's a detailed pragmatic analysis of key elements in Poe's *"The Murders in the Rue Morgue"*:

1. Dupin's Questioning Techniques

Questioning strategies are another important component of the confirming hypothesis in the Dupin's investigation approach. He uses critical questioning where he seeks specific details, narrows down on contradictions, and leads the witnesses to discover relevant information that was initially unknown to him. With this technique, one is able to get detailed information and also gaps in their narratives at the same time. From requests stated in this work, it is also seen that the ability to ask the right questions at the right moment is a method implemented by Dupin, which allows him to receive pertinent information and at the same time remains a master of the situation.

Example: *"What did you hear?"* This open-ended question prompts witnesses to provide detailed accounts, revealing more than they might with a yes/no question.

2. Manipulation of Suspects and Witnesses

He often employs subtle manipulation to achieve his goals, such as gaining trust or extracting hidden information. Dupin adjusts his language and tone to suit the situation and the person he is

addressing. When dealing with the police or witnesses, Dupin projects confidence and authority, which helps him to influence their perceptions and actions. This manipulation is not obvious but is evident in his careful choice of words and the way he frames his questions and statements.

Example: *"You are mistaken," Dupin retorted with a smile.* This statement not only corrects the other person's misunderstanding but also disarms them with the gentle, non-confrontational tone, making them more receptive to his subsequent arguments.

3. Dupin's Use of Language to Establish Dominance

Dupin establishes dominance in conversations through his articulate and precise use of language. He often provides detailed explanations and logical deductions that leave little room for counterarguments. By doing so, he positions himself as the intellectual authority in the investigation, guiding the narrative and influencing the actions of others. This dominance is also reflected in his interactions with the narrator, who frequently expresses admiration and awe at Dupin's abilities.

Example: "It is not sufficiently understood that no matter how unusual, all events are governed by logical rules." This statement not only asserts Dupin's viewpoint but also implicitly challenges others to think logically, establishing his intellectual superiority.

4. The Role of Silence and Pauses

Dupin also uses silence and pauses strategically in his interactions. Pausing before responding allows him to appear thoughtful and deliberate, enhancing his credibility. Silence can also pressure the other party to fill the conversational gap, often leading them to reveal more information than they intended. This pragmatic use of non-verbal communication complements Dupin's verbal strategies and enhances his effectiveness as a detective.

Example: When Dupin remains silent after a witness's account, it often prompts the witness to continue speaking in an attempt to fill the uncomfortable silence, inadvertently revealing additional details.

5. Contextual Adaptation

Dupin adapts his language to the context and the people he is dealing with. He is formal and authoritative when addressing the police, friendly and engaging with the narrator, and calm and reassuring with distressed witnesses. This adaptability helps him to build rapport, gain cooperation, and extract the necessary information from various sources.

Example: With the narrator, Dupin is more conversational and explanatory: "You have observed nothing yet, but I am detailing these particulars intending to show you the reason of our journey."

6. Speech Acts and Their Effects

Dupin's language is characterized by various speech acts that achieve different effects. He uses declarative statements to assert facts, interrogative statements to elicit information, and imperative statements to direct actions. Each type of speech act serves a specific purpose in his investigation, whether it is to establish facts, gather evidence, or influence others' behavior.

Example: Declarative: "The screams were heard by several neighbors." (Establishes a fact)

Example: Interrogative: "What did you see next?" (Elicits information)

Example: Imperative: "Follow me." (Directs action)

7. Pragmatic Markers and Hedging

Dupin occasionally uses pragmatic markers and hedging to soften his statements and make them more palatable. This is particularly useful when he needs to present a challenging idea or correct

someone without causing offense. By using phrases like "I believe" or "It seems to me," Dupin can introduce his insights in a way that appears less confrontational and more collaborative.

Example: "It seems to me that there is something peculiar about this case." This hedging makes Dupin's observation less direct and more suggestive, encouraging others to consider his perspective without feeling challenged.

Forensic Linguistic Analysis of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe

Forensic linguistics involves the application of linguistic knowledge, methods, and insights to forensic contexts of crime and legal proceedings. In "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," Edgar Allan Poe employs various elements that align with forensic linguistic principles, particularly in how language and communication play a pivotal role in solving the mystery.

1. Analysis of Witness Testimonies

Witness testimonies are a significant focus in the investigation of the Rue Morgue murders. Dupin carefully examines the statements given by various witnesses, paying close attention to the linguistic details and inconsistencies. Each witness heard different voices speaking in different languages, which initially adds to the confusion. By analyzing these testimonies, Dupin identifies crucial details that point toward the true nature of the crime.

Example from Text: "The witnesses agreed that the gruff voice was that of a Frenchman, but it was not for the shrill voice—some called it that of an Italian, others a Russian, and others again that of a woman—which needed elucidation."

2. Phonetic and Acoustic Analysis

A significant element in the story is the phonetic and acoustic analysis of the sounds heard during the crime. Dupin deduces that one of the voices heard was not human. By scrutinizing the descriptions of the sounds, such as the tone, pitch, and articulation, Dupin concludes that the sounds were made by an animal. This use of phonetic analysis is a crucial turning point in solving the mystery.

Example from Text: "This voice was a voice like none other—so harsh and so unnatural as to have made a deep impression upon all who heard it."

3. Linguistic Profiling

Dupin engages in linguistic profiling to deduce the background and identity of the individuals involved. This involves analyzing the language use, dialect, and specific linguistic markers that can provide insights into a speaker's identity. Dupin's attention to the nuances in the testimonies and the accents of the witnesses enables him to piece together the puzzle more effectively.

Example from Text: "It was someone on board a Maltese vessel, and he spoke broken French."

4. Pragmatic Inferences

Forensic linguistics often involves making pragmatic inferences from the language used by individuals. Dupin interprets the pragmatic aspects of communication, such as the intentions behind utterances and the context in which they were made. This helps him to understand the behavior of the suspects and witnesses and to draw conclusions about their involvement or innocence.

Example from Text: "I knew that no animal but the Ourang-Outang of the East Indian islands could have uttered those tones."

5. Textual Analysis of Written Evidence

Although the story focuses more on spoken language, textual analysis of written evidence can also be seen in Dupin's examination of the crime scene and any written materials found there. The careful scrutiny of written clues, such as notes or signs of forced entry, plays a role in understanding the sequence of events and the actions of the perpetrator.

Example from Text: "A ribbon, a piece of cord, a broken window fastener, and some papers were all that remained to tell of the tragedy."

6. Role of Context in Interpretation

Forensic linguistics emphasizes the importance of context in interpreting language. Dupin's success in solving the murders is largely due to his ability to consider the broader context in which the events occurred. By placing the linguistic evidence within the appropriate context, he can make more accurate interpretations and deductions.

Example from Text: "The presence of the sailor was further confirmed by the greasy hand-marks on the railing leading up to the window."

7. Use of Linguistic Expertise

Dupin's character embodies the use of linguistic expertise in forensic investigation. His ability to analyze language, both spoken and written, is a key factor in his success. This reflects the broader field of forensic linguistics, where expert analysis of language can provide crucial evidence in solving crimes.

Example from Text: "Dupin had, in fact, determined the identity of the shrill voice. It was that of a large, savage animal of the Ourang-Outang species."

Literary Analysis Methods

Close Reading

Close reading involves an in-depth examination of texts to uncover the nuances of language, style, and narrative structure. This method is crucial in forensic linguistics as it allows for a detailed analysis of how language constructs meaning within a narrative.

In examining Sherlock Holmes stories and Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," close reading helps identify specific passages that illustrate forensic linguistic techniques. For example, David Schmid (2008) emphasizes the importance of close reading in detective fiction, noting that "the detective's methods often rely on an acute awareness of language and its ambiguities" (Schmid, 2008, p. 45). By carefully analyzing Holmes' dialogues and narrative descriptions, we can see how Conan Doyle constructs a logical and coherent investigative process. Similarly, close reading of Poe's work reveals Dupin's analytical approach, which is heavily reliant on linguistic clues and detailed observations.

Comparative Analysis

Comparative analysis involves discussing and analyzing the differences and similarities between two subjects. In this case, the sleuthing techniques of Sherlock Holmes and Edgar Allan Poe's C. Auguste Dupin are compared, with a particular focus on how both detectives use language as part of their investigative process. Scholars have often compared Holmes and Dupin, noting the significant influence of Poe on Conan Doyle. For instance, Martin Kayman (1992) discusses how both characters use logical reasoning and attention to linguistic details to solve crimes. He notes that "Holmes's method is a refinement of Dupin's approach, grounded in a more systematic application of inductive reasoning" (Kayman, 1992, p. 102). This comparison highlights the evolution of

detective fiction from Poe to Conan Doyle, emphasizing the role of language in their investigative techniques.

Holmes and Dupin are both quintessential characters and their strategies reflect their creators' emphasis on intellectual prowess and analytical reasoning. Dupin is often regarded as the prototype for later detectives like Holmes who employs a method of "ratiocination," which is characterized by logical deduction and a deep understanding of human psychology. His approach, as depicted in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," involves meticulously analyzing minute details and drawing conclusions from insignificant specks of evidence. While both characters use rather a deductive approach to problem-solving, their methods are quite different: Holmes' expertise includes forensic science, disguise, and encyclopedic knowledge across numerous academic disciplines. Sherlock Holmes's techniques as illustrated in works such as "A Study in Scarlet" entail observing, and on most occasions, the application of chemical solutions or other methods. Comparing Dupin's strategies to the ones that Holmes uses, the latter is much more varied and structured – although intuition throughout the process plays a significant role in both detectives' observation and investigation play a more prominent role in the methods that Holmes employs. Nevertheless, both characters are portrayed as despising the old-fashioned police procedures of their era, thus, they outline the mistakes of the official investigators, demonstrating their own prearranged and more sophisticated tactics.

Contextual Analysis

Contextual analysis involves placing texts within their socio-historical context to understand their relevance and value. This method is essential in understanding how the techniques used by Holmes and Dupin reflect the societal and historical contexts of their time.

Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, written during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, reflect the scientific optimism and rationalism of the Victorian era. As noted by Stephen Knight (2004), Holmes embodies the era's faith in science and logic: "Holmes's methods and persona are a testament to the Victorian belief in the power of rationality and scientific inquiry" (Knight, 2004, p. 78). In contrast, Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," published in 1841, reflects the Romantic era's fascination with the mysterious and the macabre. Poe's Dupin uses a blend of intuition and analytical skills, reflecting the period's emphasis on individual genius and creativity. While Holmes's methods epitomize the Victorian era's burgeoning faith in empirical science and forensic advancements, Dupin's approach reflects the Romantic era's preoccupation with the uncanny and the power of the human mind. As Peter Thoms (1998) observes, "Holmes's logical precision and reliance on observable evidence underscore a cultural shift towards modern investigative techniques" (Thoms, 1998, p. 45). Conversely, Dupin's reliance on deep intuition and psychological insight highlights the Romantic valorization of the individual's inner world and the mysterious workings of the mind. This contrast in socio-historical context illustrates how the detectives' methods not only solve crimes but also encapsulate the broader cultural values and intellectual currents of their respective times.

CONCLUSION

This research highlights the integral role of forensic linguistics in detective fiction, demonstrating how linguistic analysis enhances the narrative structure and aids in the detection of crime. Through in-depth stories of Sherlock Holmes and Auguste Dupin and a small comparative analysis of detective strategies of both fictional detectives, the study underscores the diverse applications of linguistic clues and their significance in constructing compelling detective stories. By integrating secondary literature and applying rigorous analytical methods, this research contributes to the broader understanding of forensic linguistics and its application in both literary and legal contexts.

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