

Sarcastic Utterances in the Novel Series *Nevermoor*

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates sarcastic utterances used in the novel series *Nevermoor* by Jessica Townsend. The novels consist of *Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow* (2017), *Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow* (2018), and *Hollowpox: The Hunt for Morrigan Crow* (2020). The data for the research were taken from the characters' dialogues containing sarcastic utterances in the three novels. By applying the descriptive qualitative method, the research aims to classify sarcastic utterances using the theory proposed by Camp (2011): propositional sarcasm, illocutionary sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, and like-prefixed sarcasm. There are 75 data with the four types of sarcastic utterances, including propositional sarcasm (62.67%), illocutionary sarcasm (26.67%), lexical sarcasm (8%), and like-prefixed sarcasm (2.67%). The research also aims to identify negative emotions as triggers for each type of sarcastic utterance using the theory proposed by Vikan (2017): anger, disgust, contempt, sadness, fear, shame, and guilt. The novels contain these negative emotions, except guilt. The type of sarcastic utterance frequently used in the novels is propositional sarcasm. Meanwhile, like-prefixed sarcasm has the most minor occurrence compared to the others. Even though propositional sarcasm and illocutionary sarcasm contain several negative emotions as triggers, lexical sarcasm and like-prefixed sarcasm only have one each.

Keywords: *negative emotions, sarcasm, triggers of sarcasm, types of sarcasm.*

INTRODUCTION

Sarcasm is a habitual phenomenon that often occurs in daily conversations. It is an indirect speech that dramatically affects the hearer (McDonald, 1999, p. 486). As verbal aggression, it also requires a speaker's intention to be openly satirical (Haiman, 1998, p. 20). The speaker utters sarcasm for destructive purposes such as mocking, criticizing, or even insulting. Attardo (2000, p. 795) states that sarcasm has clear markers and targets. It involves a contradiction between the stated and intended meaning (Huang et al., 2015, p. 163), which the target can adequately

capture. Instead of being serious, it creates a laughable situation because sarcasm is often delivered in a humorous way. However, the provocative impact of sarcastic remarks can also cause conflict in the relationship between the speaker and the hearer.

Several previous studies have analyzed sarcasm, such as "Sarcastic Expressions in The Simpsons Movie" by Punto Padmatantri and Adi Sutrisno, which focused on categorizing and identifying sarcastic utterances based on illocutionary functions, and "Response to Sarcasm in Three Star Trek Movies" by Shafira Sherin and Adi

Sutrisno that analyzed character responses and its patterns of reactions to sarcastic remarks concerning the characters' interpersonal relationships. Most of the studies have used movies and TV series as data sources. Meanwhile, the research used novels to collect data regarding sarcasm.

The research chose the novel series *Nevermoor* by Jessica Townsend, which consists of *Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow* (2017), *Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow* (2018), and *Hollowpox: The Hunt for Morrigan Crow* (2020), to investigate sarcasm according to Camp (2011): propositional sarcasm, illocutionary sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, and like-prefixed sarcasm as well as to identify its triggers following negative emotions by Vikan (2017): anger, disgust, contempt, sadness, fear, shame, and guilt. The research chose sarcasm as a topic because it will help people deepen their understanding of the sarcasm phenomenon, especially in a novel. Shortly, the novel series *Nevermoor* tells a story about a cursed child named Morrigan Crow, who was supposed to die on her 12th birthday at midnight on the last day of Eventide, similar to New Year's Eve. It was the unluckiest day for the birth of a child because the child would bring misfortune and die on the same day twelve years later. The first novel, *Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow*, begins Morrigan's adventure of cheating death by following Jupiter North to a mysterious town called Nevermoor, where not only humans with unique talents but also mystical creatures like vampires and even animals behave like humans known as *wunimals*. As her patron, Jupiter made Morrigan pass several deadly competitive entrance exams to become a member of the Wondrous Society and discover her true identity as a *wundersmith*. The second novel, *Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow*, tells about Morrigan's school life as a junior scholar at the Wondrous Society. Deteriorating friendships and injustice continued to come her way because she was the most dangerous entity in Nevermoor. Morrigan's life remained uneasy even after becoming a hero for conquering the Ghastly Market, a market for illegal bid because the Hollowpox virus suddenly attacked *wunimals* in the third novel *Hollowpox: The Hunt for Morrigan Crow*. It was a kind of parasite that made *wunimals* act aggressively before hurting themselves and then their souls as if suddenly left

from their bodies, making them hollow. Therefore, Morrigan decided to join with Ezra Squall, a famous *wundersmith* who became the biggest enemy of Nevermoor, to conquer the Hollowpox virus. The three novels' gloomy settings make sarcasm uttered by the characters to help strengthen the story. Thus, the research used the novel series *Nevermoor* because it contains data in the form of sarcastic expressions, which suits the needs of the research.

The research aims to answer these questions:

- 1) What type of sarcastic utterances is frequently used in the novel series *Nevermoor*?
- 2) What negative emotions are contained as triggers for each type of sarcastic utterance in the novel series *Nevermoor*?

LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been several previous studies about sarcasm. Padmatantri and Sutrisno (2020) examine sarcastic utterances in a movie entitled *The Simpsons Movie*. Based on a theory proposed by Camp (2011), the movie has two types of sarcasm: illocutionary and propositional. In addition, it identifies the classified data in the movie based on illocutionary functions according to Leech's theory (1983). There are only three categories of illocutionary functions: collaborative, conflictive, and convivial. Not only that, but the journal article "Response to Sarcasm in Three *Star Trek* Movies," which Sherin and Sutrisno (2019) wrote, also uses the same data source to investigate responses to sarcasm and its patterns concerning the characters' interpersonal relationships using The Standard Pragmatic Model and Social Norm Model proposed by Gibbs (1986) as well as Echoic Mention Theory proposed by Sperber and Wilson (1981). As a result, there are eight classes of responses in three *Star Trek* movies: laughter, literal responses, zero responses, smiles, sarcasm, nonverbal responses, topic changes, and metalinguistic comments. It denotes no response pattern to sarcastic remarks concerning the characters' interpersonal relationships with the interlocutors. Another journal article, whose data source comes from the TV series, entitled "Sarcastic Expressions and the Influence of Social Distance and Relative Power in the TV Series *Friends*" by

Shelldyriani and Munandar (2020), investigates sarcastic utterances found in the TV series *Friends*. Based on the analysis according to the theory proposed by Camp (2011), four types of sarcasm are found in the TV series: propositional sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, like-prefixed sarcasm, and illocutionary sarcasm. The result also indicates that illocutionary sarcasm and propositional sarcasm are primarily used when the social distance (D) is negative. The interlocutors are not obligated to be polite because of close intimacy. The strength value (P) helps determine the sarcasm class when social distance is positive. Furthermore, there is a journal article entitled "Analysis of Sarcasm Found in Keith Alberstadt's Comedy" by Azis and Marlina (2020), which applies the classification of sarcasm according to Camp (1994) in four videos of Keith Alberstadt on YouTube as the data source. Based on the analysis, four types of sarcasm are uttered by a stand-up comedian named Keith Alberstadt: propositional sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, like-prefixed sarcasm, and illocutionary sarcasm. The most dominant category of sarcasm used by Keith Alberstadt is illocutionary sarcasm. "Purposes and Structures of Sarcasm: A Pragmatic Study," written by Abd-Alsajad and Ahmed (2021), investigates sarcasm based on its types using theory by Camp (2012) and purposes using theory by Attardo (2001) in the video of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit debates on YouTube. It has three types of sarcasm: illocutionary sarcasm, propositional sarcasm, and lexical sarcasm. The video also has two purposes of sarcasm: Evaluation and Sophistication. By using primary data sources in the forms of movies, TV series, and YouTube videos, the five journal articles use spoken primary data sources.

Meanwhile, "The sarcastic implicatures of an ambivalent villain: Dahl's Willy Wonka" by Loveday (2018) examines the character Willy Wonka in a novella entitled *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* related to impoliteness and the workings of sadism from his innuendo by using the Gricean framework to identify violations of the Cooperative Principles in Wonka's sarcastic discourse. As a result, the ambiguity in Wonka's discourse convinces his character as an ambivalent villain through his evil attributes in the form of sarcastic implicatures. Unlike the other journal articles, it uses a novella as the written primary data source.

The research applies the same theory from Camp (2011) to investigate the types of sarcasm concentrating in the novel series *Nevermoor*. However, the research identifies the triggers of sarcasm by using the theory of negative emotions proposed by Vikan (2017), which differs from the previous studies above as a claim of novelty.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a tool for humorously conveying criticism and mockery. According to Kreuz (2020), it has several characteristics, including the tone of voice, which tends to be breathy, creaky, and hoarse as seen in its pitch, loudness, and speech rate; face and gestures, of which the eyes and mouth are the most expressive, for example smirking; irony marks in the form of symbols; exaggeration and understatement used to achieve the communicative purpose of sarcastic remarks by saying things that are literally impossible, unlikely, or merely implausible; words as well as word categories which are a sign to mean sarcasm. The following is an example of sarcasm taken from Townsend (2017, p. 166):

Context: One morning, Morrigan had to risk her life in participating in the Chase Trial. Morrigan panicked because she did not even know what ride Jupiter had prepared for her. Suddenly, Fenestra came into Morrigan's room without a single greeting.

Fenestra: "New boots out in the hall. Martha's bringing your breakfast. Be downstairs in five minutes, ready to go."

Morrigan: "**Yes, I'm feeling super this morning, Fen, thanks for asking.**"

The dialogue quote in bold above is sarcasm. Morrigan pretended to say how she felt to evaluate Fenestra's nonchalant attitude, which did not even question her feelings as a form of empathy. Morrigan criticized the cat's rude behavior of ignoring her feelings in the morning, even though Fenestra knew Morrigan's concern.

Although similar, sarcasm is different from irony and satire. Fowler (1994, p. 241) states that

sarcasm highlights faults and weaknesses that hurt the feelings of the target, such as someone's behavior; irony tends to highlight discrepancies that arise because the actual condition does not meet the expectations of the speaker, which can target something that has no feelings, for example, the weather; and satire is a social criticism of problematic parties, powerful or stupid, by shaming them to get amendment, for instance, the government's performance in a country.

Types of Sarcasm

Based on previous research entitled "Sarcasm, Pretense, and the Semantics/Pragmatics Distinction" in 2011, Elisabeth Camp, a professor of philosophy at Rutgers University, classified sarcasm into four types: propositional sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, like-prefixed sarcasm, and illocutionary sarcasm. Further explanation about them can be seen below:

Propositional Sarcasm

In this type, sarcasm is in the form of a proposition. This category is the most straightforward one because it clarifies the speaker's purpose or intent to satirize someone. It means the proposition and the actual intent or purpose of the speaker are opposite.

Example: "Your plan sounds fantastic." (Camp, 2011, p. 22)

The sentence above is a proposition the speaker makes by saying that the plan sounds fantastic. However, it has a contradictory meaning. As a sarcastic utterance, the word "fantastic" means terrible. It shows that the speaker intends to convey that the plan sounds terrible.

Lexical Sarcasm

The evaluative scale is more closely related to lexical sarcasm than propositional sarcasm. Lexical sarcasm is the most natural kind of targeting conventionally extreme expressions with normative content. It is often a positive value, which can also lead to a negative one.

Example: "If David is a real genius, then he won't get better than a C in organic chemistry." (Camp, 2011, p. 25)

The last clause shows that David is not doing well in organic chemistry. However, the speaker calls him "a real genius," which contradicts David's actual condition. That is why it becomes a sarcastic remark.

Like-prefixed Sarcasm

Although similar to propositional sarcasm, like-prefixed sarcasm is only combined with a declarative sentence. Each statement begins with a "Like" or "As if" as a content disclaimer.

Example: "Like she's coming to your party." (Camp, 2011, p. 30)

The speaker's intended meaning does not assume that she is coming to the party. It is because there is a conflict with the speaker's word at the beginning of the sentence, which is "Like." The remark shows that the speaker sarcastically disagrees with the target's idea.

Illocutionary Sarcasm

In addition to have elements in an utterance, illocutionary sarcasm also includes all other illocutionary actions accompanying it, such as a compliment. Camp (2011) also states that illocutionary sarcasm reveals attitudes contrary to attitudes that should be expressed sincerely.

Example: "Thank you for holding the door." (Camp, 2011, p. 32)

In the sentence above, the speaker utters sarcasm by pretending to say something appropriate, as if the target actually does something high-scaled in politeness, namely, holding the door. However, the actual situation was contradictory, so the speaker evaluated the target's rude behavior for not holding the door for the speaker.

Negative Emotions

Sarcasm aims to humorously express negative emotions (Huang et al., 2015, p.163). Arne Vikan, a psychotherapist and professor emeritus at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, divided negative emotions into seven types in the book *A Fast Road to the Study of Emotions*, published in 2017. There are sadness, anger, fear, disgust, contempt, shame, and guilt. All of them are individual emotions that negatively affect the human

mind resulting in irrational actions or speech, which is often a problem for individuals and society. Sarcasm itself is considered a product of irrationality in terms of speech that may hurt the hearer due to negative emotions triggered by certain situations. Furthermore, the explanation of the negative emotions can be seen below:

Sadness

Sadness is a slightly pleasant emotion. It implies weakened self-esteem, also associated with high tension and little possibility of control. Sadness comes from rejection, loss, betrayal, disappointment, and failure to obtain one's goals.

Anger

Anger becomes a weapon to fight as well as a shield to protect oneself from threats after experiencing pressure and obstruction from others in the form of insults, unfair treatment, harassment, and duping in a certain way, which can cause conflict between two parties because of the desire for revenge.

Fear

Fear aims to avoid danger for survival. It stems from feeling threatened and vulnerable, making one feels insecure or even overwhelmed. As a signal of a process toward destruction, fear has a low level of pleasure, very high tension, reduced self-esteem, and possibly low control.

Disgust

Disgust is an unwillingness to accept or even be near indigestible objects, such as ideas, points of view, and people. Therefore, denial and avoidance can be acts of self-protection.

Contempt

Contempt arises because of the desire to stimulate initiative in preparing for aggression and reduce fear of the enemy to win the competition. It is also stimulated in someone who feels underestimated or opposed.

Shame

In failure to meet standards or ideals, shame arises due to the weakening of self-esteem with high tension. It tends to occur after experiencing rejection, helplessness, and awkwardness, which gets exposed to other people's perceptions. Attacking becomes one of the negative consequences of this emotion.

Guilt

A violation of moral rules breeds guilt, which is the thought or contemplation of being responsible after committing a mistake.

METHODS

Data and Data Sources

The research collected data from the novel series *Nevermoor*, including *Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow* (2017), *Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow* (2018), and *Hollowpox: The Hunt for Morrigan Crow* (2020), published by Little, Brown Company. An Australian author, Jessica Townsend, debuted her first novel after ten years. It won several awards, including the Book of the Year Award 2018 at the Australian Book Industry Awards. The novel series *Nevermoor* also meets the criteria as the data source for the research because it contains sarcastic utterances, which become the main attraction of its gloomy characters. The data from the novels are not authentic because sarcastic utterances are only based on an author's imagination instead of actual life conditions. However, the situation in the novels can still be close to real life, making it possible to be the data source for the research.

Method of Data Collection

The research collected relevant data from the novel series *Nevermoor* by applying an observation method. There were three steps in collecting data: The first step is reading the novel series *Nevermoor*.

It was a scanning process to find sarcastic remarks from each character. The second step is copying every sarcastic utterance in the novels into a table. The table made it easier to organize the data based on the titles of the novel series *Nevermoor*. Since each PDF file of the novels does not have page numbers, the research added them according to the total pages. The last step is adding context. After that, the research also added a short explanatory sentence to make sense of every sarcasm uttered by the characters before transferring the collected data in bold to the main document. Below is an example of the data presentation:

- (1) NOV3: (PS. Dt) | Jack's response to Hawthorne's absurdity

Context: *Frank held a Sunset Gala at Deucalion Hotel to celebrate the end of summer and usher in the autumn chill. While observing the wunimal guests behind the concierge desk for maximum visibility of the guests, Jack told Morrigan that a dogwun he saw was a celebrity among wunimals through his talents as a witness. Suddenly, a camera flash from a photographer from Looking Glass blinded Hawthorne's view, so he asked if that meant he had become a witness like Jack.*

Hawthorne: "I just – I saw the light! Jack, does that mean I'm a Witness now, or —?"

Jack: "**That was a camera flash, genius.**"

(Townsend, 2020, p. 189)

Method of Data Analysis

After collecting the required data, the research used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze them. In this process, there were four steps to analyze the data. The first step is analyzing the data using theories from Elisabeth Camp (2011) and Arne Vikan (2017). The research classified data based on types of sarcastic utterances using Camp (2011): propositional sarcasm, illocutionary sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, and like-prefixed sarcasm. Then, the research identified triggers from data by applying Vikan (2017): anger, disgust, contempt, sadness, fear, shame, and guilt. Before that, the research had distinguished sarcasm from irony and satire. The research then added the coding based on the analysis. The research also put the details on the page List of Abbreviations. The

second step is briefly explaining the data. Following the previously collected data, the research presented the analysis below.

An example of the type of sarcasm analysis:

Jack uttered propositional sarcasm, whose intended meaning is the opposite of the word "genius." Jack disagreed with Hawthorne's idea because it was such nonsense. People cannot suddenly be a witness. As a member of the Wondrous Society, Hawthorne was supposed to know that every child in *Nevermoor* is born with a unique talent. That is why Jack meant that Hawthorne is not a genius person based on his idea.

An example of the trigger of sarcasm analysis:

Jack had an aversion to accepting Hawthorne's idea, which is nonsense. The aversion to someone's idea is a sign of disgust. Jack dismissed Hawthorne's statement to avoid the thought that seeing the light instantly makes one a witness, contaminating his friend's beliefs. That is why disgust triggers Jack's sarcasm towards Hawthorne.

Meanwhile, the third step is calculating the findings in a table form. Lastly, the fourth step is concluding the analysis to formulate the findings on types and triggers of sarcastic utterances in the novel series *Nevermoor*.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Types of Sarcasm

There are 75 sarcastic utterances found in the novel series *Nevermoor*. They were classified using the theory proposed by Camp (2011) into propositional sarcasm, illocutionary sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, and like-prefixed sarcasm. All four types of sarcasm were found in the novels as shown in Table 1 below.

Propositional sarcasm was used the most in the characters' dialogues appearing 47 times (62.67%). Then, illocutionary sarcasm was used 20 times (26.67%). Lexical sarcasm was used 6 times (8%). Meanwhile, like-prefixed sarcasm was used only 2 times (2.67%), the least common type of sarcasm in the novel series.

Table 1. Frequency of sarcastic utterances in the novel series

| No. | Types of Sarcasm | Token | % |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | Propositional sarcasm | 47 | 62.67 |
| 2. | Illocutionary sarcasm | 20 | 26.67 |
| 3. | Lexical sarcasm | 6 | 8.00 |
| 4. | Like-prefixed sarcasm | 2 | 2.67 |
| Total | | 75 | 100.00 |

A more detailed explanation of each type of sarcasm is provided below.

Propositional Sarcasm

Camp (2011, p. 21) states that propositional sarcasm opposes the utterance that the speaker should sincerely say. It clarifies the speaker’s purpose through spoken utterances with contradictory meanings, making this type the most straightforward one. The research took a sample from 47 data (62.67%), considered propositional sarcasm in the novel series *Nevermoor* as follows:

- (2) NOV2: (PS. Ar) | The incompatibility between Morrigan and Thaddea

Context: *Morrigan returned to school after the holiday and met her unit friends at the station to wait for Miss Cherry, their conductor, to pick them up. They were talking about anonymous letters when Morrigan, who had just arrived, greeted them and asked how they were doing for small talk. Thaddea replied angrily.*

Morrigan: “Hi. Er, how’s it going?”

Thaddea: “**Oh, terrific.** We’ve all just been here taking massive risks to keep protecting your secret. How ’bout you? Nice week at home in your fancy hotel, was it?”

(Townsend, 2018, p. 183)

Thaddea replied to Morrigan’s greeting in contradiction with the actual condition. They could not enjoy their holiday because of the blackmail attacking Unit 919. Thaddea made that clear with her following statement. They should sacrifice a lot to protect one of the members’ secrets, which allegedly led to Morrigan being a *wundersmith*. It is the

opposite of ‘terrific’ because Thaddea used that word to express sarcasm towards Morrigan.

Illocutionary Sarcasm

Illocutionary sarcasm takes the form of pretense to express surprise, admiration, and pity as evaluative attitudes (Camp, 2011, p. 32). Through speech acts, the speaker pretends to create situations or actions that the target is supposed to do in real life to evaluate the behavior. The novel series *Nevermoor* contains 20 data (26.67%) related to illocutionary sarcasm. The research provided a sample with a detailed explanation below:

- (3) NOV2: (IS. Ar) | Thaddea’s anger at Hawthorne’s defense of Morrigan

Context: *Thaddea was angry because Hawthorne kept defending Morrigan, who had the secret of being a wundersmith. She considered it the cause of anonymous letters containing threats to their unit. As a friend, Hawthorne stood up for Morrigan.*

Hawthorne: “We are NOT throwing Morrigan under the bus.”

Thaddea: “**Yeah you have to say that, you’re her friend.**”

(Townsend, 2018, p. 101)

Thaddea pretended to support Hawthorne in protecting Morrigan. However, Thaddea evaluated his behavior of defending Morrigan just because they were friends. Morrigan had threatened the safety of Unit 919. That is why Thaddea judged Hawthorne’s action inappropriate and then expressed it through sarcasm.

Lexical Sarcasm

Lexical sarcasm shows extreme ends with a more tightly evaluative scale than propositional sarcasm (Camp, 2011, p. 25). The speaker starts with a positive clause and then ends with a sharp negative one or vice versa. There are 6 data (8%) that the research found in the novel series *Nevermoor*. The research took a sample with its detailed explanation below:

- (4) NOV1: (LS. Ct) | Hawthorne’s argument against Cadence

Context: *Hawthorne and Morrigan met Cadence in the Fright Trial. Cadence acted like she was smart and called them both idiots because they would choose the same thing for the trial. However, Hawthorne doubted her courage beyond the girl knowing many things about the Fright Trial because Cadence did not pass it either.*

Cadence: “Loads. We all get dumped here and everyone goes gaga over one of the candles. It’s part of the test. You’re supposed to pick the one you’re drawn to. At least, that’s what I think.”

Hawthorne: “**Why haven’t you gone through, then, if you’re so brilliant?**”

(Townsend, 2017, p. 207)

Hawthorne’s remark has a positive clause at the end by saying, "you’re so brilliant," but it begins with a negative clause in the form of a question referring to Cadence’s actions, which do not reflect a brilliant person. Cadence called Hawthorne and Morrigan idiots as if she knew the trial’s rules better. Instead of acting ahead, she just talked too much and insulted them.

Like-prefixed Sarcasm

In this type, the speaker tends to deny the spoken utterance. According to Camp (2011, p. 27), "Like" is a prefix that combines with a declarative sentence to deny the content. As an alternative option, "As if" can also form this type of sarcasm as 2 data (2.67%) the research found in the novel series *Nevermoor* with a sample and its explanation below:

- (5) NOV3: (LPS. Ar) | Fenestra’s grumbling against Jupiter’s noise

Context: *Jupiter was so excited to welcome Christmas that he jingled down the halls with tiny bells and fairy lights in his prodigious ginger beard every morning. Therefore, Fenestra grumbled every time she saw him.*

Fenestra: “**As if he wasn’t noisy enough.**”

(Townsend, 2020, p. 38)

Fenestra started with the word "As if" to deny her statement. How she grumbled every time she saw Jupiter shows that Fenestra disliked the loud noise

that came from him to welcome Christmas. There is an opposition between the actual condition and her declaration towards Jupiter, which makes Fenestra sarcastic.

Triggers of Sarcasm

By applying the theory proposed by Vikan (2017), the research found 75 data in the novel series *Nevermoor*. The triggers of sarcastic utterances in the novels only contain six negative emotions: anger, disgust, contempt, sadness, fear, and shame as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Frequency of Sarcasm Triggers

| No. | Negative Emotions | Token | % |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | Anger | 32 | 42.67 |
| 2. | Disgust | 16 | 21.33 |
| 3. | Contempt | 16 | 21.33 |
| 4. | Sadness | 4 | 5.33 |
| 5. | Fear | 4 | 5.33 |
| 6. | Shame | 3 | 4 |
| 7. | Guilt | - | - |
| Total | | 75 | 100.00 |

The three novels have triggers of sarcasm in different numbers and percentages. It starts with anger, a trigger of sarcasm, which appears often throughout the novel series 32 times (42.67%). Disgust and contempt appear 16 times (21.33%) of each. Sadness appears 4 times (5.33%). Fear also appeared 4 times (5.33%). Moreover, shame has only appeared 3 times (4%). Meanwhile, sarcasm in the novel series *Nevermoor* does not have guilt as a trigger because its percentage is 0% from 100%.

Anger

Anger is an emotion to protect oneself in opposition to a threat whose high tension gives a person little possibility of control (Vikan, 2017, p. 21). This kind of negative emotion is a trigger that has a high possibility in the pronunciation of sarcasm, as the research found data with a percentage of 42.67%, the highest in the *Nevermoor* novel series. The research

took a sample of 32 data for a more detailed explanation below:

- (6) NOV3: (PS. Ar) | Roshni's anger at Morrigan's risky action in the library

Context: Morrigan tried to help by using the art of inferno, which involved starting a fire, to drive away the hordes of insects. However, Roshni forbade her even though Miss Cherry defended Morrigan, saying the girl was trying to help them.

Miss Cherry: "She was trying to help, Roshni."

Roshni: "Yes, because starting a fire is a famously helpful thing to do IN A LIBRARY!"

(Townsend, 2020, p. 170-171)

Roshni was a librarian responsible for the safety of the books in The Gobleian Library. Although Morrigan used inferno with good intentions, the elements of her power can burn paper-based books. The fire threatened what she had to safeguard, arousing the anger that drove Roshni to fight back using sarcasm.

In addition, the use of capital letters at the end of Roshni's sentence means there is a change in her voice because of the high tension. Changing a voice is one of the physiological signals of anger, according to Vikan (2017, p. 21), who states:

With a faster heartbeat frequency, voice changes, quick breathing, tense muscles, and feelings of coldness, as well as shivering with warm cheeks, someone experiences several physiological signals of emotion that appear because they have been mutually associated with anger.

The analysis above shows anger as a negative emotion Roshni felt as a librarian who saw Morrigan, who started a fire, as a threat to the books there. Therefore, the research concluded that Roshni's trigger in uttering sarcasm is anger.

Disgust

Disgust is the unwillingness to accept a point of view, idea, or person metaphorically (Vikan, 2017, p. 21). This emotion can trigger the speaker to utter sarcasm, as the research found in 16 data (21.33%) with a sample and its further explanation below:

- (7) NOV3: (IS. Dt) | Morrigan's response to Francis' idea

Context: Morrigan joined Francis and Thaddea in the distraction class for the assignment of the workshop *What's That Behind You?* They must create a distraction to steal something from someone without getting caught. Thaddea took them to a big, sprawling pawn shop called *Secondhand City* to steal an impressive one. Francis had an idea but Morrigan frowned at him.

Francis: "What about a bicycle? Or a suit of armour. Ooh – what about this gramophone? I've always wanted a gramophone."

Morrigan: "You do know we don't get to keep it afterwards?"

(Townsend, 2020, p. 149)

Francis mentioned the gramophone without hesitation because he had always wanted one, which caused Morrigan to feel disgusted. Morrigan uttered sarcasm towards him as a means of avoidance before Francis' ridiculous idea contaminated the whole group's goal. Hence, disgust plays a role as the trigger.

Contempt

Vikan (2017, p. 21—22) states that contempt is a problematic emotion that aims to discriminate against individuals or groups of persons. Someone underestimates others because of a sense of superiority over power in an aspect. The research found contempt as the trigger of sarcastic utterances as much as 16 data (21.33%). The research also provided a sample with the explanation regarding this negative emotion below:

- (8) NOV1: LS. Ct | Ivy's belittlement of a servant

Context: Ivy, Morrigan's stepmother, explained *Bid Day* to the girl at the family dinner. It was a day when children with talent or wealthy families who had completed preparatory school would receive their educational bid from some respectable person from a fine scholarly institution. She then glanced at a servant, who placed a gravy tureen on the table, laughing in an exaggerated whisper when Morrigan questioned that all the children got a bid for an education.

Morrigan: “Does everyone get a bid?”

Ivy: “Heavens, no! **If everyone were educated, where would servants come from?**”

(Townsend, 2017, p. 26)

Ivy had a higher position than the servants, creating a sense of superiority. She underestimated a servant by bringing up the education gap. Most servants came from lower classes with talents that could not be fully developed due to limited access to education. Therefore, Ivy used her privilege as a wife of one of the most influential people in the Republic of Wintersea, Morrigan’s father, to show her power with the statement that not everyone deserves an education, making the servant a good example. How she underestimated her servant while responding to Morrigan’s question proves that contempt triggers Ivy’s sarcastic utterance.

Sadness

Vikan (2017, p. 20) states that sadness can arise due to separation, loss, failure, rejection, disappointment, or betrayal. This unpleasant emotion has little possibility of control due to high tension, which is likely to trigger someone to utter sarcasm. In the novel series *Nevermoor*, the research found 4 data (5.33%) with a sample below:

(9) NOV2: (IS. Ss) | Morrigan and Jack’s interaction

Context: *Jack and Morrigan had not seen each other for a long time because they were busy at school. When she saw him, Morrigan even forgot to greet Jack because she was surprised to meet him in person.*

Morrigan: “What are you doing here?”

Jack: “Oh, hello, Jack. Haven’t seen you since the summer hols, how’s life? **Excellent, thanks for asking, Morrigan, so kind of you.** I do hope you’re also well.”

(Townsend, 2018, p. 212)

Jack was disappointed with Morrigan because she did not greet him after they had not seen each other for a long time due to the school day. Moreover, Morrigan’s question above implies that she was not expecting Jack’s presence. One of the causes of sadness is disappointment (Vikan, 2017,

p.20). Disappointment with Morrigan’s behavior makes Jack feel sad as a close friend who does not get a warm welcome from his friend, which triggers him to make sarcastic utterances.

Fear

Fear typically arises when a person faces something physically or mentally harmful. Vikan (2017, p. 21) states that this emotion can manifest as insecurity and feeling overwhelmed. A sample of 4 data (5.33%) that the research found is explained below:

(10) NOV1: (PS. Fr) | Morrigan’s disagreement with Hawthorne’s idea

Context: *Hawthorne and Morrigan was watching the Black Parade with Fenestra. However, the two of them quietly separated for a moment from Fenestra to climb up to dumpster behind because their view got blocked. The frail and frightened voice of an old lady at the end of the alley suddenly stopped Morrigan who was about to accept Hawthorne’s outstretched hand. Hawthorne then suggests telling Fenestra for help.*

Hawthorne: “Maybe we should get Fen—”

Morrigan: “Oh yeah, let’s go tell Fen we ran off down a dark alley without her. **Brilliant idea.**”

(Townsend, 2017, p. 197)

Morrigan and Hawthorne left Fenestra without asking for permission. By heading to a dangerous place, they certainly inconvenienced Fenestra, who was assigned to guard them. Fear has triggered Morrigan to utter sarcasm, avoiding a danger because Fenestra is a fierce cat who does not hesitate to cruelly punish them.

Shame

Shame is a negative emotion due to individual attitudes or actions threatening self-esteem. According to Vikan (2017, p. 22), it leads someone to pay for adverse consequences, ask for forgiveness, and even stop the behavior after failing to meet the standards and ideals of others. A sample related to this emotion as the trigger of sarcasm the research had taken from 3 data (4%) with explanation below:

(11) NOV1: (PS. Se) | Jupiter and Morrigan’s interaction

Context: *On the way home from the Wondrous Welcome, Jupiter talked to Morrigan. Before Jupiter parted ways with Morrigan to meet his old friends at the event, he asked her to make new friends. Therefore, Jupiter brought it up again and asked Morrigan what else was interesting during the party. Morrigan recalled her bad encounter with Noelle, one of Mr. Charlton’s candidates.*

Jupiter: “Anything else of interest?”

Morrigan: “**I think I made an enemy too.**”

(Townsend, 2017, p. 121)

Morrigan failed to meet Jupiter's expectations at the Wondrous Welcome. She did not manage to make many friends with the other candidates, except Hawthorne. Unfortunately, Morrigan also made an enemy instead. She fails to meet her patron's expectations and fit herself into a group, which makes shame grow inside Morrigan, triggering her to utter sarcasm.

Each type of sarcasm in the characters’ dialog in the novel series *Nevermoor* contains triggers in the form of negative emotions. Therefore, the research provided the table below to make it more transparent.

Table 3. Frequency of Negative Emotions as Triggers on Sarcasm Types

| No. | Sarcasm | Triggers | Token | % |
|-----|---------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | Propositional | Anger | 18 | 24 |
| | | Disgust | 14 | 18.67 |
| | | Contempt | 8 | 10.67 |
| | | Fear | 4 | 5.33 |
| | | Shame | 3 | 4 |
| | | Sub total | 47 | 62.67 |
| 2. | Illocutionary | Anger | 12 | 16 |
| | | Sadness | 4 | 5.33 |
| | | Disgust | 2 | 2.67 |
| | | Contempt | 2 | 2.67 |
| | | Sub total | 20 | 26.67 |
| 3. | Lexical | Contempt | 6 | 8 |
| 4. | Like-prefixed | Anger | 2 | 2.67 |
| | | Total | 75 | 100.00 |

Each type of sarcasm contains negative emotions as the trigger with different frequencies and percentages. The triggers of propositional sarcasm are anger, fear, disgust, contempt, and shame, with a subtotal of 47 (62.67%). Anger appears 18 times (24%), which triggers characters’ sarcastic utterances the most. Meanwhile, disgust appears 14 times (18.67%). Contempt appears 8 times (10.67%) and fear appears 4 times (5.33%). In addition, shame appears the least with 3 times (4%).

The triggers of illocutionary sarcasm include anger, sadness, disgust, and contempt, with a subtotal of 20 (26.67%). Anger is the most prevalent, with 12 occurrences (16%). Sadness has an occurrence of 4 times (5.33%). However, disgust and contempt appear 2 times (2.67%) of each as the least.

Lexical sarcasm only has contempt as its trigger. Throughout the dialog of the characters in the novel series *Nevermoor*, it appears 6 times (8%).

Like-prefixed sarcasm also only has one of the negative emotions as its trigger. It is anger, which appears 2 times (2.67%).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, four types of sarcasm, with 75 data found in the novel series *Nevermoor*, put propositional sarcasm, with the occurrence 47 times and a percentage of 62.67%, as the most frequently used in the characters’ dialogue. In contrast, like-prefixed sarcasm becomes the least used since it only appears 2 times, with a percentage of 2.67%.

Besides that, the research focused on triggers of the sarcasm uttered by the characters in the novel series *Nevermoor*. There are six negative emotions found as triggers of the sarcastic remark: anger, disgust, contempt, sadness, fear, and shame. The research inspected the negative emotions on each type of the characters’ sarcastic utterances. Propositional sarcasm has various negative emotions as its triggers, including anger, fear, disgust, contempt, and shame. Likewise, illocutionary sarcasm has triggers of sarcasm derived from several negative emotions, including sadness, anger, disgust, and contempt. On the other hand, like-prefixed sarcasm has anger to trigger the characters to express

sarcasm. Lexical sarcasm also only has one negative emotion as its trigger: contempt. Based on the findings in the novels above, it is significant to note that the same negative emotions can trigger sarcastic utterances in different types.

By analyzing the novel series *Nevermoor*, the research found that a type of sarcastic utterances contains a few negative emotions as triggers. However, it does not rule out the possibility that one of the negative emotions can trigger a type of sarcasm, which cannot be generalized if the type only has an emotion as its trigger. Thus, the research can be a reference for other future research.

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