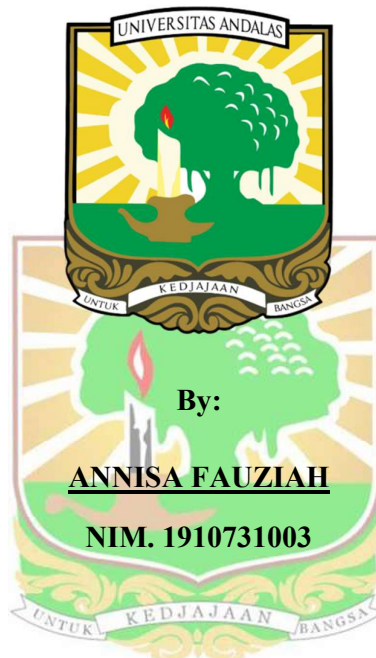


**THE SYSTEMS OF TENSES, ASPECTS, AND MODALITIES IN THE SHORT  
STORY *THE GIFT OF THE MAGI* BY O. HENRY**

**A Thesis**

*Submitted in Partical Fulfillment of the Requirements*

*for the Degree of Sarjana Humaniora*



**By:**

**ANNISA FAUZIAH**

**NIM. 1910731003**

**Supervisor:**

**Ayendi, S.S., M.Pd., M.Hum.**

**NIP: 197610012007011003**

**ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS**

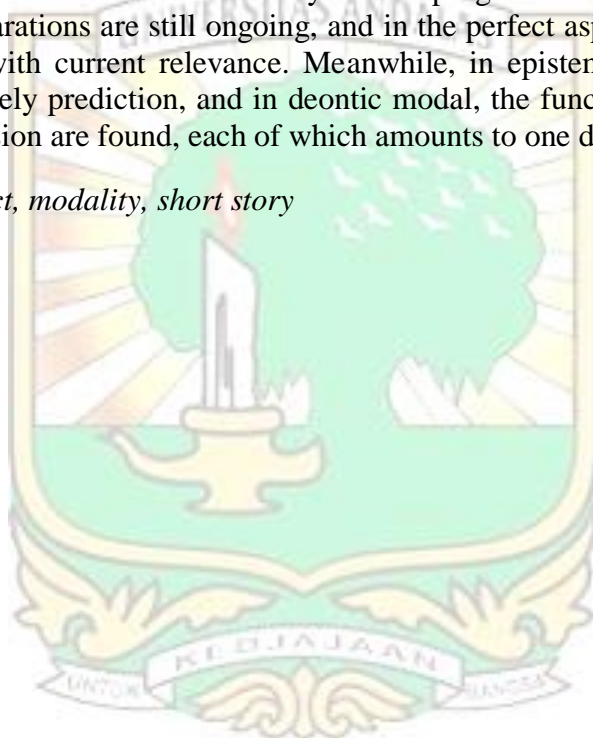
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## ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses the systems of tense, aspect, and modality along with the functions in the short story entitled *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry. Data collection was conducted through a close reading and textual analysis of the short story, focusing on instances of tense, aspect, and modality. The collected data were analyzed using the theory proposed by Lynn M. Berk (1999). From 233 data, two types of tense were found, namely past tense and present tense. The most dominant tense type that appears is the past tense. Furthermore, two aspects were also found, namely the progressive aspect and the perfect aspect. After carrying out the analysis, the most dominant type of aspect emerged, namely the perfect aspect. The author also found modals in the short story, namely epistemic modals and deontic modals. After carrying out the analysis, the type of modals that often appear in these essays is epistemic modals. The author also found the typical functions of tense, aspect, and modal in the short story. In the past tense, the typical function is to communicate past time, while in the present tense, the most typical function is commentary. In the progressive aspect, the most typical function found is preparations are still ongoing, and in the perfect aspect the typical function found is past events with current relevance. Meanwhile, in epistemic modal, a distinctive function is found, namely prediction, and in deontic modal, the functions of volition, strong obligation, and permission are found, each of which amounts to one data.

*Keywords: tense, aspect, modality, short story*



## ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini dibahas penggunaan sistem tense, aspect, dan modal serta fungsinya dalam cerita pendek berjudul *The Gift of the Magi* karya dari O. Henry. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui pembacaan yang mendalam dan analisis tekstual cerita pendek tersebut, dengan fokus pada penggunaan tense, aspect, dan modality. Data yang terkumpul dianalisis menggunakan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Lynn M. Berk (1999). Dari 233 data yang diperoleh, ditemukan dua tipe tense, yaitu *past tense*, dan *present tense*. Tipe tense yang paling dominan muncul adalah *past tense*. Selanjutnya juga ditemukan dua aspect yaitu *progressive aspect*, dan *perfect aspect*. Setelah dilakukannya analisis, tipe aspect yang paling dominan muncul yaitu *perfect aspect*. Penulis juga menemukan modal dalam cerita pendek tersebut, yaitu *epistemic modal*, dan *deontic modal*. Setelah dilakukannya analisis, tipe modal yang sering muncul di dalam essai tersebut adalah *epistemic modal*. Penulis juga menemukan fungsi khas dari tense, aspect, dan modal dalam short story tersebut. Pada *past tense*, penulis menemukan fungsi yang khas yaitu *to communicate past time*, sedangkan pada *present tense*, fungsi yang paling khas yaitu *commentary*. Sedangkan pada *progressive aspect*, fungsi yang paling khas ditemukan adalah *preparations are still ongoing*, dan *perfect aspect*, fungsi khas yang ditemukan yaitu *past events with current relevance*. Sementara itu, pada *epistemic modality* ditemukan fungsi yang khas yaitu *prediction*, dan *deontic modality* ditemukan fungsi *volition*, *strong obligation*, dan *permission* yang masing-masing berjumlah satu data.

*Keywords: tense, aspect, modality, short story*

