

*Conversational Analysis of Adjacency Pairs in  
The Murder of Roger Ackroyd Novel by Agatha Christie*

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**ABSTRACT:**

This study delves into the pivotal role of adjacency pairs as fundamental units in conversation analysis, with a specific focus on their application in the context of detective novels, notably exemplified in the works of Agatha Christie. Adjacency pairs consist of a first pair part and a second pair part which are crucial tools in understanding the dynamics of dialogue, as they reveal underlying structures and meanings within conversations. Thus, the present study aims at determining the most dominant pattern of adjacency pairs which are utilized in shaping the dialogue in Christie's works; and at investigating how Christie employs a specific adjacency pair pattern to impart a distinctive touch to her detective narratives. Accordingly, the following hypotheses are proposed: firstly, the superiority of these adjacency pairs is given to (Question–Answer/ Clarification) pattern; secondly, the use of the (Announcement – Acceptance / Denial) pattern is an unexpected way to identify the criminal of the novel. In order to test the validity of these hypotheses, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie is analyzed by adopting eclectic models i.e. Coulthard (1985), Clark (1996), Schegloff (2007) and Paltridge (2012). The results of the analysis are set using quantitative and qualitative methods. Finally, it is found that writers can leverage Agatha Christie's adept use of adjacency pairs employing (Question-Answer), to elevate narrative impact. Screenwriters adapting Christie's works for visual media can benefit from understanding the significance of these pairs in guiding dialogue construction for cinematic portrayal. These insights can be incorporated into literature or linguistics courses as case studies, serving as teaching tools to illustrate effective linguistic devices and deepen comprehension of narrative strategies.

**Keywords:** adjacency pairs, Agatha Christie, conversational analysis, .

## 1. Introduction

Detective action is one of the most common genres of the novel. Crime and detection are the concepts on which it is grounded. The proliferation of theories in this genre is a consequence of the increase in detective activity, particularly influenced by modern (post) readings. Agatha Christie, renowned as the "Queen of Crime," had a significant role in establishing the "rules and regulations" of the "game". Moreover, she skillfully challenged and undermined these very codes during the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. Thus, Christie's books can be seen as the process of deciphering or dismantling the genre as well.

As a means to the goal, language can be used to achieve specific objectives; it is regarded as the main tool used by everyone in their daily life to convey information and to communicate with each other. Conversation, which is one type of communication, has played an important role in delivering and clarifying the meaning. Conversation has many components and the adjacency pairs are considered a fundamental motif of many linguistic components. In terms of drama, especially detective novels, adjacency pairs are employed in such a way as to pave the path to arrest the criminal. Defined as successive utterances with an expected follow-up, adjacency pairs, such as greeting exchanges, are vital for discourse progression. This study focuses on the linguistic features of adjacency pairs in Agatha Christie's detective novel "The Murder of Roger Akroyd" (1926) highlighting their essential role in the interaction process and the suspenseful nature of her narratives by making Detective Poirot question all her characters with brilliant use of the whole types of adjacency pairs (web:2).

## 2. Literature review

Due to its use in daily life, the conversation has rules and principles that somebody should follow. Adjacency pair is one of the aspects that the conversation depends on. Thus, an account of the fundamental concept of Adjacency pair is offered and its related issues, such as its types, conditional relevance, insertion sequence, pre-sequence and the organization of preference.

Iglesias & Ángela, 2001 show that adjacency pairings exist in all languages and differ in context and content depending on the cultural values held by the speakers of the relevant language. They are often given by speakers unconsciously since they are an integral element of the language used at the time and are so ingrained in speakers' comprehension and usage of the language. Thus, Aps may provide difficulties when a person starts learning a language that is not native to them, because the cultural context and importance of the Aps

may be obscure to a speaker outside of the core culture linked with the language.(Web:4)

### **2.1 Adjacency Pair: Concept and Definition**

The concept of adjacency pairs is an essential contribution to conversational analysis. It is a form of turn-taking. Since one sentence doesn't constitute many talks, it is typically considered the smallest unit of conversational communication. Adjacency pairs can be defined differently from diverse viewpoints.

Levinson (1983:303-4) mentions that the adjacency pair is a local management organization. It is a type of paired utterance, and it is linked closely to the turn-taking procedure as a method of selecting the next speaker. Again, the existence of such paired utterances is obvious, however, it is challenging to identify the underlying assumptions that form the basis of these regularities.

Whereas Wardhaugh (2015: 283-4) shows that adjacency pairs are one of the essential principles in conversational analysis. Certain kinds of utterances co-occur: a greeting, for example, requires a greeting; a summons requires a response and so on. This fundamental pairing connection offers both continuity and interchange potential because it allows two individuals to say something and connect these things. Additionally, it provides a sort of chaining effect and choices for the second part of each pair.

Paltridge (2006:107-116) performs several types of adjacency pairs such as Requesting-acceptance / Assessment-agreement / Question-answer / Compliment-acceptance / Greeting-greeting / Leave-taking / Complaint-apology / Warning - acknowledgement / Blame-denial / Threat, counter-threat / Offer-acceptance. (Web:3)

One kind of adjacency pair is a request, which can have two possible outcomes: preferred (acceptance) or dispreferred (refusal). Adjacency pairs are conversational sequences in which the words spoken by one speaker influence the words spoken by another. Adjacency pairs can take many forms, including query, appraisal, accusation, offer, and blame. (Web:1)

### **2.2 The Characteristics of Adjacency Pairs**

Schegloff and Sacks (1973) outlined the key characteristics of adjacency pairs as follows: (1) Adjacency pairs involve two consecutive utterances that are adjacent, produced by different speakers, ordered sequentially with a specific initial and a second part, and typed so that a particular first part demands a specific second (or a range of second parts). For instance, greetings demand greetings, and offers necessitate acceptances or rejections. (2) The use of adjacency pairs follows a rule where, after a speaker provides the first half of a pair, they must pause, and the subsequent speaker is required to produce the pair's second part.

In many conversations, delaying the second part of the adjacency pairs becomes problematic. Sometimes there are logical reasons for this delay, which can be overcome by adding another adjacency pair to provide context or open the door for the second part of the earlier adjacency pair to come out. (web:1)

### 2.3 Preference Organization

In the context of adjacency pairs, when a speaker initiates a first pair part, it is expected that a second pair part will follow. Nevertheless, there exists a certain flexibility in responding to the first pair part, allowing for variations such as an offer prompting either an "acceptance" or a "refusal." Consequently, the second pair parts can be categorized as either "preferred" or "dispreferred." For instance, an invitation may result in a preferred second pair part, such as an acceptance, or a dispreferred second pair part, like a refusal. In cases of dispreferred second pair parts, it is common to encounter a 'delay,' a 'preface,' and/or an 'account' preceding the response. This concept is exemplified through the following illustration:

A: Are you going out with anyone?

(Question)

B: Uhh . . . (Delay) Well, kind of ...

(Preface)

There is someone I met a while back ... (Account)

Actually, I'm getting married at the end of the year.

(Unexpected answer)

( Paltridge, 2012: 99).

**Table (2.1) The general patterns of preferred and dispreferred structures**

No.	Adjacency Pairs		
	First Part	Second Parts	
		Preferred	Dispreferred
1.	Request	Acceptance	Refusal
2.	Offer	Acceptance	Refusal
3.	Invite	Acceptance	Refusal
4.	Assessment	Agreement	Disagreement
5.	Question	Expected answer	Unexpected answer or non-answer
6.	Blame	Denial	Admission

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Introduction

Concerning the analysis of the data, (20) extracts have been chosen from Christie's detective novel "**The Murder of Roger Ackroyd**" randomly.

#### 3.2 Data Analysis

Depending on the theoretical review which was illustrated in the previous section, the adopted model of analysis in this study follows the "Eclectic Model". It will merge Paltridge's (2012) model of "*Discourse Analysis*" with Schegloff's (2007) "*Sequence Organization in Interaction*", Coulthard's (1985) "*An introduction in Discourse Analysis*" and Clark's (1996) model "*Using Language*" because each model completes the other to come up with a completely perfect picture of all types of adjacency pairs used in conversations to get accurate results.

#### ***"Chapter 1: Dr. Sheppard at the Breakfast Table"***

##### **1. Caroline: "What on earth are you doing out there, James? Why don't you come and get your breakfast?"**

**James: "Just coming, my dear,'... 'I've been hanging up my overcoat"**

At the beginning of chapter one, the novelist tries to introduce the characters of the novel and show the relationships between them. So, this dialogue is the first one between Caroline and her brother James. Caroline initiates her speech with a type of adjacency pair (i.e. Question–Answer) as an opening conversation, so she is considered as a first pair part or first member-initiator. When she utters this type accompanied by a sharp note, the reader will know that Caroline is a controller. Moreover, James also uses a dispreferred answer as the second pair part or the second member and this gives the impression that her brother hates that way of treatment and he is always obedient.

##### **2. Caroline: "You've had an early call,' remarked Caroline".**

**James: 'Yes,' I said. 'King's Paddock. Mrs. Ferrars.'**

Excerpt (2) indicates an adjacency pair (Question-Answer) which is initiated by Caroline when she asks about the call that James received. The answer is given as a preferred second-pair part because he tells his sister what she wants to hear.

##### **3. James: A sad business. Nothing to be done. Must have died in her sleep.**

**Caroline: I know.**

It is clear that James announces Mrs. Ferras's death that she died in her bed while she was sleeping. So the announcement is the first pair part of adjacency pairs. On the other hand, Caroline declines

this information by telling him that she knows. She uses a dispreferred second pair part (second member). James didn't expect anyone to know the reason behind Mrs. Ferras' death because he didn't tell anyone.

4. **Caroline:** *I know.*

**James:** *You can't know. I snapped. 'I didn't know myself until I got there, and haven't mentioned it to a soul yet. If that girl Annie knows, she must be a clairvoyant.*

Excerpt (4) shows that continuous, connected dialogue does not follow the neat organization of one self-standing adjacency pair following another. Rather, pair membership overlaps in that the second member of a previous pair can also function as the first member of the next adjacency pair. Caroline asserts her knowledge of how Mrs. Ferras' died. However, the response was dispreferred. James disagrees with her knowing the cause of death because he didn't reveal it to anyone.

**Table (3.1) Adjacency pairs According to Preferred & Dispreferred Second Pair Part for the First Five Chapters**

No	Types of Adjacency Pairs		
	First Pair part	Second Pair Part	
		Preferred	Dispreferred
	Question		Answer
	Question	Answer	
	Announcement		Decline
	Assertion		Disagreement
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table (3.2) The Number of Adjacency Pairs in the First Five Chapters**

No	Type of Adjacency Pairs	Frequency
1.	Question – Answer	2
2.	Announcement- Acceptance / Decline	1
4.	Assertion – Agreement /Disagreement	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>



### ***Chapter 6: I Learn My Neighbour's Profession”***

**1. Flora: 'Dr Sheppard, I have come to ask you to help me?'**

**Caroline: 'Of course, he'll help you, my dear,' said Caroline.**

Flora initiates the conversation by requesting Dr. Sheppard to help her to find the murderer of her uncle. She utters a request to show the first pair part (first member – initiator). On the other hand, Caroline intervenes as a third party to accept the request of Flora, she breaks the rule of one function of adjacency pairs that enable a speaker to select the next action and next speaker. She uses a preferred second pair part of adjacency pairs.

**2. Caroline: 'To see that funny little man?' exclaimed Caroline.**

**Flora: 'Yes. You know who he is, don't you?'**

To continue the conversation, Caroline expects the reason behind Flora's intention of going to 'The Larches'. She utters her expectation as a form of a question. As a preferred answer to the second pair part of Caroline's question, Flora utters her answer continuing her talk by using tag questions.

**3. Flora: 'Yes. You know who he is, don't you?'**

**Dr Sheppard: 'We fancied,' I said, 'that he might be a retired hairdresser'.**

Flora continues her response to identify Mr. Hercule Poirot. She uses a tag question to ask whether they know him or not. Dr Sheppard answers her using a dispreferred second pair part because Flora does not expect that they didn't know Mr Poirot.

**4. Flora: Why, he's Hercule Poirot! You know who I mean - the private detective.**

*They say he's done the most wonderful things - just like detectives do in books. A year ago he retired and came to live down here. Uncle knew who he was, but he promised not to tell anyone because M. Poirot wanted to live quietly without being bothered by people.'*

**Dr. Sheppard: 'So that's who he is,' I said slowly.**

The announcement is shown here as a first pair part uttered by Flora when she gives Dr. Sheppard and Caroline new information about Mr. Poirot. Dr. Sheppard accepts this announcement by using a preferred second pair part.

**Table (3.3) Adjacency pairs According to Preferred & Dispreferred Second Pair Part for the Second Five Chapters**

No	Types of Adjacency Pairs		
	First Pair part	Second Pair Part	
		Preferred	Dispreferred
5.	Request	Acceptance	
6.	Question	Answer	
7.	Question		Answer
8.	Announcement	Acceptance	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table (3.4) The Number of Adjacency Pairs in the Second Five Chapters**

No	Type of Adjacency Pairs	Frequency
1.	Question – Answer	2
2.	Announcement- Acceptance / Decline	1
3.	Request– Acceptance / Refusal	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

***“Chapter 11: Round the Table***

**9. Poirot: 'You think he went to Liverpool?' queried Poirot.**

**The inspector: 'Well, it's on the cards. That telephone message from the station, just three minutes before the Liverpool express left there ought to be something in that.'**

Mr.Poirot initiates his conversation by asking the inspector whether Ralph went to Liverpool or not. Poirot uses the question as the first pair part of adjacency pairs. As a preferred second pair part, the inspector answers him. It is clear that the question-answer type of adjacency pairs is professionally used.

**10. The inspector: Do you really think that's the explanation of the telephone call?'**

**Poirot: 'My friend,' said Poirot gravely, 'I do not know. But I will tell you this: I believe that when we find the explanation of that telephone call we shall find the explanation of the murder.'**



Again the type of (Question–Answer) of adjacency pairs is used here to continue the conversation between the inspector and Mr Poirot. The inspector asks Mr. Poirot about his explanation of the telephone call. But, Poirot can't find the right answer so he uses a dispreferred second pair part.

11. **Dr Sheppard:** *'You mean a blind alley?' I said.*

**Poirot:** *'That is it - the blind street that leads nowhere. So it may be with those fingerprints - they may lead you nowhere.'*

This excerpt indicates the question that Dr. Sheppard had asked Mr. Poirot, commenting on his words regarding dark tunnels. He uses question-answer pairs to demand clarification of his phrase. Mr. Poirot clarifies the phrase in detail so he uses a preferred second-pair part as an answer to the question.

12. **Poirot:** *'You have taken the prints of everyone in the house, you say,' murmured*

**Poirot.** *'Is that the exact truth you are telling me there, M. Inspecteur?'*

**The inspector:** *'Certainly.'*

As a type of data collection, Mr Poirot asserts that having the prints of everyone in the house. He uses assertion as the first pair part of adjacency pairs. At the same time, the inspector agrees with what Mr. Poirot asserts. So he uses a preferred second-pair part. After Mr Raymond refused the request which was demanded by Flora, he suggested waiting for a day or two before the announcement. He uses (Suggestion – Acceptance / Refusal) type of adjacency pairs. Flora refuses this suggestion because she wants to help Ralph and this is the best way she can do from her point of view. So she uses a dispreferred second pair part to clarify it.

**Table (3.5) Adjacency pairs According to Preferred & Dispreferred Second Pair Part for the Third Five Chapters**

No	Types of Adjacency Pairs		
	First Pair part	Second Pair Part	
		Preferred	Dispreferred
9.	Question	Answer	
10.	Question		Answer
11.	Question	Answer	
12.	Assertion	Agreement	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table (3.6) The Number of Adjacency Pairs  
in the Third Five Chapters**

No	Type of Adjacency Pairs	Frequency
1.	Question – Answer	3
2.	Assertion – Agreement / Disagreement	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

*“Chapter 16: Charles Kent”*

13. **Mr.Poirot:** *'As regard this man,' said Poirot, 'he is not yet arrested, eh?'*

**Inspector:** *'No, detained under suspicion.'*

As an initiation to the conversation between Mr Poirot and the inspector, Mr Poirot opens his conversation by asking about the suspect whom they go to. He uses the question as the first pair part. The dispreferred second pair part is shown by the answer of the inspector.

14. **Mr.Poirot:** *'And what account does he give of himself?'*

**Inspector:** *'Precious little,' said the inspector, with a grin. 'He's a wary bird, I gather. A lot of abuse, but very little more.'*

Mr. Poirot inquires more about Kent so he uses (Question–Answer) type of adjacency pairs. The answer is a dispreferred second pair part because the inspector hasn't given Mr Poirot the information that he is looking forward to hearing.

15. **Hays:** *'Now we've got M. Poirot here we shan't be long,' he said cheerfully. 'I*

*thought you'd retired, moosior?'*

**Mr.Poirot:** *'So I had, my good Hayes, so I had. But how tedious is retirement! You*

*cannot imagine to yourself the monotony with which day comes after day.'*

Hays opens his conversation by greeting Mr.Poirot whom he worked with a long time ago. Without receiving the greeting he starts to ask Mr Poirot if he is retired or not. Now he receives the preferred answer from Mr. Poirot that he was actually retired but retirement is boring.

16. Hays: *Is this Dr. Sheppard? Think you'll be able to identify him, sir?'*

**Dr Sheppard:** *'I'm not very sure,'*

Hays continues his questions so he uses (Question-Answer) pairs. He asked Dr. Sheppard if he could identify the suspect. But Dr. Sheppard uses the dispreferred second pair part by telling him that he is not sure.

**Table (3.7) Adjacency pairs According to Preferred & Dispreferred Second Pair Part for the Fourth Five Chapters**

No	Types of Adjacency Pairs		
	First Pair part	Second Pair Part	
		Preferred	Dispreferred
13.	Question		Answer
14.	Question		Answer
15.	Question	Answer	
16.	Question		Answer
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table (3.8) The Number of Adjacency Pairs in the Fourth Five Chapters**

No	Type of Adjacency Pairs	Frequency
1.	Question – Answer	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

*“Chapter 21: Ralph Paton's Story”*

17. Mr. Poirot:.. *"Dr. Sheppard went to the Three Boars that night hoping to find*

*Ralph. He did not find him there; but supposing, I said to myself, that he met him in the street on his way home? Dr. Sheppard was a friend of Captain Paton's, and he had come straight from the scene of the crime. He must know that things looked very black against him. Perhaps he knew more than the general public did "*

**Dr Sheppard:** *"I did,' I said ruefully. 'I suppose I might as well make a clean east*

*of things now. I went to see Ralph that afternoon".*

Mr. Poirot announces new information about Ralph Paton's hiding and who helped him to do that. He uses (Announcement – Acceptance) type of adjacency pairs. Dr Sheppard who was accused of concealing information accepts and confirms his claim so he shows the preferred second pair part.

18. **Raymond:** *“Where?’ asked Raymond. ‘In his own house?’*

**Mr. Poirot:** *“Ah, no, indeed,’ said Poirot. ‘You should ask yourself the question*

*that I did If the good doctor is concealing the young man, what place*

*would he choose? It must necessarily be somewhere near at hand. I*

*think of Cranchester. A hotel? No”....*

After Dr Sheppard’s confession, Raymond wants to know where Ralph is hidden, so he intervenes to ask whether Ralph is hidden in his house or not. He uses the (Question –Answer) type of adjacency pair. But Mr. Poirot answers him with an unexpected answer when he tells him that Ralph hid at a nursing home. He uses the dispreferred answer as a second pair part.

19. **Raymond:** *‘Now we can have your story of what happened that night,’ said*

*Raymond impatiently.*

**Ralph:** *‘You know it already,’ said Ralph. ‘There’s very little for me to all...’*

In the meeting when Poirot tries to reveal the facts, Raymond asks Ralph to tell them what happened on the murder night. He uses the (Question-Answer) type of adjacency pairs. He initiates with the question and Ralph uses the preferred answer as a second pair part.

20. **Raymond:** *‘What is that?’ said Raymond sharply.*

**Mr. Poirot:** *‘A wireless message - from a steamer now on her way to the United States.’*

Raymond asks Mr Poirot about the telegram which comes to him so he again uses the (Question–Answer) type of adjacency pairs. The question is very clear and in return, the answer is a preferred second pair part.

**Table (3.9) Adjacency pairs According to Preferred & Dispreferred Second Pair Part for the Fifth Five Chapters**

No	Types of Adjacency Pairs		
	First Pair part	Second Pair Part	
		Preferred	Dispreferred
17.	Announcement	Acceptance	
18.	Question		Answer
19.	Question	Answer	
20.	Question	Answer	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table (3.10) The Number of Adjacency Pairs in the Fifth Five Chapters**

No	Type of Adjacency Pairs	Frequency
1.	Question – Answer	3
2.	Announcement- Acceptance / Decline	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

#### 4. Conclusion and Results

The table below illustrates how various types of adjacency pairs have been employed in a randomly selected context.

**Table (4.1) The Frequency and Percentage of Adjacency Pairs in “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” Novel**

No.	Adjacency Pairs Types	Frequency	Percentage
	Question – Answer	14	70%
	Announcement- Acceptance / Decline	3	15%
	Request –Acceptance / Refusal	2	10%
	Assertion – Agreement / Disagreement	1	5%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>

Considering the information presented in the aforementioned table, there are noteworthy statistical observations. Firstly, according to the eclectic models used to apply the data on, it can be seen that the (Question-Answer) type of adjacency pairs has the highest number of occurrence in the novel. It marks (14) out of (20) instances which equals (70%) of the whole analyzed data of the novel. The high frequency of Question-Answer interactions underscores the significance of inquiry and response in driving the plot forward, showcasing Christie's adept use of dialogue to unravel mysteries. This linguistic pattern serves as a cornerstone in her storytelling, emphasizing the role of interrogation and revelation in the investigation process within the context of her compelling detective narratives. In Agatha Christie's novels, the adjacency pair (Announcement – Acceptance) serves a crucial function, particularly when the inspector confronts the criminal. It is used the opposite of what it is. The inspector strategically collects information, announces it to the suspect, and seeks acceptance. This creates a suspenseful dynamic where the criminal, unable to evade the evidence, is compelled to agree with the facts presented. The confrontational

nature of this adjacency pair adds a layer of tension, as the criminal becomes entangled in a web of incriminating details, leading to a moment of revelation.

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## تحليل الحوار لمفهوم الأزواج المتجاورة في رواية " مقتل روجر أكرويد" لأجاثا كرستي

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جامعة بغداد – كلية التربية ابن رشد – قسم اللغة الأنكليزية

### المستخلص

تُعنى هذه الدراسة في الدور المحوري للأزواج المتجاورة كوحداث اساسية في تحليل المحادثة ، مع التركيز بشكل خاص على تطبيقها في سياق الروايات البوليسية والتي تتجسد بشكل ملحوظ في اعمال أجاثا كرستي . تعتبر الأزواج المتجاورة ، والتي تتكون من جزء الزوج الأول و جزء الزوج الثاني اداة حاسمة في فهم ديناميكيات الحوار لأنها تكشف عن الهياكل والمعاني الأساسية داخل المحادثات . وبالتالي تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى تحديد النمط الأكثر شيوعاً بين الأزواج المتجاورة والتي استخدمت في تشكيل الحوار في اعمال كرستي، والتحقق في كيفية توظيف كرستي لنمط زوج مجاور محدد لأضفاء لمسة مميزة على رواياتها البوليسية .

وفي ضوء ما ذكر أعلاه من أهداف عامة ، فقد طرحت هذه الدراسة عدداً من الفرضيات للبحث في مصداقيتها : أولاً ، تصدّر نمط ( سؤال – جواب/ توضيح ) جميع الأنماط الأخرى. ثانياً، توظيف نمط ( اعلان – قبول / رفض) بطريقة غير متوقعة للتعرف على المجرم في الرواية. ولأختبار صحة هذه الفرضيات المذكورة آنفاً فقد تم تحليل رواية ( مقتل روجر اكرويد ) لأجاثا كرستي وذلك بأعتماد نماذج انتقائية وهم كولتهارد (١٩٨٥) ، كلارك (١٩٩٦) ، شيكولوف (٢٠٠٧) و بالتريدج (٢٠١٢) . تم تحديد نتائج التحليل باتباع نهج الأساليب الكمية والنوعية . لتحقيق أهداف الدراسة والتحقق من فرضياتها ، لا بد من اتباع بعض الإجراءات منها عرض جميع انواع الأزواج المتجاورة و مراجعة المصطلحات اللغوية ذات الصلة التي تتناول مفهوم الأزواج المتجاورة . . تستخلص هذه الدراسة الى انه يمكن للكُتّاب الاستفادة من استخدام أجاثا كرستي الماهر لتوظيف الأزواج المتجاورة ( سؤال – جواب لرفع تأثير السرد. كما يمكن لكُتّاب السيناريو الذين يقومون بتكييف اعمال أجاثا كرستي مع الوسائط المرئية الاستفادة من فهم أهمية هذه الأزواج في توجيه بناء الحوار للتصوير السينمائي. أيضاً يمكن دمج هذه الأفكار في دورات الأدب أو علم اللغة كدراسات حالة ، لتكون بمثابة ادوات تعليمية لتوضيح الوسائل اللغوية الفعالة و تعميق فهم الاستراتيجيات السردية.

المصطلحات الأساسية: الأزواج المتجاورة – تحليل الحوار – أجاثا كرستي