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**The Role of Pleonasm and  
Tautology in the Text****A B S T R A C T**

This study presents the role of 'pleonasm and tautology' in the text. Pleonasm is a linguistic phenomenon which refers to the use of redundant and repetitive words or expressions. Tautology is a particular type of pleonasm which requires the similar notion or meaning in different words within one expression. This phenomenon exists in many languages and may cause misunderstanding and misconception of the message. In English, repeated affirmation can be used to add emphasis to an affirmative statement. The problem of this study is pleonasm and tautology may cause misunderstanding, confusion or boredom. This study aims at identifying the role of pleonasm in the text and discovers the influence of their use. It hypothesizes that pleonasm may affect the structure and meaning of the sentence. They may be deliberately used to emphasize a particular point. The model adopted for this study is Farouq (2024).

This study concludes that pleonasm and tautology encourage clarification and precision in written and spoken the message. They can present complete understanding of the message.

© 2024 JTUH, College of Education for Human Sciences, Tikrit  
UniversityDOI: <http://doi.org/10.25130/jtuh.32.3.2.2025.02>**دور الإطناب وتكرار الكلمات في النص**

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**الخلاصة:**

تقدم هذه الدراسة موضوع دور الإطناب وتكرار الكلمات في النص. والإطناب هو ظاهرة لغوية تشير إلى استعمال كلمات وعبارات متكررة. وتكرار الكلمات هو أحد أنواع الإطناب ويتطلب استعمال نفس الفكرة أو المعنى بصيغ كلمات مختلفة ضمن مصطلح واحد. توجد هذه الظاهرة في لغات عديدة وقد تسبب سوء

فهم النص. حيث ان في اللغة الإنكليزية، يُستعمل التأكيد المتكرر للكلمات الى زيادة تأكيد ثبوت القول. وتتمحور مشكلة هذه الدراسة الى ان الإطناب ربما يسبب سوء فهم أو ارباك أو ربما يؤدي الى الملل. وتهدف هذه الدراسة الى تحديد دور الإطناب في النص واكتشاف تأثير استعماله . ومن فرضيات هذه الدراسة أن الإطناب قد تؤثر في تركيبة ومعنى الجملة. وربما يستعمل بشكل مقصود لتأكيد غرض معين. النموذج الذي تعتمد عليه هذه الدراسة هو (فاروق ) ٢٠٢٤. ومن النتائج التي توصلت اليها هذه الدراسة، أن الأطناب يزيد ويشجع على توضيح ودقة النص المكتوب أو المقروء. ويقدم فهما متكاملًا للمعلومات المعطاة

الكلمات المفتاحية: الإطناب, تكرار الكلمات, تأكيد, مكررة, التواصل, التأثير

## 1-Introduction

'Pleonasm and Tautology' are redundant concepts where extra words do not present additional meaning to a sentence such as 'true fact'. Pleonasm is the utilization of more words than necessary to transfer meaning. Tautology is a particulate kind of pleonasm which requires the similar notion or meaning in different words with one expression. The problem of this study is tautology and pleonasm may cause misunderstanding or boredom because of the redundant words. This study aims at identifying the role of these two expressions in the context, to know their effect and recognize their meanings. This study hypothesizes that the use of these two expressions may be used deliberately to emphasize a point and to increase the perception of speaker or listener. They may do functional goals in a communicative process. They may be unnecessary and there is no need to their use. Their use may lead to deeper insights into how redundancy functions within language and communication. They may have impact in persuasive language and rhetorical contexts. The model adopted for this study is Farouq (2024). This study concludes that pleonasm and tautology increase the understanding of the context, the recognition of the linguistic structure, their deletion does not influence the meaning of the text, they do not transfer additional meaning .

## **2-Literature Review**

This work tackles the expressions of pleonasm and tautology . It presents their definitions, types , role in the context , the previous studies that have relations to this topic and finally presents the conclusions.

### **2-1Definitions of Pleonasm**

'Pleonasm' is a separate or unnecessary word which only repeats what has already been mentioned. Pleonasm is an issue of taste or style not grammar (Evans & Evans, 1957:378).

Cruse ( 2000: 223) states that pleonasm is one of the two basic kinds of semantic oddity, the other being semantic clash.

Pleonasm refers to the use of peculiar words in an idiom such that ejecting them would not considerably mutate the meaning of an expression . Tautology and pleonasm are kinds of redundancy. They are utilized as nomina act, referring to concepts creating from such acts. The two expressions refer to complicated terms some of whose components bear some semantic similarity. (Lehmann,2005: 2) and (Kashefi etal,2018: 225).

Tautology is a type of pleonasm which involves the similar notion in different words within one expression.. Pleonasm is a linguistic phenomenon which refers to the use of redundant and repetitive words or expressions. It exists in many languages and can cause misunderstanding and misconception of the message ( Knobbs,2013: 1) and ( Kakharova, 2023:3534).

Pleonasm refers to the use of additional words to the utterance that their deleting would not revise the purport of the countenance. ( Farouq, 2024:3).

### **2-2 Types of Pleonasm**

Pleonasm is used in multiple languages , such as English and Arabic. It is often utilized for stylistic purposes, it is accepted in the text. A semantic pleonasm is a property more of style and application than to grammar. Linguists dominate this redundancy in order to obviate disruption with syntactic pleonasm. Semantic pleonasm is a matter of style or relish not grammar. It takes place when the meaning of a word or phrase is already included by other words in the sentence, for example, 1- I received a free gift.

Overlap semantic pleonasm is a kind of pleonasm in which one word's semantic constituent is subsumed by the other. For example

2-I ate a sardine fish sandwich.

The kind of this pleonasm is required when one occupies a specific word which demands a more general expression one has used with it . Pleonasm includes different sides and can be found in various layers of language, such as morphemic (for example, 'irrgardless' and syntactic layers such as the most unkindest cut of all

(Anson &Schwegler,1998:425), (Kashefi etal , 2018: 226) and ( Farouq, 2024:4).

Syntactic pleonasm includes pleonast subject pronoun . This type is used for emphasis to the doer of the verb and the verb itself, for example,

3-That lady , she can act very well. (Hodgson, 1988: 73).

Another type of syntactic pleonasm is called multiple affirmation. In English, the aim of using repeated affirmation is to add emphasis to an affirmation statement, for example,

4-I do work hard.

This sentence with stronger information on the do uses double affirmation. It is called emphatic do (Crystal, 2003:357).

Emphatic Reflexive Pronouns: In the sentence, the regular pronoun is followed by reflexive pronoun to emphasize the pronoun, for example,

5-He himself did the work .

Multiple negation: This repeated negation may be used for the purpose of emphasis, as in English sentence.

6-"There's not nothing wrong with that": The intended interpretation of this sentence would be,

7- " There is not nothing wrong with that", i.e "There is something wrong with that" .In fact , what is meant is the opposite. This type of repeated negation is used phonetically for emphasis(Farouq,2024:6).

Malocha – Krupa (2003: 52) propose that there are three modes of pleonasm relying on main communicative value they represent specifying , intensifying and explicating.

Multiple Quality Gradation: The formation of this kind of pleonasm is by blending both forms for more confirmation . In English, the adjective submits to morphological change to form the comparative and superlative such as ,uglier, tallest or a syntactic structure as in more beautiful, most expensive, more wider or bestest. These forms may be considered ungrammatical , but is prevalent in formal speech for some English speakers (Farouq,2024:7)

## **2-3-Types of Tautology**

There are three kinds of tautologies :

(a) Tautologies , where the second compound is alternative similar to the first. Tautologies of this type do the functions of expressing the mediocrity/ordinariness of properties predicated on a concept; confirming/ rectification the speaker's previous judgment;

(b) Tautologies where the second element is implicitly different from the first. The modulation variation is made by the context .Depending on the position of tautologies close to the correlating segment, the tautologies can do an introductory, summarizing, ,incorporating or radial tasks. Pleonasms and tautologies refer to intensive indications in the semantic construction of the text;

(c) Tautologies where the second constituent is implicationally different from the first , but the implicational properties are not verbalized in the context. To perceive that tautologies , it is essential to know the subject and communicative background of the statement(Kakharova, 2023:3538).

#### **2-4- The Role of Pleonasm and Tautology in the Text**

The use of redundant words encloses understanding even under severe communicative affairs. At the field of communicative intentions , it may be utilized to submerge or effect the receiver.

Pleonasms and tautology do not always have an unrealistic analysis. The use of repetitive pleonasm and tautology can be procured: predicative construction by a structural and grammatical element, when the use of excessive explicant is requisite for elaborated description of the action .From the point of view of cognitive semantics, pleonasms and tautology are illustrative structures linking the notion of a thing and its feature ( possession or linkage).

In pleonasm and tautology, not the whole intensification is replicated, but only a part of it. The semantic significance of pleonasm and tautology is based on the bilaterally of the marker and the possibility of dividing the meanings into

multiple parts(pragmatics, cognitive, extensional, significative, denotative) .The meaning is distinct, when the constituents of expressions are deliberately synonymous. If the first element of pleonasm represents the form and the second element expresses various sides of meanings in each matter.

To understand the pleonasm and tautology whose connotational properties are not clearly identified or expressed , it is considerable to know the communicative and topic background of the speech. Pleonasms and tautology are robust signs in the semantic structure of the version and fulfill following functions:

-Instituting a sequence of meanings, concentrating on the essential thing in the message. Enhance sentimental and aesthetic influence, instituting expressive relation between neighbouring and far factors belonging to one or various levels, they enclose the coherence of the text and its memorability. The speaker can use pleonasm and tautology for any illuccionary intention. Pleonasm and tautology can be used in different kinds of statements: representative, directive, satisfying, commissive, vocative, erotetive, and retractive. The choice of pleonasm or tautology instead of substitute statement is marked by the following pragmatic purpose or reason:

-The speaker takes in considerations the principles of politeness of communication- pleonasm and tautology remove the impoliteness of speech , being indirect directives and they do a euphemistic task when the subject of the message is tabooed or if the speaker hopes to express the negative evaluation related to the subject of conversation.

-Noncompliance by the speaker with the principles of politeness of communication.

-The speaker does not take part in conversation . He selects a listener who does not have enough knowledge as his communication. Tautology and pleonasm do semi- communicative functions.

2- The one who uses the tautology has elevation over the second partner. The first confines the sharing of the second to the communication way. This is expressed in the following:

The speaker can cease the talking of the subject, he can restrict the correlation or social relations that have developed between the participants. In this case, tautologies and pleonasms control and limit the contribution of the second partner to the process of communication . The extra subjective elements of the use of tautologies and pleonasms contain the properties of communication state . In the same kind and similar cases, the speaker employs the type and similar utterances. Ideal attitudes when a speaker beseeches to using tautologies and pleonasms are the following: Training / educational attitudes. To present complete understanding of information by the addressee, the author recourse to exaggerated pleonasm and tautologies. Therefore; deleting unpleasant deflections in the explanation of the message. Tautologies and pleonasms share in the function of increasing noise immunity.

-The advertising state, the intentional use of tautologies and pleonasm is for their explicit and direct sound. The advertiser displays his point of view as primary prerogative , tampers the consumer of advertising, obliging him to agree his point of view . Terms or expressions do a manipulative function. In an attitude of danger; the use of tautologies and pleonasms is clarified by their compressed style and semantic load. In such situations a more clear expression of thoughts is intimidation to life; in conflicts states, tautologies and pleonasms act as conflict prohibition strategies. Using an expressive tautology , the speaker refers a single negative trial to a number of common or normal ones, thereby



removing the conflict. In the works of pragmatic trend , multiple models of interpretation of tautological and pleonasms have been suggested. This is a complex process requires the processing of information coming from different origins( both linguistic and extra linguistic).

In the rigid significance of the word, tautologies and pleonasms are not always series the intentional of the components are similar, and the semantic difference is formed by varying the implicationals .

Pleonasm and tautology perform rhetorical functions: The aim of using more words is for more clarity and avoid misconception. In the party , the using of pleonastic phrase "invited guests" indicates the guests are invited. Pleonasm is as a rhetorical means utilized specific influence such as emphasis .For example, quicker and more rapid, null and void (Lehmann, 2005:2),( Kashefi etal, 2018:3536-3538) and(Farouq, 2024:7 -9).

### **3- Previous Studies**

The purpose of presenting previous studies is to show what has been done by various researchers about this topic. This literature review will view some significant aspects such as: aims, hypotheses, model, and important results.

#### **3-1 Farouq (2024)**

The title of this study is A Linguistic Study of Pleonasm in Samuel Beckett's The Endgame. The problem of this study that pleonasm is a problem of taste or style not grammar. The model adopted is Samuel Beckett's "The End game". It aims at investigating the kinds of pleonasm and their rhetorical function. Pleonasm sensor would be beneficial for language enforcement which backing students writing such as grammatical mistakes modification, programmed essay ranking, and smart writing tutors. It concludes that prolixity is the type of

semantic pleonasm is the most successively utilized. Pleonasm is really present in speaking and writing beneficially. It is widely utilized in everyday language.

### **3-2 Kakharova (2023)**

This study entitled Semantic and Pragmatic functions of Pleonasm and Tautology. The main purpose of this work is a thorough study of pleonasm and tautology from a semantic and pragmatic point of view. This study hypothesizes that the meaningfulness of pleonasm and tautology is determined by bilaterality of the mark and the possibility of successive cleavage of verbal marks and their meanings into different aspects. This work adopts M.V. Nikitin's cognitive theory of meaning (Nikitin 1996). This study concludes that these expressions can perform any illocutionary function. They are used in representative, directive, satisfying, commissive, vocative and retractive statement.

## **4-Conclusions**

### **This study concludes the following:**

- 1-pleonasm and tautology expose that redundancy is a common merit in a language. They perform particular communicative goals, such as clarification or emphasis.
- 2- The use of pleonasm and tautology can boost the perception in a context.
- 3-Pleonasm and tautology encourage clarity and precision in written and spoken communication.
- 4-They enrich our perception of linguistic structures and highlight the complex interplay between language, cognition, culture and communication.
- 5- These two expressions may lead to wordiness. Understanding these terms helps in recognizing and refining communication for better clarity and effectiveness.

6 –These expressions may lead to oddity in explaining the phrase.

7- Their deletion does not influence the meaning.

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