Pragmatic Aspects and Semantic Denotations of Exceptional Case Marking Constructions in English Novels, English Applied Linguistics Articles and English Magazines

วัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์และความหมายเชิงอรรถศาสตร์ของโครงสร้างตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้น ในนวนิยาย บทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์และนิตยสาร

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บทคัดย่อ

งานวิจัยครั้งนี้ศึกษาด้านวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์และความหมายเชิงอรรถศาสตร์ของตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้นในตัว บทนวนิยายบทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์และนิตยสาร งานวิจัยโครงสร้างตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้นก่อนหน้านี้เก็บ รวบรวมข้อมูลมาจากคลังข้อมูลนานาชาติ เช่น British National Corpus (BNC) และงานเขียนของผู้เรียนภาษาอังกฤษ เป็นภาษาต่างประเทศ งานวิจัยด้านวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์และความหมายเชิงอรรถศาสตร์ของโครงสร้างตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูก ยกเว้นในครั้งนี้จึงเลือกตัวบทที่แตกต่างออกไปโดยชุดข้อมูลนวนิยายเก็บรวบรวมมาจากนวนิยายที่ขายดีเป็นจำนวนหกเล่ม คือ *The Hobbit* (Tolkien, 2020) *Persuasion* (Austen, 2020) *Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle, 2021) *Frankenstein* (Shelly, 2022) *Dracula* (Stoker, 2020) และ *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (Dolye, 2022) ชุดข้อมูลวารสาร ภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์เก็บรวบรวมมาจากวารสาร *English for Academic Purposes, English for Specific Purposes, Pasaa, LEARN Journal, Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences, rEFLections* และ *HASSS* ซึ่งเป็นวารสาร ภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์ที่มีคุณภาพสูงที่ถูกจัดอยู่ในฐานข้อมูลสกอปัส ชุดข้อมูลนิตยสารเก็บรวบรวมมาจากนิตยสาร *National Geographic* และ *Harvard Business Review* ชุดข้อมูลจำนวนทั้งสิ้น 450,000 คำ ประกอบด้วยคำ 150,000 คำจากแต่ละชุดข้อมูล โครงสร้างตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้นถูกพบเป็นจำนวนทั้งสิ้น 39 ประโยค การวิเคราะห์ตัว บ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้นในการศึกษาครั้งนี้ทำตามแบบของ Radford (2009) ผลการศึกษาแสดงให้เห็นว่าการวิเคราะห์เชิง วัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์โครงสร้างตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้นสามารถอธิบายได้โดย หลักความประหยัดและหลักการน้ำหนักปลาย ในเชิงวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์นั้นโครงสร้างการกที่ถูกยกเว้นถูกใช้อย่างเป็นระบบ เช่น *believe someone to be* และ *expect someone to do* โครงสร้างการกที่ถูกยกเว้นสามารถอธิบายได้โดยการแสดงความคิดเห็นส่วนบุคคลและ เหตุการณ์ที่จะเกิดขึ้นในอนาคต ผู้วิจัยหวังเป็นอย่างยิ่งว่างานวิจัยครั้งนี้จะเป็นประโยชน์ต่อผู้เรียนภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษา

ที่สองและผู้เรียนภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษาต่างประเทศในเชิงทฤษฎีและการใช้โครงสร้างตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้นในงานเขียนนวนิยายและบทความภาษาศาสตร์ประยุกต์

คำสำคัญ: โครงสร้างตัวบ่งชี้การกที่ถูกยกเว้น ด้านวัจนปฏิบัติศาสตร์ ความหมายเชิงอรรถศาสตร์

Abstract

This study examined pragmatic aspects and semantic denotations of exceptional case marking (ECM) constructions in English novels, English applied linguistics articles, and English magazines, while previous studies focusing on ECM constructions selected the data from a corpus, such as British National Corpus (BNC) and EFL learners' writing. The six novels examined in this study, were *The Hobbit* (Tolkien, 2020), *Persuasion* (Austen, 2020), *Dracula* (Stoker, 2020), *Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle, 2021), *Frankenstein* (Shelly, 2022), and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle, 2022). Not only are they best-seller novels, but also the contents in these novels are suitable for everyone to read. The data of English applied linguistics articles were collected from international academic journals which were the *English for Academic Purposes, English for Specific Purposes, PASSA, LEARN Journal, Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences, rEFLections, and HASSS* being high-quality journals as indexed in the Scopus database. The data of English magazines were derived from *National Geographic* and *Harvard Business Review*. From a total of 450,000 words, with 150,000 words for each dataset, 39 tokens were found. The framework of ECM constructions in this study follows Radford's (2009) English sentence structures. The pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions in English novels are explained by the *economy principle* and the *end-weight principle*. The use of ECM constructions is formulaic with such examples as *believe someone to be* and *expect someone to do*. The semantic denotations of ECM constructions in this study are explained by subjectivity and subsequent events. It is expected that the results of this study will be beneficial for learners of English as a Second Language (ESL) and English as Foreign Language (EFL) in terms of learning theory and use of the ECM constructions in English novels, English applied linguistics articles and English magazines.
Keywords: ECM constructions, Pragmatic Aspects, Semantic Denotations

Background of the Study

In present-day English, *to-* infinitive is one of the productively used English grammatical features. With a distinctive study, Malá (2017) clearly reported that the use of *to-* infinitive clauses is skyrocketing in the present time. The data were taken from Brown/Frown representing American

English and LOB/F-LOB representing British English under the genres of English novels and academic journals (Malá, 2017). This implies that the use of *to-* infinitive clauses could be productive with these genres.

This productivity of *to-* infinitive clauses leads one to enthusiastically study the cause of the increasing use of *to-* infinitive clauses today. The use of *to-* infinitive clauses is presented, as in (1).

(1) John believes Anne *to be honest.*

Based upon example (1), it is true that the topic of *to-* infinitive clauses, such as *to be honest*, is not cutting edge. However, the pragmatic aspects and semantic denotations of *to-* infinitive clauses are not clearly given by either previous linguistic studies or grammar references. The description of *to-*infinitive clauses in grammar references, such as Swan (2016), seems to be idiosyncratic. Consequently, English language learners need to memorize each use of the *to-* infinitive clauses case by case.

With this challenge, numerous syntacticians (Duffley, 2000; Radford, 2009; Wang, 2014) in previous studies attempted to find different approaches regarding how to study *to-* infinitive clauses in English consistently and systematically. Syntacticians assume that the use of *to-* infinitive clauses in English has relation to different registers (Calle-Martín & Romero-Barranco, 2014), such as a spoken register and a written register. On the other hand, generative linguists (Duffley, 2000; Radford, 2009; Wang, 2014) classified *to-* infinitive clauses into three constructions, namely *control constructions*, *raising constructions* and *exceptional case marking* (ECM) *constructions* based upon (Radford, 2009), as in (2).

(2)

(a) Peter plans *to study in England.*   (Control construction)

(b) Peter seems *to be smart.*   (Raising construction)

(c) Peter believes Mary *to be honest.*   (ECM construction)

To- infinitive clauses in generative grammar are explained by different approaches. This approach of generative grammar in classifying *to-* infinitive clauses helps English language users understand the syntax, semantics and pragmatics of *to-* infinitive clauses more effectively and systematically.

Another controversial issue is in regard to the syntactic structure of ECM constructions. ECM constructions have the same structure as object control constructions (OCC) (Runner, 2006). This structural resemblance creates confusion for English language learners as to how to differentiate these two constructions in English, as in (3a).

(3)

(a) Jane persuaded Peter *to join the club.*   (Object control construction)

(b) Jane expected Peter *to join the club.*   (ECM construction)

Fundamentally, the structures in examples (3) are similar in that they are made up of the same paradigmatic patterns, as in subject+verb+object+*to*-infinitive clauses.   Despite having this structural similarity, they differ regarding their verbs in the matrix clauses, or the verb in the finite clauses (Castillo, 2001). While a *persuade*-type of verb is classified into a category of control verbs, an *expect*-type of verb is classified into a category of ECM verbs (Castillo, 2001; Radford, 2009). Hence, knowing how to classify ECM verbs is another important aspect of this study.

Given the difficulty in the use of ECM constructions due to their various criteria, EFL learners are likely to apply *avoidance strategies* or using other constructions instead, such as *that*- clause complements, noun clauses and passivation instead of ECM constructions (Kozáčiková, 2015), as in (4).

(4) All languages in EU *are believed* to be equal.

(Kozáčiková, 2015, p. 61)

Kozáčiková (2015) reported that EFL learners used the epistemic verb *believe* with passive voice. Therefore, the empirical data as found in this study will be empirical evidence for English language learners to learn how to use ECM constructions correctly and appropriately.

Previous studies that focused on the ECM constructions in English corpora and EFL learners' writing investigated whether English language learners know how to use ECM constructions or not. Basically, previous studies focused on the error analysis of ECM constructions in EFL learners' writing. This study, in contrast, fills the gap by using the empirical data in authentic texts, which were English novels, English applied linguistics articles available in the Scopus database, and semi-formal English magazines. There are several fundamental reasons to explain this selection of datasets. Firstly, writing articles to be published in the Scopus publication is highly competitive. Thus, learning grammar from previous high-quality published articles would be beneficial to new comers who would like to contribute new knowledge in the Scopus publication. In regard to English novels, learning grammar from English novels is thought to be a smart way of implicit learning of grammar where English language learners could alternate English novels based upon their own interest and their levels of English proficiency (Uysal & Bardakci, 2014). English magazines are another useful source of authentic reading materials that can be found easily in any bookstore and they contain both knowledge and

entertainment for English language learners. This information leads to the following research questions:

Research Questions

1. What are the pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions in English novels, English applied linguistics articles and English magazines?
2. What are the semantic denotations of ECM constructions in English novels, English applied linguistics articles and English magazines?

Literature Review

Syntax of ECM Constructions

The analysis of ECM constructions in English are isolated into two major camps, which are a movement approach, interchangeably called Raising-to-Object (RTO) and a non-movement approach. Unlike control constructions, *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions are not analyzed to have the covert subject PRO as the subject of embedded clauses as in *I want* PRO *to win the game* (Radford, 2009). While *to-* infinitive clauses in control constructions are analyzed as complementizer phrase (CP), the *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions are [-tense] and therefore analyzed as tense projection (TP) (Sim & Yang, 1998).

(5) Mary believed $_{TP}$ him *to be honest*.

Example (5) represents an ECM construction in English. Without movement, the pronoun *him* acts as the object of the verb *believe* and the subject of *to-* infinitive clause *to be honest* (Kaneko, 1988; Radford, 2009).

Unlike non-movement approach, Lee (2007) analyzed ECM constructions in English via raise-to-object constructions, or RTO. The *to-* infinitive clause of ECM in this principle is analyzed as CP. With the analysis of the ECM as movement, the argument is moved out of the CP in the lower clauses via A-movement. Based upon Lee (2007), ECM is analyzed similarly to raising constructions, as in (6).

(6) *Kathy$_i$ believed her$_i$ to be immoral.

In (6), the pronoun *her* cannot be coindexed with the subject *Kathy*, but it is raised from being the subject of the *to-* infinitive clause. With a similar analysis to Lee (2007), Tanaka (1992) and Bobaljik (2018) analyzed ECM constructions via RTO, as in (7).

(7) I suspected him$_i$ strongly $_i$ to be a liar.

According to Tanaka (1992), the pronoun *him* originally occurred as the subject of the lower clause *to be a liar* before being raised to be the object of the verb *suspected.* However, these two approaches of movement and non-movement in analyzing ECM constructions are an ongoing controversial issue in the field of syntax. Therefore, based upon generative grammar, *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions are not the same as *to-* infinitive clauses in control constructions and raising constructions (Radford, 2009).

Semantic Denotations of ECM Constructions

In addition to the syntax of ECM constructions, this section provides the semantic denotations of *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions. Usually, the *to-* infinitive clauses in other constructions, such as control constructions, receive the semantic denotations of sequential events or future denotations, as in (8).

(8)

(a) I planned *to study in England.*

(b) I desire *to buy this house.*

The use of *to-* infinitive clauses in control constructions as in *to study in England* and *to buy this house* denotes subsequent events. In contrast, *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions seem not to denote future. However, Sim and Yang (1998) addressed that the temporal denotations of *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions seem to denote the same time as matrix events, as in (9).

(9) Peter considers John *to be intelligent.*

In (9), if *John* is the subject of the *to-* infinitive clause as mentioned in the section of syntactic analysis of ECM constructions, it could be interpreted that *John is intelligent.* Therefore, the *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions can be interpreted as being factual or having the same temporality as the matrix event. Moreover, Traugott (2010) clearly addressed that ECM constructions in English are used to address someone's opinions, attitudes and viewpoints, as in (10).

(10) Ken believed Mary *to be intelligent*.

To say that Mary is intelligent is Ken's subjectivity, referring to Ken's personal opinion.

To- infinitives in ECM constructions are also used to denote activity, referring to ongoing events (Kearns, 2011), as in (11).

(11) Jane expects Tom to study the English language.

To study English language is interpreted as activity, referring to ongoing event. The interpretation of activity could be tested by an adverb *intentionally* (Kearns, 2011).

Another similar example in (12b) can be presented where the semantic denotations of *to*-infinitive clauses in the lower clauses have the same temporal denotations as the matrix clauses, as shown in (12).

(12)

 (a) John wants *to buy a new jacket.*

 (b) John believed her *to be honest*.

To buy a new jacket, as in (12a), has the temporal denotations of sequential events, whilst the temporal denotation of *to be honest* as in (12b), is the same time as the matrix clause. In other words, the tense of ECM in the lower clauses is concurrent with the tense in the matrix clauses (Sim & Yang, 1998).

Pragmatic Aspects of ECM Constructions

Aside from semantic denotations of ECM constructions, one of the distinctive pragmatic aspects to address is *economy principle* (Driessche & Cuyckens, 2019). To explain this, English language users can apply various syntactic structures to communicate utterances that are semantically the same. With economy principle, human beings are likely to apply a structure with less effort requirement in order to convey messages, as in (13).

(13)

(a) Peter expects Mary *to join the club.*

(b) Peter expected *that Mary will join the club.*

(c) Mary *is expected* to join the club.

In (13), there are three constructions that are viewed the same semantically. Example (13a) employs an ECM construction. Example (13b) involves a *that-* clause complement. Example (13) is passive construction. Example (13a) is written with a canonical structure as in SVO, which is the basic structure in English, where the use of *to-* infinitive clauses in this position is grammatically interpreted as an adjunct and it is placed at the final position. In (13b), language users modify the sentence into a *that-* clause complement as a complex sentence structure. However, the description of using passive voice in (13c) is complex as it syntactically requires the writers to move the argument *Mary* from the object position to be landed into the subject position via A-movement (Radford, 2009). Based upon an

assumption, if the writer knows that the genre of their writing contains a limited space, it is likely that they will apply a more economical structure, such as the ECM construction.

In addition to economy principle as mentioned above, the pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions are analyzed via *horror aegui principle* (Vosberg, 2003), *spoken register* (Kearns, 2011) and *end-weight principle* (Smolka, 2011; Swan, 2016). Horror aequi principle refers to an avoidance of the same linguistic feature in an adjacent area, as in (14).

(14)

(a) I expected that that woman would be punished as soon as possible.

(b) I expected her to be punished as soon as possible.

In (14a), the grammatical feature *that* occurs twice in an adjacent area, which is not common in English writing. Aside from that, spoken register refers to a dialogue of conversation that is presented with quotation marks, as in (15).

(15)

(a) "What do you think about Mary's performance"

(b) "I believed her to perform a great job."

The quotation marks, as in (13), indicate someone's spoken words. Apart from that, end weight principle refers to adding longer and heavier information at the end of the sentence (Smolka, 2011; Swan, 2016), such as (16).

(16) Actually, Peter and I really expected him *to create a wonderful trip to Nigeria, which is a really amazing country to visit at the end of the year.*

In (16), *to create a wonderful trip to Nigeria, which is a really amazing country to visit at the end of the year* is a long information that the writer selects to place it at the end of the sentence as additional information.

Text Varieties and ECM Constructions

The pragmatic aspects and semantic denotations of ECM constructions are previously investigated in different text varieties, or different genres. It is believed that different text varieties are likely to have their own preferences of grammatical structures. Previous studies selected different text varieties in order to investigate the use of ECM constructions. These text varieties include different corpora and EFL and ESL language learner's writing. One of the prominent studies was conducted by Callies (2008), who selected the international corpus of LOCNESS to study the ECM verbs *expect*,

believe and *consider*. The results show that the majority of the verb *believe* was found to be used with *that*- clause complements at 90 percent. However, the verbs *consider* and *expect* are more likely to be used with the grammatical choice of passive constructions at 69 percent and 56.5 percent, respectively.

In addition to the study of ECM constructions in different corpora, the study of ECM constructions was also prevalent in EFL learners' writing. Válková and Korínková (2019) selected the participants of EFL advanced learners to examine their use of ECM constructions. This experiment included the cognitive verbs *believe* and *consider*. 82 percent of the participants used these verbs with passive voices, as in *they are expected to be invited* (Válková & Korínková, 2019).

Duch (2013) studied ECM constructions in Catalan learners of English. In his experiment, 13 native English speakers and 15 native speakers of the Catalan language were selected to be the participants. Different groups of participants were instructed to check whether or not they know ECM constructions in English, based upon the following instances.

(17)

(a) We consider him *to be unsuitable.*   (ECM construction)

(b) We consider *that he is unsuitable.*   (*that*- clause complement)

(Duch, 2013, p. 12)

According to Duch (2013), the results show that 92 percent of English native speakers answered that example (17a) is more acceptable than (17b). This use of ECM construction was influenced by Catalan mother tongue language.

Along the same lines, Kozáčiková (2015) compared the use of the ECM verb *consider* with the grammatical variant of *to*- infinitive clauses between native and non-native English speakers. He found that approximately 53 percent of native English speakers use *to*- infinitive clauses with the ECM verb *consider* (Kozáčiková, 2015) and 47 percent of non-native English speakers use *to*- infinitive clauses with the ECM verb *consider* (Kozáčiková, 2015). With this information, the use of ECM constructions in corpora and EFL's writing will be compared with the data of English novels, English applied linguistics and English magazines in this study.

Methodology

Sources of Data

The data in this study comprised English novels, English applied linguistics articles and English magazines. The criteria for selecting novels are based upon well-known authors, best-sellers during 2020-2022 (amazon.com) and having contents that are suitable for everyone, which is appropriate to all genders, children and adults to read them. With these criteria, there are six novels selected to be studied. They include *The Hobbit* (Tolkien, 2020), *Persuasion* (Austen, 2020), *Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle, 2021), *Frankenstein* (Shelly, 2022), *Dracula* (Stoker, 2020) and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle, 2022). With regard to English applied linguistics articles, the criteria for selection of journals in this study were that they are high-quality and reliable journals (www.scimagojr.com). It is important to note that at the time of selecting journals of English applied Linguistics, there was no journals of English applied linguistics in Thailand that were ranked in the database of Q1 Scopus. However, comparing journals of English applied linguistics articles available in Thailand with the UK journals ranked at Q1 allows us to see our own strengths and weaknesses so as to upgrade ourselves to be recorded in the Q1 database in the future. With this criteria, Table 1 presents a list of journals of English applied linguistics articles selected to be studied.

Table 1 Lists of Journals of English Applied Linguistics Articles (www.scimagojr.com)

Names of Journals	Scopus	Countries	Editors in Chief
English for Academic Purposes	O1	United Kingdom	Professor Hilary Nesi, Ph.D.
English for Specific Purposes	Q1	United Kingdom	Associate Professor Viviana Cortes, Ph.D.
PASAA	Q2	Thailand	Associate Professor Punchalee Wasanasomsithi, Ph.D.
LEARN Journal	Q2	Thailand	Associate Professor Supakorn Phoocharoensil, Ph.D.
Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences	Q2	Thailand	Assistant Professor Sowatree Nathalang, Ph.D.
rEFLctions	Q2	Thailand	Asst. Prof. Thanis Tangkitjaroenkun
Hasss	Q3	Thailand	Professor Korakoch Attaviriyanupap, Ph.D.

Note: This information was updated on June 14, 2022.

When it comes to magazines in this study, the criteria for selection were that they must be reliable international magazines and the circulation of the magazines must be acceptably high. The magazines that were selected to study ECM constructions in this study were *National Geographic* and *Harvard Business Review*. The process of selecting magazine is purposive sampling method as the two selected magazines are considered as highly reliable as they are semi-formal magazines, from the United State of America. The editor of *National Geographic* is Susan Goldberg. It is sold in many countries around the world. In 2020-2022, there have been more than 9.5 million readers.

Concerning *Harvard Business Review*, it was founded since 1922, which was 100 years ago. The editor is Edi Ignatius. It contains a wide range of topics such as management, marketing, industry and organization (https://hbr.org/). They receive around seven million visitors each month to their website.

The Data Collection

From a total of 450,000 words, which is equally divided into 150,000 words for each dataset, 39 tokens were found. According to *random sampling methods*, five articles for each publication were randomly selected. *Random sampling method* is the selection of the subset of the data in order to examine the characteristics of the whole. This method is regarded as particularly suitable for this current study since it is impossible to collect the whole data of all English applied linguistics articles from each of the selected journals. The advantages of this random sampling method are that the data could be collected faster with lower expense, since the data of applied linguistic journals that were selected are available on websites for free. Consequently, the researcher could re-check the data anytime to ensure their accuracy (Etikan & Bala, 2017).

The Data Analysis

With the data collection of the novels, applied linguistics articles and magazines above, the data in this study were collected based upon a level of sentence (Radford, 2009). The framework of ECM constructions follows Radford (2009) who classified ECM constructions with their verbs in the matrix clause, including *believe, consider, expect, find* and *think*. The data collection of ECM constructions in this study is presented in (18).

(18)

William choked. "Shut yer mouth!" he said as soon as he could. "**Yer can't expect folk to stop here forever just to be et by you and Bert [EXCEPTIONAL CASE MARKING CONSTRUCTION]**. You've et a village and a half between yer, since we come down from the mountains. How much more d'yer want? And time's been up our way, when yer'd have said 'thank yer Bill' for a nice bit o'fat vally mutton like what this is."

(Tolkien, 2020, p. 39)

With the illustration in (18), an ECM construction is *Yer can't expect folk to stop here forever just to be et by you and Bert.* The whole sentence was taken to be studied and it is counted as one token.

Analysis ECM and Semantic Denotations

This section shows how the semantic denotations of *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions are interpreted as in Table 2.

(19)

Table 2 Semantic Denotations of *to-* infinitive Clauses in ECM Constructions

Semantic Denotations	Examples
Subjectivity	(a) Bilbo would have liked to say: "A warm bath and late breakfast on the lawn afterwards;" but he **thought** it better to say nothing at all and to let go his clutch just a tiny bit. (b) Indeed, they really **expected** him to think of some wonderful plan for helping them, and were not merely grumbling.
Activity	(c) "Yer can't **expect** folk to stop here forever just to be et by you and Bert."

Table 2 illustrates the semantic denotations of ECM constructions. In (19a)-(19b), the semantic denotations of ECM constructions denote *subjectivity,* referring to opinions, attitudes, assessments and viewpoints of the speakers (Traugott, 2010). In (19c), the *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions are interpreted as activities, referring to ongoing events (Kearns, 2011).

Analysis of Pragmatic Aspect of ECM constructions

This section explained the analysis of pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions in this study. One of the pragmatic principles of ECM constructions is *spoken register*, referring to someone's conversation. If there is a quotation that occurs with the text, it is pragmatically interpreted as a protagonists spoken's language as in (20a)-(20b).

(20)

(a) "Yer can't expect folk to stop here forever just to be et by you and Bert."

(Tolkien, 2020, p. 39)

(b) "I did not believe my errors to be irretrievable, and after much consideration I resolved to return to the cottage, seek the old man, and my representations win him to my party."

(Shelley, 2022, p. 150)

In (20a) and (20b), it can be seen that there are quotation marks to signal someone's conversation. Along the same lines as spoken register, economy principle is another approach for pragmatic interpretations of ECM constructions in English as in (21).

(21)

(a) He believed *that she could do it.*   (*That*-clause complement construction)

(b) He expected her *to do it.*   (ECM construction)

As illustrated in (21b), it is more economical that (21a) as the tense in the lower clauses is not required to be spelt out again.

Data Validation

After collecting the data of ECM constructions in the three datasets, three native English linguists, were instructed to read the explanation of ECM constructions as provided in the literature review. They were then asked to examine the ECM constructions and validate their agreement. Each English linguist was asked to validate the data via their own agreement. While A represents agreement, D represents disagreement. If 2-3 linguists placed a tick in column A, the data collection was valid and reliable. However, if only one or none placed a tick in column A, the data collection was interpreted again according to the linguists' suggestion and advice.

The Results and Discussion

This section provides the percentage of the use of ECM constructions in this study.
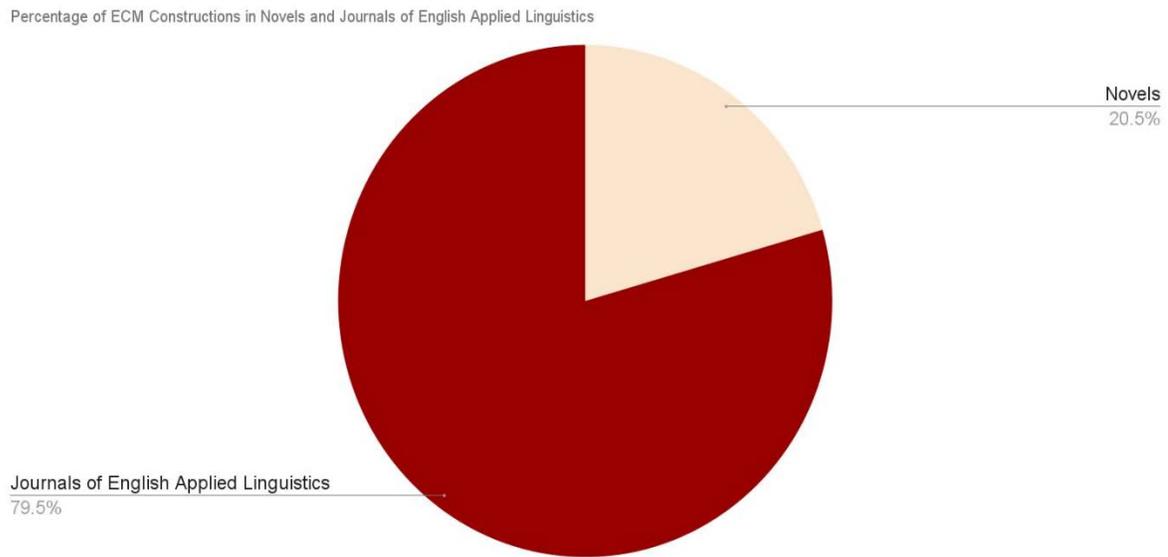
Overall Results

Figure 1 Overall Percentage of ECM Constructions

According to Figure 1, the pie chart shows the overall percentage of the use of ECM constructions between English novels, journals of English applied linguistics articles and English magazine. Unfortunately, the use of ECM constructions in English magazine was not found in this study. This could be because English magazines selected in this study were semi-formal magazines to mostly mention about fact or current situations. However, ECM constructions are usually used to address someone's opinions and comments. As calculated out of 100 percent, the percentage of ECM constructions in English novels and journals of English applied linguistics articles is 20.50 percent and 79.50 percent, respectively. In contrast, the use of ECM constructions was not found in magazines. The disappearance of ECM constructions in magazines will be explained in the section of discussion.

The Frequency and Percentage of ECM in English Novels

With the overall percentages in Figure 1, this section provides frequencies and percentages of the verbs used in ECM constructions as collected in each of the English novels, as in Table 3.

Table 3 Frequency and Percentage of ECM Constructions in English Novels

ECM verbs	*The Hobbit*	*Persuasion*	*Frankenstein*	*Sherlock Holmes*	*Dracula*	*Return of Sherlock Holmes*
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
Expect	3 (75.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Thought	1 (25.00)	1 (50)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Believe	0 (0.00)	1 (50.00)	2 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)

Table 3 presents frequency and percentage of ECM constructions as found in each English novel. There are a total of eight tokens of ECM constructions found in the dataset. Three tokens are used with the verb *expect.* Two tokens were found with the verb *thought* and three tokens are used with the verbs *believe.* The data in Table 3 reflects that the authors in English novels do not quite present their own viewpoints though ECM constructions. This might be because the writers want the readers to interpret the protagonist's thinking themselves.

The Frequency and Percentage of ECM Constructions in English Applied Linguistics Articles

Table 4 reports the frequency and percentage of ECM construction in English applied linguistics articles. While *English for Academic Purposes* and *English for Specific Purposes* are journals that are based on UK countries, the rest are Journals of Thailand.

Table 4 Frequency and Percentages of ECM Constructions in English Applied Linguistics Articles

ECM verbs	*United Kingdom Base*				*Thailand Base*		
	English for Academic Purposes	*English for specific Purposes*	*PASAA*	*LEARN Journal*	*Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences*	*rEFLections*	*HASSS*
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)

Expect	3	3	1	0	0	1	0
	(50.00)	(60.00)	(50.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(16.67)	(0.00)
Find	1	0	1	1	3	2	2
	(16.66)	(0.00)	(50.00)	(33.33)	(60.00)	(33.34)	(50.00)
Consider	2	2	0	2	2	2	1
	(33.34)	(40.00)	(0.00)	(66.67)	(40.00)	(33.34)	(25.00)
Believe	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(16.67)	(25.00)
Total	6	5	2	3	5	6	4
	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)

Table 4 presents the ECM verbs as used in ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles. From a total of 150,000 words, 31 tokens of ECM sentences were found. The use of ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles is about three time higher than in English novels. In the genre of articles, the verb *believe* rarely appears. Academic articles need to be supported by empirical evidence whereby the claim and argument must be supported by strong and statistical evidence. To only say that the authors *believe* may lack validity and reliability. It can be seen that the international writers never use the ECM verb *believe* in their ECM constructions.

Pragmatic Aspects of ECM constructions

This section answers the first research questions "What are the pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions in English novels, English applied linguistics articles and English magazines? The pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions in English novels, English applied linguistics and English magazine articles are discussed in the scope of *horror aegui principle*, *economy principle*, *spoken register* and *end-weight principle*.

Horror Aequi Principle

One of the pragmatic aspects to explain the use of ECM constructions in English novels is due to *horror aequi principle* (Vosberg, 2003), or an avoidance of using the same linguistic feature in an adjacent area. Instead of using *that-* clause complements, the use of *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM

constructions helps to avoid the production of the same linguistic feature *that* twice in an adjacent area, as in (22).

(22)

(a) Everybody believed that poor girl to be guilty, and if she could have committed the crime for which she suffered, assuredly she would have been the most depraved of human creatures.

(Shelly, 2022, p. 97)

(b) Everybody believed *that that poor girl was guilty*, and if she could have committed the crime for which she suffered, assuredly she would have been the most depraved of human creatures.

Whilst (22a) is an original version, (22b) is a modified version to demonstrate horror aequi principle. To simplify this, the use of *that*- clause complements in (22b) makes it difficult to read and pronounce since there are lexical repetitions of *that* in an adjacent area. Hence, (22b) is regarded an uncommon practice in English writing. However, this phenomenon does not occur in the use of ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles. In academic journals, the writers are likely to avoid repeating the same words in adjacent areas. If it is really important to repeat the same word, the writers are likely to use synonym instead.

Economy Principle

In addition to horror aequi principle, the second pragmatic aspect to explain the higher frequency of ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles than in English novels is that using ECM constructions supports economy principle (Driessche & Cuyckens, 2019) regarding less word counts and production process. In addition, using ECM constructions also supports our cognitive processes as demonstrated in (23). While (23a) is the original version, (23b) is the modified version.

(23)

(a) Three teachers believed *the link to be tenuous or only somewhat strong*.

(b) Three teachers believed *that the link was tenuous or only somewhat strong*.

Using ECM constructions is more economical as the writers can use the *to*- infinitive clause where the tense in the lower clause is not required to be spelt out. As mentioned by Radford (2009), the tense of *to*- infinitive clauses in ECM constructions is [-t]. Therefore, the brain does not need to process subject-verb agreement in the lower clause.

While the three genres, selected to study ECM constructions in this study, are different in terms of the styles of writing, particularly in the length of writing, it seems that the higher frequency of ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles supports economy principle as mentioned by Driessche and Cuyckens (2019). Normally, academic articles contain limited space or limited word counts, so sentence structures selected to be written should be economical. On the other hand, writing English novels is not limited by space when compared with academic articles. This could be another reason to explain the higher frequency of ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles.

Spoken Register

Aside from economy principle, the third reason to support the pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions both in English novels and English applied linguistics articles is due to spoken register. The spoken language in this study was detected by the use of quotation marks (Kearns, 2011). One of the outstanding reasons to support this phenomenon is that novels are likely to use ECM constructions as spoken register, as in (24).

(24)

(b) "Yer can't expect folk to stop here forever just to be et by you and Bert."

(Tolkien, 2020, p. 39)

(b) "I did not believe my errors to be irretrievable, and after much consideration I resolved to return to the cottage, seek the old man, and my representations win him to my party."

(Shelley, 2022, p. 150)

Although it is quite clear that the use of ECM constructions in English novels is commonly found in dialogues, the results show differences in English applied linguistics articles when categorizing ECM constructions between international writers and Thai writers. International writers refer to those writers in the journals of the United Kingdom, whereas Thai writers are the Thai authors who submit their academic papers in Scopus journals based in Thailand. Thai writers have *grammatical performance* (Radford, 2009) to use the verb *consider* in ECM constructions in a similar way with international writers, as in *English for Academic Purposes* and *English for Specific Purposes,* as in (25).

(25)

English for Specific Purposes

(a) Moreover, clinical scientists **consider** them to be a class apart from "expert" (or "narrative") reviews, to the extent that the two types of synthesis are traditionally placed at opposite extremes of the quality-of-evidence hierarchy.

(Keran, Marshall, Murray & Sabate, 2020, p. 129)

rEFLections

(b) Second, parents generally **consider** children to be family assets, especially in terms of work.

(Husain, Puryanti & Setijowati, 2021, p. 624)

The perspective of having this grammatical performance among Thai people could be explained by the pedagogy of formality in the genre of academic writing. Thai learners are usually taught that the style of academic writing must be formal (Jitpraneechai, 2019), while using spoken or colloquial language in academic writing is not appropriate or not allowed. With this perspective, the verb *consider* (i.e., *consider someone to be, consider something to be*) gained this quality of formality in expressing one's subjectivity. Similarly, it is not formal to use the verb *think* as in *I think* in writing academic articles. That is why the verb *think* were not used in both classifications. Despite having similarities, some differences are also found. In the genre of articles, the verb *believe* rarely appears. Academic articles need to be supported by empirical evidence whereby the claim and argument must be supported by strong and statistical evidence. To only say that the authors *believe* may lack validity and reliability (Halim & Khan, 2019). It can be seen that the international writers never use the ECM verb *believe* in their ECM constructions. However, it sometimes appears among Thai writers.

HASSS

(26) The 21st century world allows art and design to develop unique ways to express individuality and *believe them as having potential to express social reality and individual value.*

(Sirinkraporn, 2022, p. 22)

To use the ECM verb *believe* in academic genre may not be convincing if the writer cannot prove what they think is believable or not.

While Thai writers are likely to use the verb *believe* in ECM constructions, they tend to avoid using the verb *expect* as it is only found one each in Pasaa and *rEFLections.* However, this is frequently used by international writers as in *English for Specific Purposes* and *English for Academic Purposes.*

English for Specific Purposes

(27) Industry 'best practices', they suggest, 'expect *their chat agents to direct the written communication flow in the typical pattern of spoken interaction including greeting, customer resolution or sale and closing in direct rapid responses'*.

(Lockwood, 2017, p. 28)

The ECM verb *expect* that was in a British journal is written in quotation marks which may come from an interview of a spoken language. So, the avoidance of Thai writers to use the ECM verb *expect* could be due to its spoken language, which is regarded as not appropriate in academic writing.

In regard to the use of ECM constructions in magazines, as mentioned earlier, although the use of ECM constructions is not available in English magazines, it was discovered that the verb *believe* is selected to be used with other constructions as in (28).

(28) Finally, team resilience is enhanced when members *believe that it is safe to take personal risk in their team.*

(David & Congleton, 2022, p. 22)

Based upon example (21a), although the author tried to present their subjectivity in the sentence, they selected other constructions as in *that* clause complements with the use of the verb *believe*. This could be because National Geographic is a semi-academic magazine, so the writer tries to present information via a more academic English structure to make it sound formal.

End-Weight Principles

In addition to spoken register, another pragmatic aspect to explain the use of the *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles is that they are frequently used due to end-weight principle, referring to placing longer and heavier information at the end of the sentence (Smolka, 2011), as in (29).

(29) It has also been reported that LX scholars may find it particularly difficult *to cope with the communicative demands and discourse conventions of writing certain sections of research articles.*

(Omidian, Siyaniva-Chanturia & Biber, 2021, p. 2)

It is a common practice in English to place unnecessary, or additional information at the end for the readers to read themselves once they need. This is because *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions are syntactically classified as adjuncts or omitting this information does not impact the

grammaticality of the sentence (Swan, 2016). However, this information is given to fulfil *the principle of quantity*, referring to providing enough information for readers to understand sufficiently (Kearns, 2011). In addition to pragmatic aspects of ECM constructions, the semantic denotations of ECM constructions are given in the following section.

Semantic Denotations

This section answers the second research question "What are the semantic denotations of ECM constructions in English novels, English applied linguistics articles and English magazines?

Formulaic System

It was found that the use of the ECM verbs *consider, expect* and *believe* is formulaic and systemic. Moreover, the object of the ECM verbs *expect, believe* and *consider* usually occurs with animacy, referring to a person or a group of people, as in (30).

(30)

(a) Indeed, they really expected **him** to think of some wonderful plan for helping them, and were not merely grumbling.

(Tolkien, 2020, p. 168)

(b) Everybody believed **that poor girl** to be guilty, and if she could have committed the crime for which she suffered, assuredly she would have been the most depraved of human creatures.

(Shelley, 2022, p. 97)

The use of the ECM verbs *expect, believe* and *consider* go along the same lines as grammar references as in *consider someone to do something, consider someone to be something, expect someone to do something* and *believe someone to be something* (Swan, 2016).

Subjectivity

Kawai (2005) indicated that the *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions denote subjectivity, as in (31).

(31)

(a) Bilbo would have liked to say: "A warm bath and late breakfast on the lawn afterwards;" but he thought it better *to say nothing at all* and to let go his clutch just a tiny bit.

(Tolkien, 2020, p. 104)

(b) Indeed, they really expected him *to think of some wonderful plan for helping them, and were not merely grumbling.*

(Tolkien, 2020, p. 168)

In the selected English novels, the authors used the *to-* infinitive clauses in ECM constructions to provide information about their comments, viewpoints and attitudes. For example, certain adjectives are used to support their comments such as *better*, *wonderful* and *best* in *to-* infinitive clauses.

Similarly, the *to-* infinitives in ECM constructions in English applied linguistic articles are also used this construction for the reason of subjectivity (Kawai, 2005), as in (32).

(32)

(a) However, we consider PBS Space Time videos *to be different from vlogs*, since the main characteristic of vlogs is their spontaneity, immediacy, looseness and amateur feel.

(Valeiras-Jurado & Bernad-Mecho, 2022, p. 3)

(b) On the other hand, Halliday (1985) considers talk *to be more 'intricate' than writing*.

(Thwaite, Budgen, Hunter & Singh, 2021, p. 2)

In (32a), the writer tries to compare two objects between PBS Space Time videos and vlogs, and then he or she comments that one is different from the other. In (32b), the writer tries to show the attitude that talk is more complex than writing.

Subsequent Events

Another semantic denotation of *to-* infinitive clauses is subsequent events, referring to an event or activity that will happen in the future (Duffley, 2000; Wang, 2014), as in (33).

(33)

(a) The second, more aligned with contemporary approaches, expected the candidate *to write and defend the dissertation*, while the supervisor provided lab space and training.

(Anderson & Okada, 2021, p. 3)

(b) Industry 'best practices', they suggest, 'expect *their chat agents to direct the written communication flow in the typical pattern of spoken interaction including greeting, customer resolution or sale and closing in direct rapid responses'.*

(Lockwood, 2017, p. 28)

In (33a), to write and defend the dissertation is expected to be subsequent events. Also, in (33b) *to direct the written communication flow in the typical pattern of spoken interaction* is expected to be an event in the future that may or may not happen.

Comparison of ECM constructions in English Novels, English Applied Linguistics Articles and Other Text Varieties

This section compares the use of ECM constructions between the data collection in this study and the data in previous studies. Since the occurrence of the ECM verb *believe* in this study rarely occurs, the results of ECM verbs in this study go along the same lines as Callies (2008) who studied the ECM verb *believe* in the international corpus of LOCNESS. Callies (2008) claimed that the majority of the verb *believe* prefer to be used with the grammatical choice of *that-* clause complements at approximately 90 percent since the verb *believe* selects other linguistic features as its complement. This explains the low frequency of the ECM verb *believe* in this study.

In addition to that, the low frequency of the ECM verb *expect* among EFL learners could be because EFL leaners are likely to use the ECM verb *expect* with other constructions. As mentioned by Válková and Korínková (2019), the participants of EFL advanced learners were selected to examine their use of ECM constructions. This experiment concluded that the cognitive verb *expect* is usually used with passive voices as in *they are expected to be invited*. The low frequency of the ECM verb *expect* could be because it is likely to be used with other grammatical choices which are passive constructions.

In regard to the higher frequency of the ECM verb *consider* in this study, the results go along the same lines as Duch (2013) who studied the ECM verb *consider* with native and non-native speakers with a judgement task. In his experiment, 13 native English speakers and 15 native speakers were selected to judge the sentences as follows:

(34)

(a) We consider him *to be unsuitable.*

(b) We consider *that he is unsuitable.*

(Duch, 2013, p. 12)

92 percent of English native speakers answered that sentence (34a) sounds more natural than (34b). This complies with the ECM verb *consider* in this study in that both international writers and Thai writers use ECM constructions with the ECM verb *consider.*

Limitations of the study

Due to the limitations of this study, the data of ECM constructions found in this study is quite limited. Generalizability may not be applicable. In English novels, the novels *Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle, 2021) and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (Doyle, 2022) were written by the same author. Thus, this may partially affect the style of using ECM constructions in English novels.

5.5 Pedagogical Implications, Conclusion and Future Studies

As mentioned earlier, this study will be applicably useful for EFL and ESL learners. They could take advantage of using outside reading materials, such as English novels and English applied linguistics articles to learn form, meaning and use of ECM constructions at the same time. This study provides practical examples for EFL and ESL learners as to how to present their opinions, viewpoints and comments in narrative writing, such as English novels and English applied linguistics articles, effectively. They will also know how to make comments and viewpoints on academic journals in appropriate and polite ways.

In addition, learning grammar from authentic texts, such as English novels and English applied linguistics articles allow learners to use grammar practically and authentically. They could become autonomous learners to select sources that are suitable to their language capability to read themselves with less dependence on their language instructors.

Pragmatically, it was found that there are several pragmatic aspects to use ECM constructions in English. English novels applied ECM constructions to avoid the repetition of the same form in an adjacent area. Unlike English novels, economy principle applies more effectively with the use of ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles. Moreover, the end-weight principle is also applicable with the use of ECM constructions in English applied linguistics articles. However, ECM constructions in both data sets are mostly used in spoken register where this can be noticed from the use of quotation marks (i.e., "*Yer can't expect folk to stop here forever just to be et by you and Bert.*"

In terms of semantic denotations, both English novels and English applied linguistics articles show formulaic patterns of ECM constructions as in c*onsider someone to be* and *believe someone to do.* They are always used to present the writers' subjectivity. (i.e., *On the other hand, someone considers talk to be more 'intricate' than writing*). In addition, the use of *to-* infinitives in ECM constructions denotes subsequent events, as in *the second, more aligned with contemporary*

approaches, expected the candidate to write and defend the dissertation, while the supervisor provided lab space and training.

It is recommended that future research in the field of this study may select other sources of data, such as newspapers and textbooks in order to examine the use of ECM constructions in other genres.

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