A Structural Approach to Katherine Mansfield’s Selected Stories

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The thesis studies the structure of Katherine Mansfield’s works in terms of their narratives and key words. The purpose of my study is to investigate her complicated narrative structures by using Gérard Genette’s narratology and Leech and Short’s Speech and Thought Representation theory. Specifically, I focus on four narrative questions: (1) Who narrates the story?, (2) Where is the narrator?, (3) Who sees the story? and (4) What discourse is used in the narrative?. I chose three of her short stories: ’At the Bay’ (1922), ‘A Cup of Tea’ (1922) and ‘The Canary’ (1923).

In the Introduction of this paper, I describe Genette’s and Leech and Short’s narratological theories. In this thesis I use three categories from Genette’s narratology: (a) person (who narrates the story), (b) narrative level (where the narrator is) and (c) focalization (who sees the story). Person has two subcategories: (a1) homodiegetic and (a2) heterodiegetic. Narrative level has three subcategories: (b1) extradiegetic, (b2) intradiegetic and (b3) hypodiegetic. Focalization has three subcategories: (c1) zero focalization, (c2) internal focalization and (c3) external focalization. Furthermore, in this thesis I use Leech and Short’s five categories of speech and thought: (a) NRS/TA, (b) IS/T, (c) FIS/T, (d) DS/T and (e) FDS/T.

In Chapter I, I study the narrative and the key word of ‘At the Bay’. In the narrative analysis, I highlight three major points. First, this story has two types of you in the narrator’s discourse: (1) the character and (2) the narratee. In addition, I mention the cases in which (1) and (2) are combined. Second, the narrative discourse is narrated through two types of focalizations in the narrative: (1) zero focalization and (2) internal focalization. The focalization tends to change frequently in this story. Third, I study the complicated narrative discourses of Chapter XII of ‘At the Bay’. This chapter has only one main character, Beryl, but I can see many types of characters’ discourses. I study them in reference to Genette’s focalization and Leech and Short’s speech and thought representation theory. In the key word analysis, I discuss “voice”. I reveal the literary effect of this word in the story.

In Chapter II, I study the narrative and the key word of ‘A Cup of Tea’.
In the narrative analysis, I highlight two major points. First, this story has 
you and I which mean the narrator and narratee in the narrator’s discourse. I 
investigate them in detail. Second, the narrative discourse is narrated through 
two types of focalizations in the narrative: (1) zero focalization and (2) internal 
focalization. In the key word analysis, I discuss the word “pretty” in the story. 
I think that ‘A Cup of Tea’ progressively reveals that Rosemary wants prettiness. 
I reveal the importance of this key word in detail.

In Chapter III, I study the narrative and the key word of ‘The Canary’. 
In the narrative analysis, I highlight a major point. This story has no character 
who utters his or her speech or thought except the narrator. Therefore, I 
study the variety of the narrator’s discourses in the story. In the key word 
analysis, I discuss “nail”. I study the importance of this key word in detail.