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English Department

**Presentative (There) in English**

**A research project**

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**Abstract**

The presentative construction in English is a linguistic phenomenon that involves the use of certain determiners or pronouns to introduce new referents into discourse. This paper provides an overview of the presentative construction, , as well as its functions in different discourse contexts.

This research consists of three sections. The first section is an attempt to define presentative ‘there’, and provide details on the structure of presentative ‘there’. The second section discusses the syntactic functions of presentative ‘there’ of how use them in locative and as a NP, verb. The third section of this research is about using presentative ‘there’ in the semantic functions.

this paper aims to provide a comprehensive account of the presentative construction in English and its significance for language use and understanding.

**Introduction**

The presentative “there”is a unique and versatile construction in the English language that has been studied by linguists for many years. It is used to introduce new entities or situations into a discourse and can be used in a variety of contexts and for various purposes. The presentative “there” construction typically consists of the word "there" followed by a form of the verb "be" and a noun phrase. One of the primary uses of the presentative “there”is to indicatethe existence or location of something or someone. According to (Hartman. 2008:252). Presentative “there” is deal with situation and location

Another important use of the presentative “there”is as a discourse marker. This use of there is used to introduce a new topic or idea in a discourse. The presentative “there” is also used for emphasis in English. This use of there is used to draw attention to something or someone. Additionally, the presentative “there” can be used as a deictic expression in English.

In addition to their more traditional grammatical functions, presentative clauses can also serve a number of important textual functions in English. One of the primary textual functions of presentative clauses is to introduce new topics into a discourse. Presentative clauses can also be used to grab the reader's attention, summarize or highlight important information, and provide concluding remarks.

The pronouns it and there are frequently referred as ‘expletives’, showing that they do not have any meaning or contribute any meaning. Although both forms of these expletives can be used in particular context or verbs, though both forms have regular pronoun uses as well (Kim, etal.,2008:83) .

The study of the presentative “there” has contributed to our understanding of the English language and its complex grammatical and discourse patterns. Linguists have conducted extensive research on the various uses of the presentative “there”and the textual functions it serves. This research will provide valuable insights into the workings of the English language and how it is used in communication.

**Section one**

***1.1Definition***

A presentative, or presentational, is a word or a syntactic structure which presents, or introduces, an entity, bringing it to the attention of the addressee. Typically, the entity thus introduced will serve as the topic of the subsequent discourse. For example, the construction with "there" in the following English sentence is a presentative:

1-There appeared a cat on the window sill.

2-Thereis a policeman who arrives.

3-There’ssomeone who stole your bread.

***1.2 The Structure of Presentative There;***

There means "in this place" and is used to refer to a specific place. You Show ownership and own them. the pronoun their Probe because it is the tallest head in the structure and is active. Because it has an uninterpretable third-person J function (Radford.2004: 233).

-There is + Singular Noun.

4-There is a book on the desk.

-There are + Plural Noun.

5-There are books on the desk.

- There is + uncountable Noun.

6-There is some milk in the fridge.

-The negative is formed by putting not after is or are:

7-There is not a horse in the field.

8-There are not eight children in the school.

9-There is not a tree in the garden.

10-There are not two elephants in the zoo.

➢ We almost always use contractions when speaking.

-TheNegative contractions are:

- There's not = There isn't

- There are not = There aren't

-There Aren’t with Any; When we want to indicate that a zero quantity of something exists, we use there aren't any.

11-There aren't any people at the party.

12- There isn't any sugar in my coffee.

Question:

To form a question, we place is / are in front of there. Again, we use any with plural questions or those which use uncountable nouns. We also use there is / are in short answers.

13 - Is there a dog in the supermarket? - No, there isn't.

14- Are there any dogs in the park? - Yes, there are.

15- Is there a security guard in the shop? - Yes, there is.

16 - Are there any polar bears in Antarctica? - No, there aren't.

17- Is there any ice-cream in the freezer? - Yes, there is.

How many with Are There :

If we want to find out the number of objects that exist, we use How many in the following form: How many + plural noun + are there + (complement).

18- How many dogs are there in the park?

19- How many students are there in your class?

20- How many countries are there in South America?

21- How many Star Wars films are there?

**Section two**

***2.1 Presentative and Locative There;***

According to (Radford. 2004 :18). The grammar has a locative (abbreviated look) grammar, which expresses places. the local predicate in it concerns traces in subject position. It loosely corresponds to the English prepositions "in", "on", "at", "by". The locative case is one of the most common cases, along with locative and disjunctive cases. Lexical cases occur in many language groups. This includes, local English terms. These are terms that can be used after the form be to indicate a place of interest or to answer a question about a place. Individual words can appear in dictionaries as adverbs or nouns. Some idiomatic expressions are location specific. Many prepositional dictionaries are also located but not listed in dictionaries. Many words with the suffix -side or -ward can be used in unusual, unusual or unusual ways. where is he Oh, and it's by the sea, which means near or by the sea, or by the sea, which means on the way to the sea. See details in -side and -ward. The absence of a locative pronoun in such use of suggests the impossibility of replacing it with the locative here or questioning with the interrogative locative where?

Adverb

(location) At some distance from the speaker or at a location (explicit, implied, or otherwise explicit) (compare here).

- (figuratively) A matter, relationship, etc. At that point, it is considered a specific location, such as a stage.

Examples;

22-He did not stop there, but continued his speech.

23-They patched up their differences, but matters did not end there.

Noun; used to replace or (on occasion) imply a semantic, typically ambiguous, subject when used as the expressive subject of be in the sense of existing. Use it in conjunction with other intransitive verbs to add presence or with other intransitive verbs of the same meaning.

- (No longer effective when used in conjunction with specific prepositions) that.

Examples;

24- There are two apples on the table. [=Two apples are on the table].

25-There arose a great wind out of the east. [=There is a great wind, arising in the east].

***2.2*** ***Presentative (There) as an NP Subject:***

According to (Hartman. 2008:15). The existential verb be, which selects the noun phrase in its complement position, not a raising verb. This is what gives rise to existential structures “There”is an NP of type dummy subject A place where something happens or exists. When used as such, pronouns are not It refers to a specific thing, but only introduces a situation that exists. therefore, “there” called existential or what you expect there. NP is a specific A formal relationship with it in construction. Let's call this element a quasi-element Takes an expletive to be sanctioned by the presence of an expletive.

Examples:

26-There's an interesting book on the shelf.

27- There’ll be an eclipse of the moon tonight.

-A number or amount:

28-There is plenty of bread left.

29-There were twenty people at the meeting.

-something existing or happening:

30-There's a small problem.

31-There was a nasty fight.

-It is also used as a subject to talk about time and place as well as quantity and number.

32-There is always hope.

33- There was something I wanted to talk to you about.

34- There is a full moon tonight.

35-There are many ways to solve this problem.

***2.3*** ***The Verb in Presentative Sentences:***

According to (Kim, etal.,2008:126) Expletive “there” and “it” that don’t have a semantic role or any meaning can appear in in the subject position since the raising verb doesn’t provide a semantic role to its subject. A presentative is a word or syntactic structure that presents or introduces an entity and attracts the recipient's attention. Entities introduced in this way usually serve as the subject of subsequent discourse. Verbs, as the centerpiece of a sentence or clause, indicate what the subject is doing or feeling, even if it is only there. Verbs are also the only part of speech absolutely necessary to form a sentence. Even nouns that describe things need not appear in every sentence.

Examples:

36-There is fruit, bread and wine on the table.

37- There's a cup of coffee and some sugar on the table.

38-There's a red car and a blue car outside.

39-There are five men in the room.

40-There is a cup on the table.

41-There is milk in the refrigerator.

42- There are no skyscrapers in this city.

43- There are no new T-shirts in the closet.

44- Are there roses in your garden?

45- Is there an ATM near here? No, it doesn't exist.

**Section three**

***3.1Presentative (there) as a State of Affairs in English:***

The presentative “there” is a unique construction in the English language that is used to introduce a new entity or situation into a discourse. It is typically composed of the word "there" followed by a form of the verb "be" and an indefinite noun phrase. This construction is used to indicate that something is present or exists, and it can be used in a wide range of contexts. The main role of presentative “there”in English is existential. (Hartman. 2008:5).

The use of the presentative “there” in English has been studied extensively by linguists, and it has been found to serve a variety of functions in discourse. One of the primary functions of the presentative “there” is to establish a new entity or situation as the topic of conversation. For example, in the sentence 46-"There is a cat on the roof," the presentative “there” introduces the topic of the sentence, which is the cat on the roof.

Another function of the presentative “there”is to express the speaker's surprise or emphasis. For example, in the sentence 47- "There is a whale in the swimming pool," the presentative “there” emphasizes the unexpectedness of the situation, which is that a whale is in a swimming pool.

The use of the presentative “there” in English can also be affected by the speaker's intention and the context of the discourse. For example, in the sentence 48- "There was a mistake in the report," the presentative “there”is used to indicate that a mistake exists in there port. In this context, the speaker's intention is to identify the mistake and address it.

**3.*2:*** ***Various Uses of Presentative (there) in English***

The presentative “there”is a unique construction in the English language that is used to introduce a new entity or situation into a discourse. In addition to its primary function of indicating that something exists, the presentative “there” can be used in a wide range of contexts and for various purposes. In this section, we will explore the different ways in which the presentative “there”is used in English.

-Existential There:

One of the most common uses of the presentative “there” is the existential there. This use of there is used to indicate the existence of something or someone. For example, in the sentence 49- "There is a book on the table," the presentative “there” indicates the existence of the book on the table. The existential there can also be used with plural nouns, as in the sentence 50- "There are many books on the table." **(**Huddleston, R., & Pullum , G. K. ,2002:1393-1394)

-Locative There:

Another use of the presentative “there” is the locative there. This use of there is used to indicate the location of something or someone. For example, in the sentence 51-"There is a park near my house," the presentative “there” indicates the location of the park. The locative there can also be used with plural nouns, as in the sentence 52-"There are many parks in the city."(Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. ,2002:1394)

-Discourse Marking There:

The presentative “there” is also used as a discourse marker in English. This use of there is used to introduce a new topic or idea in a discourse. For example, in the sentence 53- "There's one more thing I want to mention," the presentative “there” is used to introduce a new topic or idea that the speaker wants to address. The discourse marking there is also commonly used in academic writing to introduce a new topic or to summarize a key point, as in the sentence 54- "There are several factors that contribute to this phenomenon.”

-Emphatic There:

The presentative “there” can also be used for emphasis in English. This use of there is used to draw attention to something or someone. For example, in the sentence 55-"There is no way I'm going to do that," the presentative “there” is used to emphasize the speaker's strong reluctance to do something. The emphatic there is also used in exclamations to express surprise or incredulity, as in the sentence 56- "There you are!"

(Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. ,2002:97-98)

***3.3: The Use of Definite NP with Presentative (There)***

In addition to the indefinite noun phrases commonly used with the presentative “there”, definite noun phrases can also be used to introduce new entities or situations into a discourse. The use of a definite noun phrase with the presentative “there” can have a different effect on the meaning of a sentence, and it is important to understand the nuances of this construction.

-Definite Noun Phrase with the Presentative (There):

The use of a definite noun phrase with the presentative “there” is less common than the use of an indefinite noun phrase. In this construction, the presentative “there” is followed by a form of the verb "be" and a definite noun phrase. For example, in the sentence 57- "There's the car I was telling you about," the presentative “there” is followed by the definite noun phrase "the car," which refers to a specific car that the speaker was referring to earlier.

-Deictic Use of Definite Noun Phrases:

The use of a definite noun phrase with the presentative “there” can have a deictic function, indicating a specific entity or situation that is present in the discourse. In the sentence 58- "There's the man I was telling you about," the presentative “there” followed by the definite noun phrase "the man" indicates that the speaker is referring to a specific man that was previously mentioned in the conversation .To reduce to deictic “there” , presentative “there” needs to linked with some noun or noun phrase.(Kayne.2018:4).

-Contrastive Use of Definite Noun Phrases:

The use of a definite noun phrase with the presentative “there” can also have a contrastive function, emphasizing a specific entity or situation in contrast to others. For example, in the sentence 59- "There's the blue car, not the red one," the presentative “there” followed by the definite noun phrase "the blue car" emphasizes that the blue car is the one being referred to, in contrast to the red car.

-Emphatic Use of Definite Noun Phrases:

The use of a definite noun phrase with the presentative “there” can also have an emphatic function, emphasizing a specific entity or situation for emphasis or to draw attention to it. For example, in the sentence 60- "There's the winner of the race, Sally Johnson," the presentative “there” followed by the definite noun phrase "the winner of the race" emphasizes the achievement of the winner and draws attention to their identity.

***3.4:*** ***The Textual Function of Presentative Clauses:***

In addition to their more traditional grammatical functions, presentative clauses can also serve a number of important textual functions in English. Understanding these textual functions is important for effective communication and writing.

-Introduction of New Topics:

One of the primary textual functions of presentative clauses is to introduce new topics into a discourse. In this use, presentative clauses can serve as a transition between different ideas or topics. For example, in the sentence 61- "There's something else I'd like to discuss," the presentative clause "there's something else" serves to introduce a new topic of conversation.

-Attention Grabbing:

Another important textual function of presentative clauses is their ability to grab the reader's attention. By placing important information at the beginning of a sentence or paragraph, presentative clauses can help to emphasize key points and make them more memorable. For example, in the sentence 62- "There can be no doubt that the Earth is round," the presentative clause "there can be no doubt" emphasizes the certainty of the statement and draws the reader's attention to it.

-Summarization:

Presentative clauses can also be used to summarize or highlight important information. In this use, the presentative clause serves to remind the reader of key points or to draw attention to information that may have been previously mentioned. For example, in the sentence 63- "There are three main reasons why this plan won't work: lack of funding, lack of support, and lack of interest," the presentative clause "there are three main reasons" serves to summarize the key points of the argument.

-Concluding Remarks:

Finally, presentative clauses can be used as concluding remarks in a discourse. In this use, the presentative clause serves to bring the discussion to a close and to summarize the key points that have been made. For example, in the sentence 64- "There are many factors to consider when making this decision, but ultimately, it comes down to what is best for our company," the presentative clause "ultimately, it comes down to" serves to summarize the key point of the argument and bring the discussion to a close.

**Conclusion**:

In conclusion, the presentative “there” is a common feature of English language that has multiple functions. It is used as a dummy subject in sentences, to indicate the existence or presence of something, and to create emphasis or contrast. The use of “there” as an presentative can also help speakers avoid starting a sentence with a subject-verb agreement error. While some people may view the presentative “there” as unnecessary or filler language, it serves important grammatical and communicative functions in English. Overall, it is an essential part of the language and understanding its usage can greatly improve one's proficiency in English communication.

The presentative “there” is frequently used to indicate something or someone is existence or location. This usage is frequently called the existential “there” . The presentative “there” is also used to indicate the location of something or someone in the locative there. A specific location or direction is denoted by the deictic there.

The presentative’s function as a discourse marker is another significant application. A new idea or topic is introduced in a dialogue with using there. The presentative “there” is also used in English for emphasis. To call attention to something or someone, this wording is employed there. As a deictic term in English, the presentative “there” can also be used.

To sum up the presentative “there” is an essential part of the English language and is used in a wide range of contexts and for various purposes. By understanding the different uses of the presentative “there”. speakers of English can use this construction more effectively to communicate their ideas and express themselves. Additionally, the study of the presentative “there” has contributed to our understanding of the English language and its complex grammatical and discourse patterns, and has helped to inform language teaching and learning practices.

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