

SPEECH FUNCTION IN ‘YEAH MAHASISWA’ TWEETS

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with speech function in ‘*Yeah Mahasiswa*’ tweets. The research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected from the twitter account of *Yeah Mahasiswa* which chosen purposively. The findings of the research show that there are 105 clauses which consist of 4 speech functions, Statement (84), Question (11), Command (6), and Offer (4). The most dominant type of speech function used by *Yeah Mahasiswa* was statement because it tended to give information in its interaction through its tweets. The occurrence of the dominant speech function due to the context of situation, covering field, tenor and mode.

Keyword: *Speech Function, Twitter*

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INTRODUCTION

Language is the basic need of human being to carry out their activities in every aspects of life. It is use to communicate to each other. Language is primarily spoken, although it can be transferred to another way, such as written. In other words, language is a communication system; therefore it as a means of communication play important roles in human's life. Communication means when people use language, they need not only to interact with others but also to get other persons to understand their thought and feeling. In general, communication can be divided into two forms; spoken and written communication. Spoken communication means the process of expressing ideas and feelings or giving information, which is done orally. Whereas, written communication is done in written form, such as; magazine, newspaper, brochure, letter, internet, etc.

In doing spoken or written communication, human, as socialized individuals, spend much of their live interacting to other people to make communication. Interacting is a process of making meaning. It is known as performing interpersonal meaning which studies the clause that concerns the speaker's role in the speech function. Speech function is a way someone delivers ideas in communication to make the listener understand the ideas well. Speech function itself divided into four types, statement, question, offer, and command (Halliday, 1994:69).

Several studies on speech function have been done previously. Wanda (2010) looks at "Speech Function in Facebook Users' Status". He analyzed every clauses in Facebook users' status to find the most dominant type of speech function which is statement. It means that Facebook users is mostly giving information through their status.

Sulistiyowati (2011) analyzed the speech function in the conversations between the fourth semester English department students of Muria Kudus University and some foreigners, the writer found that the opening speech functions are produced mostly by the students; it indicates that the students play as initiators. The foreigners show their respect and appreciation to the students as they respond to the student initiations by producing more responding and continuing moves. The number of turns and moves produced by the students and foreigners are quite similar; it indicates that both of the participants get the same chance to take their roles. The foreigners as tourists show their interest to some tourism objects by describing to the students some objects they have visited and by comparing to their own country. Learning language cannot be separated from its culture, therefore speech functions and cultural understanding should be taught in the classroom as part of language discourse.

Tri (2011) analyzed speech function used in reality show “Uya Emang Kuya” on SCTV, the writer found that the dominant speech function used in reality show “Uya Emang Kuya” on SCTV is question. It means hypnotist utterances in that reality show tend to use question because the hypnotist asked some question to the person to get some information and questions deal with demanding information.

In this study, the researcher investigated speech function used in ‘*Yeah Mahasiswa*’ tweets. The writer chose twitter to be observed because it is a relatively recent phenomenon, and it is famous through young ages. The research questions of the present study are what types of speech function used in ‘*Yeah Mahasiswa*’ tweets?, what type of speech function dominantly used in ‘*Yeah Mahasiswa*’ tweets?, and in what context the dominant type of speech function occur?

Speech Function

Speech function is the speaker's role of communicative exchange realized in interpersonal meaning which is related to Systemic Functional Linguistics. Whenever two or more people use language to interact, one of the things they are doing is establishing a relationship between them; the person is speaking now (speaker) and the person who will speak next (listener). This interaction forms a functional semantics perspective. To establish the relationship between them, they take turn at speaking on different speech role in the exchange. The most fundamental types of speech role which lie behind all the more specific types are just two; giving and demanding (Halliday, 1994:8). The speaker may be giving something to the addressee or demanding, by the same token he assigns as complementary role to the listener. Giving means inviting to receive that implies receiving, and demanding means inviting to give that implies giving something in response. The "something" here, the commodity being traded, may be either information or goods and services.

Speech function can be classified into four types (Halliday, 1994:69);

1. Statement

Statement is a declarative or an assertive statement which is used to give the information (either positive or negative) and usually ended with a period (.).

Subject is placed in front of a verb or auxiliary verb/ modal (the formula: subject + verb/aux).

Example: Sometimes comment could ruin moment.

2. Question

Question is an interrogative statement used to seek confirmation or to demand for information or to ask for something by using question words and auxiliary verbs and usually ended with question mark (?). The subject is placed after auxiliary verb or wh-question, and followed by verb (the formula: aux. verb or wh-question + subject + verb).

Example: Why did you go there?

3. Offer

Offer is used to give goods and services to someone by using modal and always ended with a question mark (?). being started by one of the modals, and then followed by a subject and verb (the formula: modal + subject + verb).

Example: Would like this orange?

4. Command

Command is an imperative statement used to demand goods and service or to make a request for something to someone. There is no subject in the imperative statement (command) but only the predicate expressed. The subject “you” is the understood subject. A command is usually ended with an exclamation mark (!). The subject is omitted and the basic form of the verb is used (the formula: verb + object).

Example: Shut up!

Methodology

This research is included in form of qualitative and descriptive in which the data were taken from tweets of *Yeah Mahasiswa's* twitter account. This research utilized a qualitative method to analyze the data because it simply describes what is going on and what the data shows. The data are described based on the facts of observation. The data

were collected by identifying the types of speech function in the text, classifying the types of speech function, deriving the most dominant type, after that reasoning the occurrence of the dominant type.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis shows the speech function used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets. There are four types of speech function used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets, they are statement (84), question (11), offer (6), and command (4). It can be categorized that statement become the dominant type of speech function used in @yeahmahasiswa tweets. The dominant type of speech function occurs in context of situation. Context of situation comprised of three elements namely field, tenor and mode. For field are (-) institutionalized and (-) specialized, tenor are (-) formal situation, (+) interpersonal and (+) frequent, and the last mode are (-) planning.

Discussion

The total number of speech function used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets is 105 with the detail as follows; statement is 84, question is 11, command is 6 and offer is 4. This also shows that the most dominant type of speech function in @yeahmahasiswa tweets is statement, because it tend to give information in its interaction through its tweets.

Statement

Statement as one of the type of speech function is also used because statement is a way to give information, here are some examples of statement based on the data.

For examples:

- 1) Happy International Happy Day! (March 19, 2014)
- 2) No need for april fool, (March 30, 2014)
- 3) I've been fool this whole semester. (March 30, 2014)

The examples above were classified into statement because the statements were used to giving information to the reader (other twitter user).

Question

Question is used to seek information or to ask something or an inquiry that invites or calls for reply, here are some examples of question based on the data.

For examples:

- 1) ngga kemana – mana banget nih sob? (March 22, 2014)
- 2) “ayok, diserver mana cuy?” (March 22, 2014)
- 3) #SebelumInternet orang pada googling paper buat skripsi dari mana yak?
(March 22, 2014)

The examples above were classified into question because they aimed to find information from the source.

Command

Command is used to demand goods and service. Here are some examples of command based on the data.

For examples:

- 1) istirahat nyekripsi dulu lah hari ini, amati karya . (March 30, 2014)
- 2) pada percaya kek gitu gua lulus! *nangis* *lanjut revisi* (April 01, 2014)
- 3) udah udah balik lagi belajar sanah (April 01, 2014)

The example above were classified as commands because the writer demand goods or service from the reader. It means that the writer demands for the action from the reader (other twitter users).

Offer

Offer is used to giving goods and service. Here are some examples of offer based on the data.

For examples:

- 1) “nongkrong yu sob” (March 22, 2014)
- 2) Mz fotokopi bolak – balik ya (March 22, 2014)

The example above were classified as offer because the writer gives good and service from the reader.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

After analyzing data, it can be concluded that; first, there are four types of speech used in ‘Yeah Mahasiswa’ tweets with the occurrences of statement (80%), question (10.5%), command (5.7%), and offer (3.8%). Second, the dominant type of speech function used in ‘Yeah Mahasiswa’ tweets is statement (80%). It means that @yeahmahasiswa tended to give information in its interaction through its tweets. When @yeahmahasiswa used giving, it actually invited viewers to receive something from them through his tweets, such as information of whereabouts, action, situation, condition, or anything else. And when it used demanding, it actually invited the viewers to give something the viewers have, such as information, response or reaction. Third,

the occurrence of the dominant data due to the context of situation, covering field, tenor and mode. For field are (-) institutionalized and (-) specialized, tenor are (-) formal situation, (+) interpersonal and (+) frequent, and the last mode are (-) planning.

Suggestions

With reference to the conclusions, there are some suggestions needed to be considered. For the readers especially students in English Department, learning speech function in particular used in texts or online texts. And also for next researchers, online text or social media is a good medium of investigation because it shows the social interaction of a real life.

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