

THE ACQUISITION OF FREE MORPHEME BY A TWO-YEAR OLD INDONESIAN CHILD

*Eva Nurtyapul Sri Gustina

**Anni Holila Pulungan

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to describe types and how of the free morpheme uttered by a two-year-old Indonesian Child. It was a qualitative research design which was observed with a single case study. The instruments used were observation and interview. The researcher observed the subject for two months where conversation in different contexts in daily activities took place. The data collected were the utterances produced by the subject in different context and interview. The data were analyzed by using the theory of language acquisition and free morpheme. The results of this study were: (1) the two types of free morpheme namely lexical and function word were uttered by the subject in his daily activities in different context. (2) the using of free morpheme occurred analysis were: saying statement, refusing advise, saying dislike, asking gift, refusing comment, asking question, and the last is avoiding quarrel. The using of free morpheme based on the speaker's background analysis was intended to be used for the interaction in community.

Key words: *Acquisition, Free Morpheme, Two Year Old Indonesian Child*

* Graduate Status

** Lecturer Status

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Language is part of human's life and it cannot separate from our life because everybody uses language to communicate each other. We cannot fully understand others without knowing their language. We use spoken language every day, face-to-face, as a means of communication and written language allows us to record and hold on to our history across generation. Language itself is very complex. In addition, according to Nurliah (2013:1), the study of children's language acquisition is always interesting to be investigated. But babies are not born talking. They learn language, starting immediately from birth. Languages are not all cut from the identical pattern, and this makes a different in acquisition. The study of language acquisition by children is very interesting. It will make better understanding about the development of the children's language and knowing uniqueness of children in producing a language.

For many years, many people assumed that the acquisition of children's language is something usual; nothing special, especially in Indonesia. So they think that the study of children's language acquisition is not important to do. In fact, that this assumption is not true. Learning does not "turn into" acquisition and it usually takes place in formal environments, while acquisition can take place without learning in informal environments (Krashen, 2002).

In general, the morphology by child at the age of two years old consists of free morpheme. It depends on child mood and situation when he is talking. The location and environment of child also influence the word production of his. From example: when he's crying, when he's playing and he's happy. In those conditions, he has different ways in producing free morpheme.

For example about the phenomena of free morpheme acquisition can be seen on Dominic, a two years old Indonesian child, the writer's neighbor child. At the time he approaches his mother and said 'kue na enak ma'. (Mom, the cake is delicious). Her mother at the first was confused with her son's expression because during her mother cooked; Dominic looked sad and weeps to see her mother cooked. But the writer's surprised did not emerge any more since Dominic answered her mother's question by saying 'iya, kuenya enak.' (Yeah, the cake is delicious). Dominic's utterances are

known as free morpheme since the utterance is not the same with the speaker intention. The word 'kue – cake it means as the free morpheme words but actually is influence by the context that the speaker, Dominic gives the attention while her mother was cooked.

In society, it is believed that babies and children's language development vary one from another. Based on the explanation above, this point of view makes the writer intends to focus her study, as perceived by their parents; free morpheme by child at the age of two years old. In fact, the research of child language acquisition especially by two years old child is rare to carry out. This is the reason why the research will be conducted by the writer. This study is expected to be useful knowledge for the reader to know much about the process free morphemes in the language acquisition.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study conducted by qualitative approach. The qualitative has natural setting and no treatment. Based on Bogdan and Biklen (1992:1) qualitative means to find out how a theory works in different phenomena. This study to find out how the theory of analyzing in a phenomenon of language use in order to observe the sentence acquisition of two years old child which requires a case study method. Since the focus of this study is on "free morpheme" of the child 2 years old used by native speaker in Bahasa Indonesia, it will be become the meaningful phenomenon as the data analyzing.

Object

In this study, the subject of research is Dominic Erlangga Bakkara or usually called Dominic. He was born on April, 23, 2011. He will be 2:4 years old in the end of the observation will be held on June until July from 2013. He is the first son of Herwin Bakkara and Ety Pakpahan. The subject has been good in pronouncing and saying or communication with others minimally in the purpose for fulfilling his wants such as begging something, asking information and narrating something. He has one closed friend named Agung Simbolon (3 years old) and has a good relationship with him in term of playing and speaking because even his friend able to pronounce words well but very talkative and his speaking can be understood by most of people. It means that Dominic is one of children with normal or good language development.

Data Collection

The data of this study are transcript of recorded observation, interview and fill notes. Transcript of observation is obtained through daily observation in different contexts namely of playing, watching TV, relaxing and home activity which was done for two months.

Technique for Analyzing Data

After the data were collected, the data were analyzed descriptively. The technique for analyzing data as the following:

1. Data reduction
2. Data display, and
3. Conclusion drawing or verification.

The points out that the procedures are;(a) selecting the data which are relevant to the research, summarizing or paraphrasing the data which is in the form of word and subsuming which means grouping the data into the similar category. (b) Displaying some matrices which consist of some data from the subject's utterances in different contexts (c) the writer will be classified it into the type of free morphemes and the writer will be classified it based on the function and put the data in tables.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Qualitative Method

After collecting the data, the data were analyzed by qualitative approach. in order to find out the utterances of the child in different contexts The analysis of the acquisition of free morpheme would be shown from the analyzing the data from some of their utterances.

Noun

Context : In the afternoon, Dominic was playing with his friend. His father was just going home from the field that he works every day. After playing with the balloons, Dominic's crying to ask his balloons from Agung.

Father : *Kenapa sayang?*
 Dominic : *balon minic..... (Menunjuk balonnya)*
 Agung : *Aku pinjam bentar*
 Father : *Ya udah nanti pulanggin ya agung...*
 Agung : *Ya tulang....*

The word “balon minic” indicates that the child has known well that the reason of his father’s instruction relates to his condition of having the balloon. Here, the child’s utterance shows that there is additional meaning being the balloon. Beyond the utterance, the child wants to say indirectly that he wants the balloon from Agung

Adjective

Context : In the afternoon, Dominic was playing with Agung. His Father just going from the party and bring same stuff. His father got sweat and looked like untidy. His father kissed Dominic and his get angry at the moment.

Father : *Lagi ngapain mang? (and kissed Dominic)*
 Dominic : *Uhh bau....*
 Father : *Masa sech...(Smiling)*
 Dominic : *Ish bapak*
 Father : *Ya udah mandi pun bapak sekarang....*

In the datum above, it can be seen that adjective occurs in the sentence ‘*bapak bau*’, it will right structure. But in this case ‘*Bapak*’ not include in adjective only ‘*bau*’ because it referring the thing of the smell by his father but his father doesn’t agree of Dominic statement at the time after his father goes home from the party

Verb

Context : Dominic and Agung were seizing an old toy gotten from kitchen. Dominic succeeded to get the toy. As the effect, Agung was disappointed and then approached Mother to ask her help.

Agung : *Tulang.. minta itu.. (showing the toy in Dominic’s hand)*
 Dominic : *Gak mau....*
 Agung : *Itu punya Aku.....*
 Dominic : *Pukul yah...*

In the datum, it can be seen that verb occurs in the utterance ‘*pukul yah*’. The verb is characterized by using lexical terms. The term used in the utterance is ‘*Pukul*’ the child gets angry to his friend because his succeeded to get the toy firstly but Agung force Dominic give it back to him.

Preposition

- Context** : At home, in the morning as usually Dominic had just taken bath and suddenly his mother told to him that his mother gave a gift to him.
- Mother : *Mamak punya di bawah hadiah buat Dominic....*
- Dominic : *dibawah mak?*
- Mother : *Nanti mamak kasih tunggu siap dulu dominic mandi ya.....*
- Dominic : *cantik mak.....*
- Mother : *Anak pintar.....*

In the datum, it can be seen that preposition occurs in the utterance ‘*Di bawah mak*’. The preposition is characterized by using lexical terms. In the dialogue above, the utterance of ‘*Di bawah*’ implicates that the speaker wants to see the gift by his mother but firstly his asked his mother where is the gift put it but his mother save the gift after his taken bath.

Adverb

- Context** : At home in the living room, at 9 a.m., Dominic, as usual, was watching film “Tom and Jerry” on TV. It had taken much time since he wanted got breakfast at 8 a.m., his mother often advises him to not always watching the film but he always doesn’t want to care. In this time, his mother wanted to turn off the TV and seemed already angry since Dominic hadn’t got his breakfast yet.
- Mother : *Dom..... udah siap mang nontonnya cepatlah mang*
- Dominic : *Cepatlah mang.....*
- Mother : *Ayo lah mang....*

In the datum, it can be seen that preposition occurs in the utterance ‘*Cepatlah mang*’. The Adverb of manner is characterized by using lexical terms. The terms used in the utterance is ‘*Cepat*’ that the speaker imitated his mother utterance and also his doesn’t wants to stop watching TV at the time because his like very much to watched the film Tom and Jerry.

Demonstratives

- Context** : in the afternoon, after sleeping, Dominic wanted to eat the bread but his mom was asked him to close the door. Of course, it made Dominic boring because his must stay at home.
- Mother : *Dom, tolong tutup pintunya mang...*
- Dominic : *(Menutup pintu, tanpa berbicara apapun)*
- Mother : *Mau makan roti?*
- Dominic : *Mak, roti....*
- Mother : *Ya udah tunggu yah biar mama ambulkan....*

It can be analyzed that what Dominic says has implicates that Dominic has opinion that the cake is delicious and pointing the cake so that his mother understand which one the cake that Dominic wants want to eaten.

Pronoun

Context : At home in the living room, at 9 a.m., Dominic, as usual, was watching film “Tom and Jerry” on TV. It had taken much time since he wanted got breakfast at 8 a.m., his mother often advises him to not always watching the film but he always doesn’t want to care. In this time, his mother wanted to turn off the TV and seemed already angry since Dominic hadn’t got his breakfast yet.

Dominic : *Siapa mak....*

Mother : *Bagus.....*

In the datum, it can be seen that pronoun occurs in the utterance ‘*Siapa mak*’. The pronoun is characterized by using functional terms. And signal grammatical information or logical relations in a sentence. It can be analyzed that what Dominic says has implicates that Dominic has opinion that the asked his mother question to taking his breakfast.

Conjunction

Context : At sunset, 20 minutes before his father go home from the film his mother asked Dominic for taking dinner. But his stay for playing with Agung in that time. And it make his mother a little bit angry of him.

Dominic : *Tapi mak*

Mother : *Cepatlah dom, main teruslah kalian dari tadi...*

Agung : *Ini udah hampir siap kok buk...*

Mother : *Ya, baguslah.....*

In the datum, it can be seen that conjunction occurs in the utterance ‘*Tapi mak*’. The conjunction is characterized by using functional terms. And signal grammatical information or logical relations in a sentence. It can be analyzed that what Dominic says has implicates that Dominic has statement of taking dinner and the speaker doesn’t want to stop playing with Agung.

The Occurrence of Types of Free Morpheme

| Types of Free Morpheme | Number of Free Morpheme | Percentage (From all of sentences) |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. L e x i c a | | |
| Noun | 19 Sentences | 57 |
| Adjective | 5 Sentences | 15 |
| Verb | 3 Sentences | 8 |
| Preposition | 1 Sentence | 3 |
| Adverb | 1 Sentence | 3 |
| Total of FM | 29 Sentences | 86 |

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 2. F u n c t i o n a | | |
| Article | - | - |
| Demonstratives | 1 Sentence | 3 |
| Pronoun | 3 Sentences | 8 |
| Conjunction | 1 Sentence | 3 |
| T o t a l | 3 4 S e n t e n c e s | 1 0 0 |

From the table displayed above, dealing with the type of free morpheme, it is seen that the highest frequency of lexical words are noun and the lowest frequency are demonstratives and conjunction of function words. This occurs due to the factor of linguistic acquisition as stated by Johnston (2006: 2-3) that the completeness or the complexity of language structure (linguistic phenomena) influence the child's capability in acquiring language. In this case, the subject's ability in producing words which need certain input from the environment influences his output in uttering free morpheme. As we know, that free morpheme requires particular knowledge to use. In addition, contexts become the most important one of the hearer in getting the speaker's implicative in his utterances. Dealing with lexical word, the specific context (like home activity, playing, watching TV and relaxing) and the particular knowledge (like social, perceptual, and linguistic) are not requiring seeing the intention.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

After deliberately analyzing the data, the conclusions are stated as follows:

1. The two types of free morpheme namely lexical word and function words in the child's utterance are found in different contexts.
2. There are various kinds of the child purpose use in uttering his words. The purpose based on the lexical and functions words analysis found as the theory type of lexical and functional words namely (1) To say statement, (2) to refuse advise, (3) to say his dislike, (4) to ask gift, (5) to refuse comment, (6) to say his like, (7) to ask question, (8) avoid quarrel, (9) to say watching, (10) to inform the shop, (11) to play his imagination, (12) to change his felling, (13) to guest

something, (14) to avoid the next question, (15) to ask the toys. In addition, one factor as the background factor influencing the words uttered by the child was also found namely interaction in community.

3. Based on the data of lexical morpheme it can be seeing that the lowest types are preposition and adverb and the highest types is noun. In the case of functional morpheme it can be seeing that the lowest types are demonstrative and conjunction and the highest types is pronoun.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusion stated above, this study has some suggestions for different people as to:

The other researcher, it is suggested the some topic with more subject with different ages to see the different between them so the acquisition of those subject can be more accrued and clearly. And for the parents or caregivers, it is suggested to use and trigger free morpheme to children since this morphology acquisition is the most meaningful study in language. And the last is the environment interaction can be good helping children to increase their competence in community. One of the competences is using the free morpheme. That's way. It is expected to the environment to build a good interaction with the children uttering free morpheme so that the children are accustomed to the ways and later be proficient in their daily conversation particularly with adult and the professional ones.

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