A Descriptive Study of Registers Found in Spoken and Written Communication (A Semantic Analysis)

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Abstract

This research is descriptive study of registers found in spoken and written communication. The type of this research is Descriptive Qualitative Research. In this research, the data of the study is register in spoken and written communication that are found in a book entitled *"Communicating! Theory and Practice"* and from internet. The data can be in the forms of words, phrases and abbreviation. In relation with method of collection data, the writer uses the library method as her instrument. The writer relates it to the study of register in spoken and written communication. The technique of analyzing the data using descriptive method. The types of register in this term will be separated into formal register and informal register, and identify the meaning of register.

Keywords: *Register, Spoken and Written Communication, Jargon, Slang, Motherese*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif tentang register yang ditemukan dalam komunikasi lisan dan tertulis. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah komunikasi lisan maupun tertulis yang ditemukan dalam sebuah buku berjudul *"Berkomunikasi ! Teori dan Praktek"* dan dari internet. Data berbentuk kata-kata, frase, dan singkatan. Penulis menggunakan studi pustaka sebagai metode pengumpulan data. Kemudian, penulis menghubungkannya dengan studi register dalam komunikasi lisan dan tertulis. Sedangkan teknik analisis data yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif. Jenis-jenis register, dalam hal ini, akan dikelompokkan ke dalam register formal dan informal untuk selanjutnya diidentifikasi.

Introduction

Language is one of the most important things for human being, as a means of communication. In other words, language is used to share ideas, knowledge and feelings in written or spoken form, in formal and informal situation. Human being as social and individual person, always communicates with each other. In communication people use language as the medium.

Word is the one of the elements of language. It can be performed into sentences and they give message which may have direct or indirect meanings. People create sentences with their own style both in spoken and written form. The use of language should be suited with the situation and purpose. In spoken language, expressive feelings and ideas sometimes use with gesture such as flashing eyes, moving the part of the body and other. While in the written forms, language is expressed with the choice of words and language style such as punctuation and accentuation signs.

Register is the level of formality used when speaking and writing. Victoria Fromkin and Robert Rodman, author of *An introduction to language,* call it as a stylistic variant of a language appropriate with a particular social setting, also called style. The main factor of register includes social setting, situation, addressor, addressee, and topic. In other words, language has to be appropriate to the speaker and listener and it also must match appropriately with occasions and situations. For example, a sport commentator would not

say something about football game in the formal language that are used by lawyers or judges in courtroom. Both the sport commentator and the lawyer adjust their style of speaking or register, to fit the setting and to avoid unsuitable situation, like most people adjust their language in daily conversation depending on whom they are speaking with and where they are.

Formality is one of the many facets of register and it is dictated by the address, context and topic. Formal register, more often used in written language than in spoken. It is used in the professional field and when people are not familiar which each other. People tend to speak more informally when they are talking with their family and friends.

Language varies according to the situation and addressee, but it also varies based on the speaker social class, ethnic, group, age and sex. For example, a teenage girl is doing conversation on the phone with her classmate using speaking informally, slang speaking non standard English and when she accepts an incoming call from teacher, she changes her speaking style from informal to formal by speaking standard English and leaving out slang used by her and her friend.

When the speaker changes his register to match the context, it si called situational switching. In addition, the example is a kind of situational switching occurs naturally in the speech of most people and happens so quickly that speaker usually does not have to make a conscious decision to change her register.

From the explanation above, the writer wants to find another explanation of register and clarify their type, meaning and the use foe communication. The writer is interested in doing research and gives a title "A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF REGISTERS FOUND IN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN

COMMUNICATION (A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS)". In this paper, the writer has objectives as follows.

1. To describe the kinds register found in speech and written.
2. To explain the differences of communication using spoken and written language on formal and informal register.
3. To explain the similarities of spoken and written register.
4. To explain the differences of spoken and written register.

Definition of Register

The term of register here describes as a language of groups of people with common interests of jobs or a language used in situation associated with such groups that stated by Holmes. Based on Fromkin and Rodman in their book An Introduction to language, call register as stylistic variant of a language appropriate with a particular social setting.

Wardhaugh said that registers are set of vocabulary items associated with discrete occupation or social groups. So the expression is understood by community itself, although we sometimes can also know the meaning of the expression used. The terms show us that register is a feature of language that has a special usage dealing with the society.

It is clear from the definition above, that people use different language. The differences may be caused by people who speak, to whom they speak, where they speak, how they speak, and what are the media to communicate. The background of the people also influences the use of language. Language is closely related with the expression. Therefore, the use of different language may cause different expression.

Halliday and Hasan, in Holmes, insist that registers are not marginal or special varieties of language, rather they cover the total range of language activity in society.

> "Register is what you are speaking at the time, depending on what you are doing and the nature of the activity in which the language is functioning. So, whereas, in principle at least, any individual might go through life speaking only one dialect (in modern complex societies, this is increasingly unlikely; but it is theoretically possible, and it used to be norm), it is not possible to go through life using only one register. The register reflects another aspect of the social order, that of social processes, the different types of social activity that people commonly engage in."

There are a lot of groups of people in society. There are teachers, doctors, lawyers, farmers, sellers, drivers, advertisers, etc. Each group of people has its own expression. The advertiser community uses its own expression, so that it cannot be understood by the other community.

Register sometimes enable people to identify a certain group and to maintain the relationship in the same occupation or profession. Brown in Biber and Finegan holds that:

> "Register is commonly identified by certain phonological variants, vocabularies idioms, and give a similar definition expression that are associated with different occupational or social group."

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that register is a variety of language distinguished according to the use. It is typical and used in a certain situation, certain occupation or certain socials groups (parts of society) and it usually has a certain purpose.

The function of register is to make easy communication between the member on the certain groups. Register also has an important role in society. It can give further information about the specific purpose on several groups. Pateda classifies the function of register into five, namely:

1. Oratorical or frozen, which is used by professional speaker to attract the listener.
2. Deliberative or formal, used by the speaker to broader conversation.
3. Consultative, it is usually used to make an agreement. It occurs in trade transaction and typically dialogue.
4. Casual, it is used to omit misunderstanding in communication.
5. Intimate, it is used in family atmosphere.

Research Methodology

This research brought to a qualitative research because of the theories that support this approach. Moleong affirms that qualitative research is a research of which data in the form of written and oral word are descriptively analyzed. It present the data and the research result in the form of phenomena description.

Related to this research, the writer uses descriptive method in which this method is to describe what actually happens to procedures about method, which are useful in research. It will be used as guidance to conduct the research from the beginning to the end of work the writer takes a certain procedures and would like to explain in five parts, they are type of research, data, source of the data, data collection method, and data analysis.

1. Type of Research

This research is the domain of qualitative research. The type of this research is "Descriptive Qualitative Research". Moreover, Moloeng affirms that qualitative research of which the data in the form of written or oral word are descriptively analyzed. Qualitative data tend to be in the form of words than series number.

It does not present the result in the form of digits or statistics because the terms of register in spoken and written communication can be separated and taken according to the kind or function of the terms. It presents the data and the results in the form of phenomena description.

2. Data

In this research, the data of the study is register in spoken and written communication that are found in a book entitled "Communicating! Theory and Practice" and from internet. The data can be in the forms of words, phrases and abbreviation.

3. Source of the Data

The source of data refers to the subject from which the data are obtained.[14] They are considered as the material of the research. The source of the data in this research consists of written and oral data.

The writer uses two sources of the data. The primary data is from a book entitled "Communicating! Theory and Practice". The writer also uses secondary information such as reference book and from the internet.

4. Data Collection Method

In relation with method of collection data, the writer uses the library method as her instrument. The writer relates it to the study of register in spoken and written communication.

The procedures of collecting the data are Reading the book entitled "Communicating! Theory and Practice", and then the writer select and sort out some certain words or phrases in it which are considered as certain jargon. In addition, the writer found slang and motherese in internet.

5. Data Analysis

The technique of analyzing the data using descriptive method. The types of register in this term will be separated into formal register and informal register, and identify the meaning of register. Thus, the writer also makes some references of the donation meaning. In doing the analysis, the writer conducts the technique through data arranged procedures as follows:

a. Classifying the terms into specific categories, such as:
   i.   Formal register   : Jargon
   ii. Informal register   : Slang
                          Motherese

   For example, there are some words such as assimilation, ta ta, and beddy-bye. The writer classify it into the right category.

b. Elaborating the register meanings based on classification above.
   From the classification above, the writer looking for the meaning from dictionary or appropriate it with the context.

c. Determining the use of register for communication.

After looking for the meaning, the writer tries to find the reasons why people use the register.

Discussion

Having analyzes some data, the writer found some phenomena from the analysis. The phenomena that the writer found will be finding of this research.

1. The forms of register

   The forms of register is various in this research. The form of register hare can be divided into three categories, namely word, phrase and abbreviation.

   a.   Word

   1) Jargon

- Letter
- Memo
- Agreement
- Topic
- Grammar
- Structure
- Addressee
- Dialogue
- Channel
- Communicative
- Feedback
- Information
- Context
- Idiom
- Pronunciation
- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Pitch
- Sentence
- Intonation
- Volume
- Assimilation
- Pausing
- Message
- Audience
- Paragraph
- Accuracy

2) Slang

- Grass
- Pot
- Bad
- Pig
- Bah
- Baller
- Bananas
- Bank
- Bird
- Bitch
- Bomb
- Boo
- Rack
- Pussy
- Play
- Piss
- Pimp
- Piece
- Peep
- Peach
- Partner
- Nut
- Onion
- Nasty
- Mouse
- Monster
- Mint
- Map
- Late
- Juicy

- Jet
- Hooker
- Freaky
- Duds
- Dog
- Digits
- booboo
- Props
- Prob

- Colors
- Cheese
- Cat
- Cash
- Butter
- Butch
- G
- Mad
- Ta   ta

3) Motherese

- Binkie
- Ickle
- Icky
- Nana

- Jammies
- Stinky
- Tinkle
- yucky

b. Phrase

1) Jargon

- Turn taking
- Verbal cues

- Non-verbal cues
- Pace of speech

2) Slang

- Batman and robin
- Piece of shit
- Peace out
- Out of the box
- Nine to five

- My boy
- My bad
- Kick ass
- Just   J

3) Motherese

- Beddy bye
- Boo boo
- Doo doo
- Pee pee

- Oopsie daisy
- Din din
- Wee wee

c. Abbreviation

Slang

- OJ
- MILF
- Ma'am
- Limou
- FOP

- D.D.
- Prob
- G
- G'day
- S'ok

2. The meaning of register

The meaning of register here something have equal meaning between lexical and contextual meaning. Lexical meaning is meaning that given by dictionary. Contextual or situational meaning has raises from the situation or context where the word, phrase and abbreviation are used.

3. The differences and similarities both of register

    a. The differences of formal and informal register are:

        • Formal register used in formal situation or conversation such as lecture, meeting, reporting, and most of written communication.

        • Informal register used in daily conversation with family and friends, motherese, slang and sometimes in personal letter.

    b. The similarities of formal and informal register are:

        • Formal and informal register used by the people in their own community and just understood by them.

        • Both type of his register used to make the communication more effective and efficient.

Conclusion

Based on previous explanation and analyzes the writer can make some conclusions that register is a variety of language distinguished according to the use. It is typical and used in a

certain situation, certain occupation or certain socials group and it usually has a certain purpose.

There are some professions that need register to make an easy communication with their relatives

and associates. It is because they work on the same groups and have the same common

interest.The main type of register are formal and informal register. Formal register is used in

formal situation, jargon, report, lecture, etc. While, informal register found in slang, motherese,

and daily communication with family.The factors that make differences of register in spoken and

written language are, the participant, the setting, the function, the topic. The writer finds the

reasons of using register in spoken and written communication, To make communication more

effectively and efficiently, to show the society that they come from educated community

especially when using jargon, to be more polite such as jargon and reporting register.

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