PHATIC FUNCTION IN THE NOVEL
“A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN”
BY JAMES JOYCE

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Kata Kunci: Fungsi Fatis, Novel, James Joyce.

Abstract: This study examines the language function found in the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce formulated by Jackobson. The aims of the study are to identify and to examine the phatic function that occurs in conversation. This study employs descriptive qualitative methods. There are five steps in collecting the data, namely (1) reading the novel, (2) identifying the utterances, (3) collecting the phatic functions, (4) counting the phatic functions, and (5) examining the purposes of the utterances. This study finds out nine language functions in this study, those are, emotive, directive, phatic, poetic, referential, metalinguistic, contextual, emotive and directive, and referential and poetic functions. Besides, the purpose of the phatic functions found in the conversation namely, opening the channel of communication such as greeting, checking the communication lines, asking the social reasons, maintaining the contact of communication, and expressing farewell.

Keywords: Phatic Function, Novel, James Joyce
BACKGROUND

In the society life, someone as social creature really needs other people. As the human beings, they have nature to live together, giving motivate, associating and communicating to each other. They are constantly involved in communication process with others. Communication is very important in human activities. People can express their thoughts, ideas, and feeling even to influence the other. Bennet in Brown and Yule (1983:1) say that, communication is primarily a matter of a speaker’s seeking either to inform a hearer of something or to enjoin some action upon him.

There are more people on earth than ever before, and every place we find humans, as well as languages. In big cities, many languages are spoken, and most people speak more than one. To communicate, people use language. They use language to relate to each other and to convey their messages. Language is an important role in human interaction. In every interaction that happens in society, communication is the basis of formation of successful human life, it is through communication that collaboration and cooperation occur. Francis in Ba’dulu and Muis (2003:1), define language is an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use by group of humans as means of carrying on the affairs of their society. It means that human beings need language because they want to know something which is connected with the society.

Richards and Schmidt (2010:11) defined that language is any particular system of human communication which consists of the structured arrangement of sounds (or their written representation) into large units, e.g. morphemes, words, sentences, and utterances. When someone utters words or sentences, he intends to the hearer that his utterances can be understood and achieved. In interaction, a word or sentence which is said or written by the speaker can have various meaning and function based on the context. People may not realize that spoken or written language carry a function. Linguists and linguistic philosopher frequently acknowledge that language may be used to perform many communicative function, they make general assumption that the most important is the communication of information.

Trudgill (1984:14) “two aspect of language behavior are very important from social point of view: first, the function of language establishing social relationships; and the second, the role played by language in conveying about the speaker”. It is important means of establishing and maintaining relationships with other people.

In interaction, the first speaker probably subconsciously would like to get to know certain thing or information about the second speaker. But, if the first speaker may get confused if their speech without a purpose. People who interact with each other by using language, do not only send their information, but also try to understand the meaning or function of what the speaker says or writes.

Furthermore, Crystal (1989:251), a modern British linguist gave a definition of language as human vocal noise (or graphic representation of this noise in writing) used systematically and conventionally by community for purpose of communication. Crystal, in referring to vocal noise, is more specific about the principal way in which the message is physically transmitted. Thus this definition also purposes communication as the principal function of language.

Besides a tool of communication, language also can be used to perform act and it also has several functions. The term of communication, then, can be used to cover most of the function of language. Some examples of utterances can be seen as follows:

How are you?

If we ask it simply as part of a greeting we may not want an honest answer. Linguists have different terms for the different functions of language. In the case of “How are you?” used just to be sociable. They use the term phatic communion, that being the use of speech with the aim of establishing or maintaining social relations. In such cases the important thing may
be simply that one says something, as saying nothing might be taken as a sign of displeasure. An expression of emotion such as *That’s fantastic!* or *Shit!*

The utterances may be called an emotive utterance, because, it shows an expression of emotion.

*The window is opened*

The sentence can show different function, depending on who says it, to whom, and in what situation. If it is said by a husband to his wife in the middle of the night, it might function as an expression of worry, but if it is said by a teacher to a pupil it might well function as an order. Said by Sertock Holmes to Dr. Wason at the scene of a murder it might function an interpretation. Thus” the same sentence cut have some different functions.

The function of language is varied. That is why, to examine the meaning of utterance, can be explored in the actual phenomenon such as a life story which is showed in the novel “*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*” by James Joyce.

Based on the background, this study explores the language function that occurs in the novel “*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*” by James Joyce. The aims of the study is to identify the phatic function that occurs in the novel “*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*” by James Joyce, and to examine the phatic function performed by the characters in the novel “*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*” by James Joyce.

The Significance of the study will be useful for the students who are interested to study literary work, linguistics, and particularly for the writer herself. It is also expected that the result of this analysis can increase our knowledge about language function which appear in every utterances or sentences.

In this part, the writer makes restriction of the problem. As we know that language function are very wide cases, and it is not easy to discuss in this study. So, the writer only analyzes the conversation in the novel “*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*” by James Joyce by examining the phatic function. Language function means an element of language role in language usage within the wider of language system. Language function is the main function of communication (Ba’dulu and Muis, 2003:5).

There were two previous studies which related and relevant with this study. Noronha and Malshe (2015), in their journal under the title “*The Phatic Function and Socializing Elements of Personal Blogs*”. The aimed of the research was to identify the phenomenon of phatic communication maintained by bloggers through their blog. They found Indian personal bloggers engage in the presentation of their “social selves”. The bloggers yearn to reach out to the readers on internet and the phatic function served to initiate, sustain and renew social ties on the bloggsphere thereby consolidating the social network of readers and bloggers.

Ilyas (2017), “*Phatic Function in the Jhon Green Novel “Fault in Our Stars”*. The study aimed to describe the type of phatic function and roles of phatic function in literary works like novel. The findings showed that types of phatic function in the novel were neutral, self-oriented, and other-oriented and the roles of phatic function were opening phase, medial phase, and closing phase. The conclusion of the finding of the study mostly used three types of phatic function and the roles of the phatic function of the novel commited in three phases of interaction.

A precise definition of language is not easy to provide, because the language phenomenon is complex. Everyone has vast experience with language. From the day you are born, language is all around you. It is one of the essential things we do every day, and it is difficult to image life without at least one language. Finegan and Bensier in Fasold, et. al (2013:9), define language as a finite system of elements and principles that make it possible for speakers to construct sentences to do particular communicative jobs. The part of system that allows speakers to produce and interpret grammatical sentences. People use
language to do more than just communicate in the literal meanings of grammatical sentences.

According to Hazen (2015:3), language is the discrete combinatorial system human use most for communication. Discrete means ‘separate’ here, and combinatorial means ‘ability to add together’. We take small separate parts, push them together in specific combination and create larger parts of language. For spoken languages, we store collections of sounds together with their associated ideas.

Language function is the main function of communication (Ba’dulu and Muis, 2003:5). Language function means an element of the language role occur in communication within the wider of language system. So, language function means the role of language system of communication.

Talking about language function, Leech in Ba’dulu and Muis (2003:4) divide the kinds of language functions into five categories, namely (1) informational function; (2) expressive function; (3) directive function; (4) aesthetic function; and (5) phatic function. The classification of these five categories can be neatly correlated with five essential features in any communicative situation, namely informational function oriented toward the subject-matter, expressive functional oriented toward the speaker or writer, directive function oriented toward the listener or reader, aesthetic function oriented toward the message, and phatic function oriented toward the channel of communication.

Different from Leech, Halliday (1985:164-165) describes six functional categories: (1) instrumental; (2) regulatory; (3) interactional; (4) personal; (5) heuristic; and (6) imaginative. In addition, Halliday (1987:203) used the term to signify the purposive nature of communication, and it is outlined into seven different functions. The seventh functions are: the instrumental function, the regulatory function, the representational function, the interactional function; the personal function, the heuristic function, and the imaginative function. These functions of language tend to mask the almost variety and complexity of functions that are expressed through a language. A single sentence or conversation might incorporate many different functions simultaneously.

Furthermore, Brown and Yule (1983:1) formulate the language function into transactional and interactional function. Transactional function is the function which language serves in the expression of “content”, while transactional function is the function involved in expressing social relation and personal attitude.

Even thought, there are various branches of language function, but in this study the writer only examines the phatic function which is formulated by Roman Jackobson as cited in Cook (1989:25-26). The function of language which are formulated by Jackobson, namely:

1. The emotive function
   It is aim to communicate the inner states and emotion of the addressee, for example: fantastic!; Fred Astaire’s dead.

2. The directive function
   Directive function is the function to seek to affect the behavior of the addressee, for example: I’m warning you!; please help me!.

3. The phatic function
   Phatic function is the function which opening the channel or checking the working, either for social reasons or partial ones, for example: hello, nice to meet you, how are you. Phatic language includes the everyday small talk that we use to establish rapport, make contact with our fellow, and assure mutual good interaction. Greeting, farewells, much chitchat, and most ritual language serve this function.

4. The poetic function
   Poetic function is the function in which the particular form that chosen for the essence of message.

5. The referential function
   Referential function is the function that carrying information.
6. The metalinguistic function

Metalinguistic function is the function focusing attention upon the code itself, to clarify it or to renegotiate it, for example: What does this word mean?; This bone is known as the femur. The first example, the speaker focuses attention to a word that he needs to understand. The second example, the speaker intends to clarify the name of the bone.

7. The contextual function

Contextual function is the function of creating a particular kind of communication, for example: “It’s just a game”; “Right, let’s start the lecture”; “Well, I’ll be dammed”. The three statements have particular type of language or communication. In this function of language always contain expression that begun as the preceding sentences.

METHOD

This study employed descriptive qualitative method. The data that had been taken would be analyzed by using descriptive qualitative methods. This method was used to specify, delineate or describe the data which were taken from the conversation in the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce. The conversation of the data was considered as the source of the data. Then the conversation would be analyzed by using content analysis and conversational analysis. Content analysis consisted of studying and analyzing the communication in systematic, objective, and qualitative manner variables, (Cresswell, 2010:54). While conversational analysis according to Sacks, schegloff and Jefferson in Candlin (2014:59), who originally stressed taht the worked with conversational maerials not because of a special interest in language’ but because they saw conversational analysis as a firts step towards achieving a “naturalistic observational discipline’ to deal with details of social interaction in a rigorous, empiric and formal way’.

There were five steps that would be used to collect the data. First, the writer would read the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce. The second, the writer identified the utterances that contained the kinds of language function as formulated by Jackobson. The third, collecting the phatic function that occurred in the utterances. Fourthly, counting the phatic function that occurred in the utterances. The fifth, explaining the meaning of the utterances. This study also uses triangulation techniques to collect the data (Sugiyono, 2010:241). It is aimed to gather data and information that using different techniques from the same source of the study. Then, the data were analzed using descriptive qualitative method.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

This chapter presents detailed analyses of the data which is applied on the findings and discussion of this study. The findings of the study provide of the data collected from the conversation in the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce. The kinds of language function was used in the novel can be seen below:

Table 1

The Distribution of The Kinds of Language Function Used in The Novel “A Portrait of The Artist As A Young Man” By James Joyce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Emotive</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>9,24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Directive</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>19,29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Phatic</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>15,56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Poetic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0,16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Referential</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>16,37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Metalinguistic</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>33,39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Contextual</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5,35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Emotive and Directive</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0,32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Referential and Poetic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0,32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yusniati Sabata, Ibrahim, Phatic Function In The Novel “A Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Man” By James Joyce
The distribution of the kinds of language function used in the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce can be categorized that referential function is the mostly used in the conversation. It is used to carry information to other people. The data found that a single utterance has two function of language.

**Discussion**

The focus of this study is to examine the phatic function that occur in the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce. The phatic function that was found of the data will be describe below:

Nasty Roche :  
(a) *What is your name?* (p.3)  
b) *What is your father?* (p.3)

The utterances (a, and b) that is uttered by Nasty Roche is phatic function. The first sentence “*What is your name?*” and “*What is your father?*”, perform to us that he wanted to know Stephen’s name and his father’s name. Besides that, he need to get a good situation in communication. It was the main purpose of the conversation.

Stephen’s parents: (c) *Goodbye, Stephen, Goodbye!* (p.4)

This utterance “*Goodbye, Stephen, Goodbye!*” shows that Stephen’s parents wanted to say goodbye to Stephen. It was a farewell expression that uttered by Stephen’s parents.

Fleming :  
(d) *What’s up?* (p.9)  
e) *Have you a pain or what’s up with you?* (p.9)  
f) *Sick in your breadbasket, Fleming said, because your face looks white.* (p.9)

The utterances (d) “*What’s up?*”, (e) “*Have you a pain or what’s up with you?*”, (f) “*Sick in your breadbasket,...*”, and (g) “*Are you not well?*” uttered by Fleming described to us that he just rose an atmosphere between them. He wanted to have good relationship with other people. In this sentences, he only made a chitchat between them.

Fellow :  
(h) *Hello! It’s young Dedalus! What’s up?* (p.21)

Athy :  
i) *Are you good at riddles?* (p.24)  
j) *Can you answer me this one?* (p.25)

Stephen :  
k) *Do you see the joke?* (p.25)  
Utterance

(h) has phatic function. This sentences *Hello! It’s young Dedalus! What’s up*, uttered by a fellow. It means that he wanted opening the channel of communication firstly, and he wished they can get a good interaction. Further, “*Are you good a riddles?*” is the phatic function that uttered by Athy. He intended to get a contact with the addressee and made cheers the situation up. And, the sentence “*Can you answer me this one?*” intended to get contact with the addressee and asked someone reason. Then, the sentence “*Do you see the joke?*” uttered by Stephen intended to get the reason from the person that he was joking to.

Stephen :  
l) *Good morning, everybody, said Stephen, smiling and kissing the lips of his fingers in adieu.* (p.169)
I’m glad he escaped, he had said with laugh but surely that’s not the strange thing that happened you? (p.176)

Utterances Good morning, everybody, said Stephen, smiling and kissing the lips of his fingers in adieu, uttered by Stephen. This sentence shows that he just served a small talk with person that he talking to. He used a daily conversation by greeting to other people. He wanted to open the channel of communication. Then, the sentence “I’m glad he escaped, he had said with laugh but surely that’s not the strange thing that happened you?”, performs to us that Stephen was glad to hear the man has escaped, in spite of it was not agreeable for him. He just served small talk even though that was contrary to the expectations.

This opening communication is different with the blogger communication that used in media. For maintaining phatic communication, the greeting used by blogger are: “Alright folks! I’m baaaaaaack”, “Howdy people! How have you all been?”. The goal is to revive contact and check if the communication channel still works.

**CONCLUSION**

After analyzing data, it can be concluded that there are seven kinds of language function formulated by Jackobson that were found in the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce. In this study, the writers only focused to examine the phatic function. This study finds 96 frequency of phatic function occur in the Novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce”. The purpose of utterances that were found in the phatic language namely, opening the channel of communication such as greeting, check the communication lines, asking the social reasons, maintaining the contact of communication, and showing farewell expression.

**REFERENCES**


