

ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING IN USING FORMAL AND INFORMAL EXPRESSION

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ABSTRACT

Language is not only a tool of communication, furthermore language is an identity which describes the user of the language. Geoffrey Leech assumes that people must use certain expression depend on the situation. Therefore, the current research aims to analyze students' understanding in using formal and informal expression. By conducting qualitative research then the researcher found that students' difficulties in understanding formal and informal expressions is that students are accustomed in using phrases in informal form which made them tricky to recognize whether an expression is formal or informal. He also found that majority students thought that formal expressions were harder rather than informal expression to be learnt. Those difficulties were influenced by students' basic skill of grammar, pronunciation and English vocabulary mastery.

Bahasa bukan hanya sebuah sarana berkomunikasi, lebih dari itu bahasa adalah suatu identitas yang menggambarkan penutur bahasa tersebut. Geoffrey Leech mengasumsikan bahwa orang-orang mesti menggunakan pernyataan tertentu yang sesuai dengan situasi dimana pernyataan tersebut diucapkan. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa pemahaman siswa dalam menggunakan pernyataan formal dan informal. Dengan melakukan penelitian kualitatif ditemukanlah bahwa kesulitan-kesulitan siswa dalam memahami pernyataan formal dan informal adalah bahwa siswa terbiasa dalam menggunakan frase dalam bentuk informal yang kemudian menjadikan mereka kesulitan untuk mengenali apakah suatu pernyataan formal atukah informal. Peneliti juga menemukan bahwa mayoritas siswa menganggap bahwa pernyataan formal lebih sulit untuk dipelajari daripada pernyataan informal. Kesulitan-kesulitan tersebut dipengaruhi oleh kemampuan dasar siswa pada tata bahasa, pengucapan, dan penguasaan kosakata Bahasa Inggris.

Keywords: Understanding, Using Formal and Informal Expression

A. Introduction

Language plays a very important role in human lives. It is a social phenomenon. One of the main goals of language is to communicate with people and to understand them. When someone speaks, he intends a specific purpose. He wants to convey a message through that language. A person uses his language to many different purposes for example, to express his feelings, to ask for help and to apologize.

According to Geoffrey Leech (1983), people use language in many different ways; some of these are the informational, the expressive, the directive, the emphatic and the aesthetic. We use language and that language is a part of society. Actually, any language varies according to the nature of the society, kind of people, and their attitudes. People use language according to their situation. It related to function of language as the social interaction. Therefore, to maintain the communicative among others, we have to know competence in using language in any situations.

Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols. From the explanation above we can know that the language is the sound produced in the form of speech-expressions or phrases of both planned and spontaneous in accordance with the language of the person itself such as English, there are many parts of English they are listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Speaking is the delivery of language through the mouth. To speak, people create sounds using many parts of body, including the lungs, vocal tract, vocal chords, tongue, teeth and lips. Speaking is probably the language skill that most language learners wish to perfect as soon as possible. It used to be the only language skill that was difficult to practice online it's mean that the people have to learn it in daily activity. This is no longer the case.

Rivers (1968) said that speaking is developed from the first context with the language. It means that in teaching speaking, the teacher should make the student understand what they learn. Therefore student's speaking ability is needed in teaching and learning process.

Speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information. Speaking requires that learners not only know how to produce specific points of language such as grammar, pronunciation, or vocabulary (linguistics competence), but also that people understand when, why, and n want ways to produce language (sociolinguistic competence).

Speaking is so much a part of daily life that we take it for granted. The average person produces tens of thousands of words a day, although some people-like auctioneers and politicians-may produce even more than that. So natural and integral is speaking that we forget how we once struggled to achieve this ability-until, that is, we have to learn how to do it all over again in a foreign language that we can produce by give expression.

The expression is a combination of words whose meanings are united and not interpreted by the meaning of the elements that make up it. In another sense, phrases are two or more words that a person uses in certain situations to define a thing. The phrase is made up of two compounds of two or more words. This combined word if there is no context attached to it has two possible meanings, namely the true meaning (denotation) and the meaning of not true (simile meaning or connotation). To find out whether the combination of words includes phrases or not, there must be a context for the accompanying sentence.

Formal and informal expression are common words that we heard, for the next stage the formal expression is a sentence or word that matches the rules, or according to the law of necessity, the big problem is how to different and tend to use it unconsciously.

Formal expression is used in for example, books, official documents, news reports, business letters or official speeches, formal expression used when people writing essays for school, cover letters to apply for jobs, or letters at works.

Informal English is used in every day conversation and in personal emails, in informal writing sentences are longer and more complex whereas in informal writing they are shorter and simpler.

To speak English well and casual, the students obviously have to try to speak it in the way the native speakers do. In order to be able to speak English better, it is important to learn all of skills in English and matter English phonetic as well, because it is very helpful to learn the language quickly and successfully.

Students' understanding in formal and informal English is very important to face the challenge of the world. Considering this fact, it is important to learn English for communication. In Indonesia English is learned as a foreign language. And it was learned from elementary school, senior high school up to university. Basically, English consists of four skills to teach. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Recently, speaking is very important for people interaction where people almost speak everywhere and every day through English.

B. Literature Review

Expression That Used in English

Expression is a matter that is often expressed in everyday conversation. For instance, we are in a bank, a hospital, an office, or asking for opinions, apologizing and in other circumstances. There are kinds of expression both formal and informal below.

FORMAL EXPRESSION	INFORMAL EXPRESSION
May I speak with John Smith?	Is John there?
One moment, please.	Hang on a sec.
Should you have any queries	If you've got any questions
We regret to inform you that ...	I'm sorry but ...
We regret to inform you that ...	I'm happy to say that
He withdrew the amount from an ATM.	He had to get some money out of a hole in the wall ...
Notwithstanding that the payment has been sent the bank fails to acknowledge it.	The bank can't find the payment you say you've made.
any natural person who, and any legal entity which ...	Anybody or any company.
We can assist in the resolution of this matter. Contact us on our toll-free number.	I can help you to solve this problem. Call me!

INFORMAL	FORMAL
Active Voice	Passive Voice
Phrasal Verbs	Latinate Verbs
Direct Language	Formulaic Language
Possible use of Slang	No use of Slang
Personal Form	Nominator

Little use of Conjunctions	Linking Words
Few Revitalized Sentences	Revitalized Sentences
Direct Style	Modal Usage
1 st Person Singular	1 st Person Plural

From several examples above, it can be concluded there are various kinds of expression in English. English expression is speaking in a certain condition. For example, when asking for opinions, then the expression used is asking for opinion or ask for opinions. Or when we will invite friends for hangout, then the expression used is inviting someone and many more types of expression in the English language both formal and informal.

Expression are meant to be said naturally and accompanied, if possible, by gestures, the teacher pronunciation should be clear, with the proper pace and rhythm to be understood. Expression has to be used in an actual context, not in contrived one. Based on this principle, both listening and speaking activities are part of a comprehensible system.

The expression is a combination of words whose meanings are united and not interpreted by the meaning of the elements that make up it. In another sense, phrases are two or more words that a person uses in certain situations to define a thing. The phrase is made up of two compounds of two or more words. This combined word if there is no context attached to it has two possible meanings, namely the true meaning (denotation) and the meaning of not true (simile meaning or connotation). To find out whether the combination of words includes phrases or not, there must be a context for the accompanying sentence.

According to Rivers, speaking is developed from the first context with the language. It means that in speaking, the speakers should make the other people understand what they learn. Therefore student's speaking ability is needed in teaching and learning process.

Formal and informal expression by differences in usage of grammar

Informal: May use contractions (can't, won't, shouldn't, etc.).

Formal: Avoid contractions (write out full words – cannot, will not, should not, etc.).

Informal: may use first, second, or third person.

Formal: Write in third person (except in business letters where first person may be used).

Informal: May address readers using second person pronouns (you, your, etc.).

Formal: Avoid addressing readers using second person pronouns (use one, one's, the reader, the reader's, etc.).

Informal: May use imperative voice (e.g. remember...)

Formal: Avoid imperative voice (use Please refer to...)

Informal: May use active voice (e.g. we have notice that...)

Formal: Use passive voice (e.g. it has been noticed that...)

Informal: May use short and simple sentences.

Formal: Longer and more complex sentences are preferred (short simple sentences reflects poorly on the writer)

C. Research Method

Research Design

This research applied qualitative research. In this research students' ability in using formal and informal expression at English Department in IAIN Sultan Amai Gorontalo was analyzed.

Subject of Research

The subject of this research consists of 20 students who understand the use of formal and informal expression. They were students of 4th and 6th semester at English Department of IAIN Sultan Amai Gorontalo.

Instrument of Research

Instrument in this study are test and interviews to ensure what difficulties encountered in speaking, and then the researcher also will use test and documentation it's mean so that researcher can easily to analyze well through recorded conversations conducted by researcher and subjects which is understanding the formal and informal expression. So, the instruments in this study are test, interview and documentation.

Technique of Data Collection

Data collection procedure is the most important step in this current research, because the main goal in research is to find data. Without knowing the techniques of data collection, the researchers will not get data that meets the established data standards. Afrizal (2016) claimed that in qualitative research, the researchers used data collection techniques that enabled them to get as many human words and deeds as possible.

- a. Observation, namely the form of observation and recording systematically to the symptoms that appear on the object of research. Nasution in Sugiono (1988) states that, observation is the basis of all science.

Observation techniques that will be done by researcher that is by observing directly the subject to be studied, because in this study the researcher must get the validity data and in accordance with happens in the field.

- b. Interviews are the process of obtaining information for the purpose of research by means of Questions and Answers between the client or the interviewer using a tool called interview guide (interview guide). Estebertg in Sugiono (2014) defined an interview as a meeting of two people to exchange information and ideas through Q & A, so that it can be constructed in a topic.

From the technique above, the researcher got an ease to collect the data than to share questioners to the subject, because in this study the object is the understanding in formal and informal expression by students. From this technique the researcher also knew more students' problem in speaking.

- c. Documentation, which is done to obtain direct data from the place of study, includes relevant books, important, activity reports, photographs or data relevant to the research. The data that the researcher collected was the data about the school, lecturers, students, curriculum, facilities and infrastructure education. Researcher used recorder in interview.

Technique of Analyzing the Data

Still in Sugiono, Bodgan (2014) states that data analysis is a maneuver process and systematically compile data obtained from interviews, field notes and other materials, so that it can be easily understood, and findings can be informed to others. Broadly speaking, Miles and Humberman share data analysis on qualitative research into three stages: data coding, data presentation, and conclusion / verification. Therefore, there are three activities on data analysis; data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

D. Findings and Discussions

Findings

The data in this research include the data of students' understanding in using formal and informal expression. There were 20 subject of the research, 16 students who already able to differentiate between formal and informal expression.

From the interview, researcher found that:

1. Students' understanding of formal expression as more polite sentence or phrase, addressed to older people or in formal situations whereas informal expression is a sentence used when relaxed, when with friends, in an informal situation or in daily life surrounded.

2. Formal expression is used when in school or in class, discussion, office, company, seminar. Whereas informal expression is used in the street, the market or in an informal environment, more to the daily conversation
3. Formal expressions are used when giving speeches, talking to teachers or lecturers or talking to older people, while informal expressions are when they are relaxed, with peers when they are at work, at home or on the street. More students have different answer.
4. Both formal and informal expressions are used depend on the situation and the place.
5. Students acquired formal and informal expression from watching English movie or listening to English song.

Discussion

Based on findings and explanation above, the researcher used student's worksheet and interview to analysis the data, the researcher used two instruments to collect the data, they are student's worksheet and interview. In student's worksheet the researcher observed students' understanding about formal and informal expression and then the researcher collect the data by interview.

Researcher found students' difficulties in understanding the use of formal and informal expressions such as lack of vocabulary mastery, grammar mastery and pronunciation. These difficulties commonly faced by majority student.

1. While speaking in English, students no longer notice the expressions either in formal or informal form.
2. Students have difficulty in determining the expression in the formal form because in the formal expression students should be more careful in choosing vocabulary in the formal situation.
3. The last factor is that the students are accustomed to using expression in informal form so that even in the formal situation, students will unconsciously keep using expression in informal form.

E. Conclusions

Researchers found that of the total sample students, there were 16 students who were able to meet the criteria of understanding formal and informal expressions based on student's worksheet. 4 other students are still not able to answer well or have not met the criteria to understand the formal and informal expression. After going through the interview process, the researcher found that all samples had understood formal and informal expressions. Based on the theories in the previous chapter, the real problem students experience in understanding formal and informal expressions is that students are very frequent and accustomed to use phrases in informal form making it difficult to define expressions in

formal sentences that are more complex than informal languages. While the biggest problem of students is still difficult in grammar, pronunciation and mastery of vocabulary is lacking.

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