

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

The sentences that humans use in daily communication contain a respective function. The function of language is not only appearing in written or formal sentences. But, the utterances used by humans in daily communication also contain functions. One of them is the function of language which aims to maintain friendly relations between people.

This function could be identified in forms of communication such as when people start a conversation. Not only that, people who greet others with word *hi* or *hello* or asking the condition of the interlocutors also included in the type of communication that contains this function. Functions in words or sentences like the above examples are categorized as a phatic language function.

Phatic function often found in daily conversation and used to open or start a conversation or show sympathy or empathy for the other person, Jacobson, (1960; as cited in Cook., 1989, p.26). People could observe this function in greetings and casual interaction. It could also be seen in the conversation between characters in the novel.

Conversation has become a significant way for expressing people feeling, sharing information or exchanging opinions. One of the literary works which created to entertain people is a novel. Novel could be said as representative of

human life where the situation, character, and setting of the conversation reflect to the real life of society.

Novel is an actual phenomenon which people could use to examine the meaning of an utterances and explore the function of someone speech. This could be seen from a conversation in a story about life which is served in the novel *The Girl with a Louding Voice* by *Abi Dare*. This research aims to identify the phatic function which occur in *The Girl with a Louding Voice* novel by *Abi Dare*

This research identified sentences such as chit chat which is commonly used by people in daily conversation. This kind of conversation is not only could be seen from direct events, but this could also be observed in conversations between characters in a novel. Besides observing the function of language, by reading a novel, people could also get any education and moral message which consist in a novel.

Understanding the meaning of the conversation between the characters and understanding the messages both expressed and implied in the novel should be done by people. This could help people to be able to notice and observe the meaning and function of the language contained in conversation between characters inside the novel. In a good novel there is language that is well structured so that the reader could understand the novel easily.

To give a description about phatic function, the writer took example from journal by Yusniati Sabata and Ibrahim (2018, p. 112) with the title *Phatic*

Function in the Novel “a Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce”

Stephen: (l) Good morning, everybody, said Stephen, smiling and kissing the lips of his fingers in adieu. (p. 169).

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.

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

Understanding the utterances like the above example could improve the ability and quality of language which people use to interact between others. Since language is a tool that people used to interact every day, distinguishing the different between the speech which used to talk to children or colleagues should be done by communicators. That is why people must really understand what kind of language they use when communicating.

When people do understand about the function of language, they use while communication is occurred. And also when the passage of someone’s speech is delivered perfectly to the hearer, it is not only going to avoid

misunderstanding between the communicators. It also could help one another to figure out about what is the purpose of each other's speech, the expression and other elements in the situation when the communication happened.

In communication people need to know and pay a lot of intention to the speaker or listener, the message, the signal and other elements or the environment around the communication. People need to understand about the relationship between society and language. So, while communication is occurred people know the reason behind why people speak differently in different social context.

People need to increase the knowledge about language. The following include understanding the function and recognizing the social context and environment to produce a good interaction. The study which identified the social functions of a language, and the relationship between language and society and the ways it is used to convey social meaning is described by Holmes (2013, p. 1) namely sociolinguistic.

Sociolinguistic take an important role in how people communicate every day. Sociolinguistic identifies the characteristics of various languages. Not only that, sociolinguistic also identifies the functional characteristics, and the characteristics of the speakers because that are constantly interacting and changing along with the passage of a communication in a community.

Sociolinguistic help people to comprehend the function of language in relation to build a good communication. Understanding sociolinguistic and the language function direct the listener to achieve the purpose of someone's

speech perfectly. So, when communication is happen there will be no conflict which triggered by misunderstanding.

Sociolinguistic become a part of linguistic study. The field of study which concerned with the nature of language and communication namely linguistic. Linguistics helps people understand the language they use to communicate. Linguistics helps to improve human language skills so that there is no negative impact on their social status or life.

The function of a language could also be learned by general people. Since language is not only for people who are studying English, but also every human use language as their tool for communication. When people understand about language inside out, it could help to build a better communication between other in the future.

There are several things about the importance of human understanding related of knowledge about the language that humans use in communicating. Especially about the function of language itself, one of which is to reduce the occurrence of communication barriers. There are several factors which cause communication is not going smoothly.

Some of them are due to the social and cultural environmental factors of a communicant. There are differences in the meaning of the words used by a communicant and how the attitude of a speaker in communicating. In this case the phatic function is useful to make communication more effective which is related to empathy, namely the ability of a speaker to put their selves in any kind of situation.

Based on the explanation above, the function of language is interested to be learned and analyze. One of those interesting function which the writer used to carry out this research is phatic function. This function is also important to consider by people because phatic function is also represent a strategy which is used by people to keep their communication goes well.

An utterance which contains sympathy, empathy and solidarity are reflected in several conversations in *The Girl with a Louding Voice* novel by *Abi Dare*. The phatic language function was chosen by the writer because the story and moral message which consist in this novel is relatable to the reality of woman's life in a society.

Also, the conversations that are arranged inside the novel are sufficient to describe human interactions in general so that readers understand it easily. That is why the writer used this novel as an object and use phatic language function as subject in this thesis entitled *Phatic Function of Language Used in a Conversation by the Main Characters in the Girl with a Louding Voice Novel by Abi Dare*.

B. Question and Scope Of The Research

1. Question of the Research

In this paper there will be questions about the problem from the data resources, how to analyze the language function from the resources. The writer tries to formulate the question as follows:

- a. What kinds of phatic function which consist in *The Girl with a Louding Voice Novel by Abi Dare?*
- b. Why the sentences uttered by the main characters in *The Girl with a Louding Voice by Abi Dare* are categorized as a phatic language function?

2. Scope of the Research

This analysis would be limited only on the phatic language function based on the Jacobson's theory. The focus of this thesis is the classification of the types of language function and the description about why those sentences which uttered by the character are categorized as a six language function by Roman Jacobson.

The writer limits the language function only on the conversation of the main characters that has been written in the novel, which called Adunni. Through this scope of the research the writer hope that this research will help the writer and also all of the readers to figure out the major problems and ideas properly.

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

Based on the problems which the writer mentions above, it leads to achieve the objective of this research in this study as follows:

- a. To classified the sentences that includes in the kind of phatic language function in the novel *The Girl with a Louding Voice* by Abi Dare.

- b. To find out the reason why those sentences in the novel *The Girl with a Louding Voice* by Abi Dare are categorized as a phatic language function.

2. Significances of the Research

The writer hopes that this paper will be useful both for the writer itself and the readers. Not only for literature students but also general people, and the author also wish that this paper will be used as a medium for further learning related to the same field especially about the function of language, specifically about the phatic language function.

Hopefully, this study gives theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, it could give the contribution to the English language studies in recognition the language function, the types of language function, and other issues related to language function. Practically, this research gives benefits to the readers and the writer.

It is mainly for people who learn the language, apply it and analyze it as well. To those people who are English learners, teachers or lectures, English community, readers, other writers, and the writer itself. For the writer, this study could give an impact in improving the writer's knowledge about the function of language.

D. Operational Definition

After reading several books and journals as the sources of the primary data, and understanding the passage of each books and journals as well, so the writer conclude some definition as the real existence of the title as follows:

1. Language Function

A bridge for communicating between people in daily life is a language. Language has many aspects, one of which is the function of language. Language function explain about the reason or the purpose of why someone saying something during a communication.

The aim of language function is to get meaningful communication including the use, purpose, and what the language does. In sociological function, language function often used to the role language plays in society. Language function is a subject which people could study about the reason behind people saying something in their communication.

2. Phatic Function

Phatic function is one of the language functions that could be found in daily interaction. Phatic function is useful for humans to establish a good communication. In everyday conversation, this function is usually used when humans are about to start a conversation with other people. This function also known as an everyday small talk.

The focus of the phatic function is not on the information or facts behind someone's words, but on how conversations between people are maintained properly in communicating without causing problems, such as uncomfortable tension which silence could occur due to the loss of interesting topics of discussion.

3. Sociolinguistic

The study which explain about the relationship between language and society, and analyze how people use language in different situation, culture of an environment while communication is occur namely sociolinguistic.

4. Linguistic

A field of study which concern about the language define as a linguistic science. This study focus on the discussion about language and all the features inside it.

5. Novel

Novel is one of the phenomena which related to everyday human life in the form of literary works. Novel contains stories and moral messages from a theme raised by the author which is conveyed to the readers in the form of conversations between characters using good and structured language. Besides, novel also has intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

E. Systematization of The Research

Systematization of the research means to present the research in well-edited composition. This paper consists of five chapters. Each chapter will be explained with a short narrative, concise and clear systematization. The systematization of this research is written systematically as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction explains about the background of the research, question and scopes of the research, objectives and significances of the research, operational definition, and systematization of the research.

Chapter II is Theoretical Description describes about sociolinguistic, language variation, language function, phatic function of language, communication, novel and the research of relevances.

Chapter III is Research Methodology enlightens about the methodology which used in this research, time and place of the research, kind of the research, procedure of the research, technique of the data collection, the technique of the data analysis and data sources.

Chapter IV represents the Analysis Data which shows about data description, the data analysis and the interpretation of the research findings.

Chapter V describes about Conclusion and Suggestion give the conclusion of the paper which relates to the suggestion significances of the research.



