

Speech Function Used in A little Princess of Frances Hodgson Burnett Novel

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Speech Function Used in *A little Princess* of Frances Hodgson Burnett Novel

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Abstract

The study was aimed to describe kinds of speech function that used by the main character in A Little Princess novel. It was found in some statements from Sara Crewe in this novel. The research design applied qualitative research in which used the theory from Janet Holmes to categorize the utterances derived from list of data found in A Little Princess novel into 8 kinds of speech function (expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, phatic, poetic, heuristic and commissive). All of the classified data was interpreted concern with description of situation. Each of them was analysed based on Holmes' theory. The result of this research showed that there found fifty Crewe's utterances contained only five speech functions terms: expressive, directive, referential, phatic and commissive. From the result of the data analysis, it showed that the most dominant kind of speech function that used by Sara Crewe is expressive function as much as twenty utterances. It is hoped that by understanding kinds of speech functions and the use of them can help us create good communication and relationship with others. People need to understand the meaning to get the point to give appropriate responds to the speakers. Moreover, for EFL students, it can be contributed as one of analysis in sociolinguistics learning so that they can apply them in their utterances or statements. Lastly, it is hoped that this study can enrich the research in linguistics field especially for the term of speech function.

Keywords: *Speech Functions, A Little Princess Novel*

INTRODUCTION

As social being people have some ways to show their feeling in communication. The interactions occur between addresser and addressee have purpose to deliver a message in the event called communication. Language is a system of communication between individuals and a social phenomenon. It is used by people to share ideas, to express the emotion, to inform fact, to influence others, to discuss and to describe something. People need to communicate with others by using utterances. The form of the utterance can be in a word, a phrase and a sentence. People use utterances with different way informal and informal situation because the form of utterance will influence its meaning and its function in social context. One utterance may have more than one meaning and different functions in social context. Understanding the function of the utterances is a

necessity to avoid miscomprehension between addresser and addressee in a conversation or speech.

Sociolinguistics has a relation between language and society. It focuses on how people use language with different contexts and variety and time of language usage in social life. People can modify their own way of using language depends on the situation. Deckert and Vikers (2011) stated that sociolinguistics is a field of study that looks at how people use language in their everyday life with a variety of life events and language experience. It can be indicated that people are really focusing on how language is used in social context when people interact with others on interpersonal level, and in larger group, cultural, national and international levels.

Sociolinguistics is a very broad field that can be used to describe many different ways of studying language (Mayerhoff, 2006:1). In any interaction, everyone can modify the way of they speak depending on who they are with the situation is. When they do this, they are drawing on their sociolinguistic knowledge in social concern. Furthermore, Herk (2012:6) states that “sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society, but that study can take very different forms depending on who is doing it and what they are interested in finding”. It focuses on place of language, language level, variety of language usage and how people use language in communication. Then, Wardaugh (2006:1) said, “When two or more people communicate with each other in speech, we can call the system of communication that they employ a code. In most cases that code will be something we may also want to call a language”. In communication, people use code as a system rules to change and give information, such as a letter, word, sound, gesture and image into another code (language) in any social interaction.

Speech is an expression of thought in spoken and written words. It has any various functions in using. In a speech, the addresser sets the topic on his/her mind then produce the speech from the utterances. Speech can help people to do lots of good activities in asking and giving information, experience and knowledge in social life. Someone who has a good skill in speech will have a good life also because through the speech he/she can get added value of capability

in him/herself. Thus, the functions of speech are the term in sociolinguistics which study about variety of language functions as speech functions study.

Speech functions are the terms which study about variety of utterances using and its function in speech. Studying about the functions of speech is important because it will be really helpful in making a good interaction between human in daily life. People need to understand the grammar and the meaning of each utterance by the addresser, so the message of the speech to the addressee can be expressed perfectly. Speech functions do not only occur in daily conversation in life but also in a literary work like a novel. There would be a pair of speech functions that visible in a single dialogue by the characters in any situation in a novel.

Afterward, according to Holmes (2013:283), speech functions are the terms which expressed in different contexts has repeatedly involved considerations of politeness. Choosing the appropriate linguistic form for directives to family, friends and foreigners involves taking account of the dimensions of solidarity (or social distance) and social status (or power). Moreover, Halliday (1994) in Arifuddin and Sofwan (2015:2) states that speech functions are the expressions which represented by the four of commodity exchange (statement, question, offer and command) and it can be broadly differentiated as either supporting or confronting. In every interaction such as dialogue there would be a pair of speech functions. People use it to convey information and express social relationship to others in any interaction in life.

Related to Holmes theory (2013: 275), speech function has eight kinds, those are:

1. Expressive Function

it is the sentences used by people to express personal feelings, thoughts, ideas and opinion by using different choice of words and intonation. People need to express their own personal feelings and ideas to make a good social relationship with others.

2. Directive Function

Directives are concerned with getting people to do things. It forces vary in strength. We can attempt to get people to sit down, for

instance by suggesting or inviting them to do so or by ordering or commanding them to sit down.

3. Referential function

It is the sentence that uses to provide information to others in a speech. For example: *at the third stroke it will be three o'clock precisely*. It is done through different form of speech. The aim of referential function is to convey information through different forms of speech from the speaker to the listener.

4. Metalinguistic function

It consists of comment on language itself, used to describe parts of language such as grammar or words that describe a language it self. For example: "Hegemony" is not a common word and I is personal pronoun.

5. Poetic Function

It focuses on aesthetic features of language and uses poetic features like rhyming words, alliteration and antithesis. For example, *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers*, a poem, an ear-catching and a rhyme.

6. Phatic Function

It expresses solidarity and empathy to others. For example, *Hi, Hello, How are you?*

7. Heuristic function

It is used to help children in language acquisition, like changing name of something to another word to make children are easy to tell it.

8. Commissives function

It is category to deal with promises threats, and with marriage views, bets, and also declarations of war. For example, if a daughter says to her mother *"I will clean my room, I promise"*. It is the type of promises threat. For further the truth of commissives utterance is known by addresser as the speaker who says that and is going to do it.

The phenomenon of speech function itself has become an interesting topic to be discussed, especially in a novel written by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

The novel uses simple English sentences and a regional dialect to make it becomes an interesting story to be investigated. Moreover, this novel has been published in many countries and has been adapted to be a movie for the same title. The main character of this novel is Sara Crewe. She is a kind, brave and smart little girl. Through the utterances of Sara Crewe, the researcher tries to identify speech functions used in social interaction.

METHODOLOGY

This study used descriptive qualitative research. As Kothari (2004:3) defined that qualitative research is important in the behavioral sciences in which the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behavior. Through such research we can analyze the various factors which motivate people to behave in a particular manner or which make people like or dislike a particular thing. It may be stated, however, that to apply qualitative research in practice is relatively a difficult job and therefore, while doing such research, one should seek guidance from experimental psychologist.

In this study, the researcher used two types of the research data. The researcher used a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett entitled *A little Princess* as source of primary data in this study. This novel tells the story of a wealthy young girl left at a boarding school in Victorian England eventually loses all her family fortune. The girl, Sara, must work at the school as a servant for the cruel Miss Minchin. Besides using this novel as primary data, it was also used secondary data from books, journals, articles, previous research and web information. In this research the researcher collected the data from the statements that used by Sara Crewe as the main character in this novel and analyzed the data based on Holmes' theory. According to Holmes (2013), there are 8 kinds of speech functions. Namely, Expressive function, directive function, referential function, metalinguistic function, phatic function, poetic function, heuristic and commissive function.

RESULTS

It was found the answer of the objective of this research using data finding as first step. The utterances that contain speech functions found and listed in the following table. The terms that categorized as speech functions used by Sara Crewe in *A Little princess* novel are:

Table 1. The Frequency of Speech Functions in A Little Princess Novel

<i>Type of speech function</i>	<i>Number of Clause</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Expressive Function	20	40 %
Directive Function	11	22 %
Referential Function	10	20 %
Phatic Function	8	16 %
Commissive Function	1	2 %
Total	50	100 %

This table showed the data that found on collecting data. In this novel, there were fifty Crewe's utterances which have been classified and identified to speech functions based on Holmes' (2013) theory. There are five kinds of speech function that found in the novel namely, expressive function, directive function, referential function, phatic function and commissive function. Furthermore, the discussion of each of them will be presented as follows:

Expressive Function

Holmes (2013:275) stated that "expressive utterances express the speaker's feeling". For example, in utterance *I'm feeling great today* and *I'm very glommy tonight*. Expressive function is the utterances used by people to express personal feelings, thoughts, ideas and opinions, with different choice words and intonation.

The first sentence is "*I don't like it, Papa*". In this case, Crewe as addressee used it to express her bad feeling about her new school in London. She said this to her father when they had arrived there. She did not like that school because everything in there was ugly and she did not like Miss Minchin at the first impression. This utterance was categorized as expressive function that used by Crewe because it used to show the personal feeling of the speaker to the listener

about dislike something in a situation. This utterance functioned to express Crewe's bad feeling to her father spontaneously.

"Oh, Papa! There is Emily! This statement indicates Crewe's happiness when she and her Papa found a doll that she looked for and her father was going to buy it for her. She called it Emily. She did not have any friend and she really wanted Emily to be her friend when she was left at school by her father. Crewe expressed her emotional feelings when she saw the doll for the first time directly. She looked happy and showed her feeling by using the statement.

Directive Function

Directives are concerned with getting people to do things. The speech which expresses directive force vary in strength. We can attempt to get people to sit down, for instance, by suggesting or inviting them to do so or by ordering or commanding them to sit down. *"Couldn't you go to that place with me, papa?".* This question displayed Crewe asked her Papa to stay with her in London because she did not want her Papa left her there alone and back to India. She never had been far away from her father before, so she really wanted her father to stay there with her. This utterance was categorized as directive that used by Crewe because it used to ask someone else to do something for her.

The following statement also interpreted as directives function. *"She is actually waiting there for us! Let us go in to her"*. The situation is Crewe used this statement to ask her father to enter a shop and bought her a doll that they were looking for. The statement above indicated that Crewe ask her father to do something by entering the shop.

Referential Function

Referential is statement that used to provide information to others in a speech, like as in the sentence *at the third stroke it will be three o'clock precisely.* It is done through different form of speech. The aim of this sentence is to convey information through different forms of speech from the speaker to the listener. *"She is a doll I haven't got yet. She is a doll papa is going to buy for me. We are going out together to find her. I have called her Emily"*. Crewe used this utterance as referential function to give information about Emily to Miss Minchin. Miss Minchin asked her about who Emily was, so Crewe explained it through this

utterance. Crewe said this utterance because Miss Minchin needed to know about Emily before she took Emily with her in that school. This utterance was classified as referential function because it used by the speaker in providing information to others. *"I can speak it because I have heard it all my life"*. Through this statement, Crewe explained to Ermengarde about why she can speak French. Ermengarde was so curious, so Crewe told her more about it. We can assumed that from the statement, Crewe as speaker provide information about how and why she could speak French to Ermengarde as listener.

Phatic Function

Phatic function is the utterances that express solidarity and empathy with others. It is one of the most common speech acts in everyday interaction, such as greetings, complements and gossip. For example, *Hi, How are you, lovely day isn't it!*. The phatic function is equally important form a sociolinguistics perspective. Phatic communication conveys an affective or social message rather than a referential one. *"How are you?"* For this utterance, it is utilized by Crewe when Ermengarde met her after holiday and they had not met for a long time. She asked this question to give a warm greeting to Ermengarde and start a good communication for their relationship at that time. The question used by the speaker in performing solidarity to the listener in an interaction which in phatic function it has a purpose to show solidarity.

Commissive Function

Commissive is category to deal with promises threats, and with marriage views, bets, and also declarations of war. People can use this utterance when promise to someone by doing something to make a deal with the listener. *"If you'll lend me these books, I'll read them and tell you everything that's in them afterward, and I'll tell it so that you will remember it, too"*. Based on the situation, Crewe used this utterance as commissive function. She said this to Ermengarde when she wanted to borrow Ermengarde's book. The book was about French Revolution and she really wanted to read that book and had looked for that book for a long time. Crewe really loved reading, so she did a promise threat to make Ermengarde lend her that book. It used by the speaker in doing promises threat to someone.

DISCUSSION

A little Princess novel contains speech functions terms which is described by Holmes (2013) theory. It was related to the result of the study, it was found fifty data about speech functions term that are used by Sara Crewe in *A Little Princess* novel. The detail number of each of them are twenty sentences for expressive function, eleven sentences for directive function, ten sentences for referential function, eight sentences for phatic function and the last is one sentence for commissive function. Based on the result, it can be said that expressive function is the most dominant kind of speech functions that used by Sara Crewe. Expressive is commonly used in daily conversation and also in all kinds of interaction such as talking in a certain group or organization. It is because expressive is functioned to express any feeling and emotions of people in each communication.

From the result of the data, it was found that the use of speech functions is various, it depends on the situation and how it used in any interaction. Through this study, language learners are able to learn more about linguistic knowledge. The English learners should learn about language using criticism first because this subject leads us to find kinds of speech functions and the use of them. Mastering the use of speech functions in daily interaction will help us to create good communication and relationship with others. People need to understand the meaning of each utterance from the speaker to get the point of a speech or conversation and give appropriate responds to the speaker. Applying linguistic theory in social interaction is really important. The students should have good skill in comprehending and responding any explanation or instruction from the teachers, lecturers, friends, family and others. In addition, students will have good skill in communication through sociolinguistics learning.

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