A PRAGMATIC STUDY OF SPEECH ACTS USED IN *SHORT MESSAGE SERVICE* (SMS) BY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS OF RIAU KEPULAUAN UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

The developing science and knowledge are followed by the advanced technology. Those significantly have contributed in communication by inventing cellular or mobile phone by performing written message. These become a phenomenon in society recently by communicating via *SMS*. These are a natural phenomenon of cellular user by sending *SMS* (Short Message Service). *SMS* normally is used by the teenager in sending message. In addition, *SMS* language can be categorized as a unique language, because the users do not use the standard language to write messages *(SMS)*. The data obtained from the English Students who have studied pragmatics.The most dominant use of type of directives while the functions are asking and requesting used more often used thn the other types. While the usage of the numbers and alphabets to change the letters based on the phones due to minimizing or shortening the words used.

Key words: Pragmatics, Speech Acts and *SMS*

1. Introduction

In modern era, language is known widely used to communicate in social life. Hence, language is an important tool that helps people to communicate among their own frineds in a society or community. Wardhaugh (1977; 3) states that a language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbol can be used by human being for communication. Hence, a language has some characteristics. It is a system, arbitrary, vocal, symbol, human, and communication. In communication, language allows people to say thing to each other and express their communicative needs. While Nababan (1993:1) adds that a langauge is like insitution in society. On the other hand, Moeliono (1992) explains that function of language based on communicative can be used to declare something.

Based those above, the main function of language is a tool of commuincation to reach amins and intention. Nowdays, people communicate not only orally but written. The advanced

technology significantly has contributed in communication by inventing cellular or mobile phone by performing written message.This beomes a phenomenon in society recently. Alwasliah (2005:69) explains there is a natural phenomenon of cellular user by sending *SMS* (Short Message Service). *SMS* normally is used by the teenager in sending message. This can be considered in term of economical view that sending *SMS* is much chepater than a call. This why the students are commonly used *SMS* in communication. While on the other hand, sending *SMS* is easier to remember a message than a call. Usually, it is coloured by *SMS* language. *SMS* language (also known as chat speak, texting language or talk) is the English language slang used in mobile phone *SMS*. Fatirosyidah (2004) sates that *SMS* is a new langauge style used by tolerating mistakes. So, SMS is a new style mostly used in celular or mobile phone by many mastakes tolerated by the users. Ningsih(2007) adds that *SMS* language can be categorized as a unique language, because the users do not be given the standard language to write messages.

Based on the phenomena above, The researcher focuses on the pragmatic analysis of the speech acts used by the English department students of the University of Riau Kepulauan.

2. Pragmatics

In this study is focused on the pragmatics and Speech acts. Therefore, the researcher will explain about difintion of Pragmatics and Speech Acts. Those will be explained more clearly as follows:

2.1 Difinition of Pragmatics

Pragmatic is a branch of the linguitic study. According to Leech (1983:xi) pragmatics can be stated as a study of a language used in certain time and condition. As quoted by Ningsih (2007) in Yule (1996: 3) gives some defenitions of pragmatics:

a. Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning

b. Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning

c. Pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated than is said

d. Pragmatics is the study of the expression of the relative distance

Completely, pragmatics is the study of the relationships between linguistic form and those forms. While Levinson (1983) emphazises the limits of Pragmatics as follows:

a. Pragmatics is the study of those principles that will account for why certain set of sentences are anomalous, or not possible utterances.

b. Pragmatics is the study of langauge functional perspective, that is, that it attempts to explain facets of linguistic structure by refrence to non-linguistic pressures and cuases.

Pragmatics is the study of the ability of language users to pair sentences with context in which they would be appropriate. Parker (1986;11) adds that pragmatics is distinct from grammar, which is the study of internal structure of language.

2.2 Difinition of Speech Acts

Every langauge use is commonly known as speech acts Baskaran (2005:106) which is the sum total of utterances in speech in specific contexts. John searle extended Austin's theory by including all sorts of utterances that are not only first person utterances but also third person utterances. therefoe Actions performed via utterances can be are generally called speechs act and, in English, are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, or request (Yule, 1996: 47). The utterance as "Are you crazy?" is the expression of surprise. Semantically, it is interogative type; but, pragmatically it is expressives type. The function is expressing surprise. Pragmatist Yule also notes the general types of general functions. According to Yule (1996: 53-54) in Ningsih (200:24), there are five types of general functions performed by speech acts: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commisives.

a. Declaratives

Ninggsih (2007) states that declarations are those kinds of speech acts those change the word via their utterances. The speaker changes the word via words. Such as in this illustration:

Priest: "I now pronounce your husband and wife"

This utterance explains a couple before is stated as a husband and a wife that is a single person. The Priest has an authority to the hearer. So, the speaker (the Priest) causes both couple become a husband and a wife.

b. Representatives

According to Holmes (2002;259) representatives are an utterance which provides information. So Representative are the kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not. The speaker makes words fit the word (of belief). It can be form as statement of fact, assertions, conclusions and descriptions. Therefore, we see as the following example below:

"At third stroke it will be three o'clock precisely"..

c. Expressives

According to Holmes (2002:259) epressive is an utterance expresses the Expressives the speaker's feeling. Thus, expressives are stating what the speaker feels. In using an expressive, the speaker makes word fit the word (of feeling). It can be statements of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow. They are about the speaker's experience. As illustrated in:

"I am feeling great today!"

The speaker feel pleasure to someone about something so that the speaker feels great today.

d. Directives

Directives are kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. According to Holmes (2002:259) is an utterances attempt to get someone to do something. Therefore, directives express what the speakers wants. The speakers attemps to make requests, suggestions that can be positive or negative. Like illustrated in:

"clear the table"

It means that the speakers wants somebody clear the table.

e. Commisives

Ningsih (2007) atates that commisives are kinds of speech acts that speaker use to commit themselves to some future action. The speakers make the word fit words, the speakers intends the situation. It can be a commit, a promise, a threat, a refusal, and a pledge, as shown in this illustration:

"I'll be back"

"It will not happen"

The first illustration means that the speaker commits that the speakers will back. And, the next illustration means that the speaker makes sure that something will not happen.

3. Methodology

This study can be calssified as is descriptive qualitative research. According to Cresswel (2003: 178) qualitative research inquiry employs different knowledge claims, strategies of inquiry, and methods of data collection and analysis. Using the qualitative data the researcher uses *SMS* language function based on the speech acts theory. The researcher obtained the data from respondents who have already studied about pragmatics, especially speech acts. Arikunto (1998:101) states that if the population more than 100 should be taken 10-15% sample from the whole population. Therefore, the researcher took randomly 15 English Departement students of the population because of the homogenous

population. The reasearcher then asked the respondents to write *sms*. After collecting the data, the researcher classified the data based on the types and the fucntions of *sms* and the same data displayed once.

4. Analysis

the data can be analyzed, based on the speech acts used in *SMS's* fucntion of the language. The *sms* language use concerns with calssification speech act theory. Therefore, the function of language of *SMS* language can be categorized into five functions that based on that speech acts Theory. The researcher follows (Ningsih: 2007) how to analysis. Those can be seen more clearly as the following table.

No.	Types	Functions	Utterances
1.	Declaratives	1. Declaring	I,m ok..
		2. Dedicating	"this book 4 u"
2.	Directives	1. Advising	"be careful"
		2. Asking	Do u go?
			Do u lov me?
			how is ur condition?
		3. Warning	Don't call this time!
		4. Requesting	"I want u 2 call me "cyg"
			"may I lop u?
			"gv ur lv 4 me"
		5. Commanding	"let's do it"
			"get up"
3.	Expressives	1. Pleasuring	"nice 2 c u"

		2. Congratulating	"happy b'day",
		3. Thanking	"Thks 4 ur coming"
		4. Greeting	"hw r u"
			"morning, sir?"
		5. Yearning	"g' nite"
			"miss u, bye",
4.	Representatives	1. Stating	"no body's perfect"
5.	Commisives	1. Promising	"I'll be there 4 u"
			"I'll invite u"
		2. Commiting	"c u 2morrow"
		3. Threat	"I'll punish u"

5. Conclusion*

The researcher will conclude the analysis of the language use in *sms* based on the speech acts of language use and the frequency of the use of *sms*. Related to the character of this SMS language viewed from speech acts. The most dominant use of type of directives while the functions are asking and requesting used more often used thn the other types. These show that the users use *sms* to ask and to request something than other aims. While the usage of the numbers and alphabets to change the letters based on the phones due to minimize or shorten the words.

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