

Expressive Speech Acts of Women's Communication on Facebook

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Abstract

Women communication is always interesting to discuss. Facebook as a media of communication is the most famous social media used by the women. In early 2012 the user of Facebook in Indonesia is 40.6 % women. It can be imagined that women communication on Facebook has complexity. This study covers expressive speech acts among adult women in Facebook. It is a qualitative study. The subjects were adult women at age of 25-35 years. The purposes of the research are: (1) to describe the expressive speech acts used by the adult women when communicating in Facebook, (2) to identify the function of expressive speech acts used by the adult women in Facebook. The data were collected through observation, interview, and documentation. The primary data are the utterances of the adult women when updating status and commenting on Facebook. The design of this study is content analysis. The data were analyzed by Simak, Libat, Cakap instrument. The data were read and analyzed to describe the expressive speech act based on Kreidler's theory. Then they were identified as the function of the utterances. To dig more information the researcher participated in Facebook activities such as commenting and giving the emoticon. Moreover, the interview was also conducted to achieve the goal of the research. Credibility test was done through extended observation and member checks. It is found that 6.88 % utterances are in the form of expressive speech acts. The function of expressive speech act indicates thanking, apologizing, blaming, praising, and wailing.

Keywords: expressive speech acts; Facebook; women communication

1. Introduction

Facebook is one of the most widely accessed social media in Indonesia. One interesting thing about the Facebook phenomenon is that most of the users are women. Pew Research Center states that women use social networking a lot, and the social networking they use most is Facebook. The latest data released by Facebook until the end of January 2012 informed that 40.6% of the total 43 million Facebook users in Indonesia in early 2012 are women.

Facebook offers a variety of things that are very interesting. First, Facebook is the largest social networking site in the world today. Second, the Facebook view is simpler than other social networking sites, but the menu is more complete and easy to understand so as to facilitate the Facebook users (Facebookers) who are still beginners (newbie) to use it. Facebook view lets users know friends who are online, so they can chat easily. Third, Facebook provides a fuller language translation service. Fourth, Facebook displays information about products, job vacancies, news, entertainment, games which are more complete. These reasons make women more open in communicating their idea, emotion and feeling.

Women use social media as a means of showing their existence. Abraham Maslow (1943, 1970) stated that human nature requires self-esteem, self-respect, and respect from others. Women's characteristics that are inherent as God's creatures do not like to maintain conflict, prioritize brotherhood, love the beauty so they want to look attractive and admiring in order to get a broad space on Facebook as their social networking. Through Facebook they gain the confidence, freedom, strength that are parts of self-respect and fame, domination, attention, respect, acceptance and appreciation that are parts of the rewards from others. The language they use has an interesting characteristic. The development of social, cultural, and technological life poses various possibilities that occur in their language. One of the interesting things is the form of how they express their feeling in social networking.

Pragmatics is subfield of linguistics that studies speaker meaning. Through Pragmatics the women's language in expressing feelings can be learn. Speech act was introduced by J. L.

Austin, a professor at Harvard University, in 1956. The theory was derived from the course material then recorded by J. O. Urmson (1965) with the title *How to Do Thing with Word*, but it came to be well known in linguistic studies after Searle (1969) published a book entitled *Speech Act and Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Searle classifies illocutionary act into five. They are assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. One of the types of speech acts that most widely studied is directive speech act (Ilka Flöck, 2011).

Expressive speech act is a part of the act of illocutionary acts. It is intended by the speaker to make the utterance meaningful as an evaluation of what is mentioned in the speech and has several functions in it. Expressive utterances have several functions composed of criticizing, complaining, blaming, congratulating, thanking, flatting and apologizing.

Observing the various developments, especially the development in the field of communication technology, then Pragmatics as a science that examines the meaning of speech has a big role in exploring the phenomenon of language that appears in the communication of women in the main social networking of Facebook.

2. Method

This research is qualitative. Subjects were women aged 25-50 years. The data were obtained through observation and documentation. Design used was content analysis. The collected data were analyzed and sorted by the type of speech act. In analyzing the data, they must be connected to the context first. Then, the data were classified into the type of expressive speech act. To get the maximum results in exploring phenomena that occur in female conversation, the researcher did not only see and understand the meaning, but rather try to explore and identify an event that appears. Credibility test was conducted through extending observation and member check extension.

3. Results and Discussion

The analysis of speech act that is done earlier find a result. There are six kinds of speech acts found, namely phatic, assertive, directive, verdictive, expressive, and commissive.

Table 1: Kinds of Speech Act

Phatic	Assertive	Directive	Verdictive	Expressive	Commissive
32,0%	30, 7 %	19, 6 %	16, 5 %	30, 7 %	7, 4 %

3.1 Thanking

Thanking is the activity to express gratitude. This data show that P1 expresses her happiness because her son is accepted in Jember University. P1 is a housewife who works as a beauty consultant at Avion beauty product company. She has Undergraduate education. Her Age is 49. The data below show the utterance that indicate the expressive speech acts.

- P1 : ALHAMDULILLAH, Ogan diterima di fak. Hukum....
P2 : Selamat ya Ogan...jadi ahli hukum....salam
P1 : Mbak Rossy, thanks a lot...
P3 : Selamat ya,...ikuti jejak pakde bowo ma mas guntur

The word Alhamdulillah is an expression to thank to Allah. She seems happy because her son is successful in reaching his dream to be Jember University student.

3.2 Apologizing

Apologizing is asking forgiveness to someone for having done something that has caused problems or unhappiness. The data bellow shows the expression of the speaker when she feels regret.

- P1 : Bianglala, maafkan aku tak mampu mengartikan aneka warnamu kini
P2 : Met pgi ce,,,cece koq bianglala ciihhhhh hehe..
P1 : @Amoy:...lhow bianglala kan punya warna2 nan indah tuh, hiiikkkz , beb...
P2 : Oo...iyak y pelangi ya ce....warna warni hehehe...

P1 is updating her status, "*Bianglala, maafkan aku tak mampu mengartikan aneka warnamu kini*". The utterance shows that P1 said an apology. It is a kind of expressive speech acts.

3.1.3 Blaming

Blaming is the act of censuring, holding responsible, making negative statements about an individual or group that the actions are socially or morally irresponsible.

- P1 : ".....,rumah ngontrak, sm tetangga g mau nyapa....eee berani2nya ngundang sunatan, dah gitu ngasih undangannya g sopan....enaknya org kaya' gitu diapainya?"
- P2 : Dijewer aja neng... hehehe piye kbre non berapa puluh thn ya gak ketemu. Padahal dulu kyk gak terpisahkan
- P3 : Di diamin alias disabari aja nikklu.... kt marah berarti kt gak berbeda dgnnya....
- P1 : Dijewer lak kudu marani wonge, yen digebyur banyu ae piye?? Alhamdulillah apik ..lhaiyo, piye to kok dadi ra tau ketemu... ayo kapan ketemuan

P1 updates her status by expressing her emotion for her uncomfortable situation. Her neighbor's attitudes is not good. Her expression, "..., *rumah ngontrak, sm tetangga g mau nyapa...eee berani2nya ngundang sunatan, dah gitu ngasih undangannya g sopan....enaknya org kaya' gitu diapain ya?*" shows her negative statement toward her neighbor's attitude.

3.1.4 Praising

Praise is the act of expressing approval or admiration of; commend; extol.

P1	:	Alhamdulillah, selesai pd wktunya, modalnya hanyalah kesabaran
P2	:	Aamiin Allahummaa amiin....
P1	:	"@Evie...thanks a lot mbakAyu..."
P3	:	Amin, ikut seneng mbak cantik, met malam mbak...

The data above show that P3 feels happy knowing the happiness of P1. P1 expresses her feeling because she has finished her doctoral study. P3's utterance, "*Amin, ikut seneng mbak cantik, met malam mbak...*" indicates her strong feeling of happy in her friend's success. Her utterance is the act of admiring someone.

3.1.5 Wailing

Wailing is the act of uttering a prolonged, inarticulate, and mournful cry, usually in high-pitch or clear-sounding, as in grief or suffering; to wail with pain.

- P1 : Baru hujan sebentar dah banjir...jakartaaa ohh jakartaaa..kasian deh lu
- P2 : Ca...ca bias aja lo...hehehhe
- P1 : Emang iye bu, td lewat kebon jeruk dah banjir pdhal ujan nya sebentar... jd ingat tanggal 2-2-02 amit2 deh

P1 expresses her feeling for the condition of Jakarta. She seems suffered with the condition of Jakarta in rainy seasons. It is a kind of expressive speech acts.

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