A STUDY OF MEANING AND MORAL VALUE OF ENGLISH PROVERBS: THE WEATHER PROVERBS



A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University in Partial Fulfillment to Obtain a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature Study Program

 \mathbf{BY}

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On Thursday, 28th April 2022, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by EVI HN (F041181318) entitled A STUDY OF MEANING AND MORAL VALUE OF ENGLISH PROVERBS: THE WEATHER PROVERBS. Submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree at English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotationss and references.

Makassar, 29th April 2022

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ABSTRAK

EVI HN. 2022. Sebuah Studi tentang Makna dan Nilai Moral dari Peribahasa Inggris: Peribahasa Cuaca (dibimbing oleh **Husain Hasyim** dan **Ainun Fatimah**)

Tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu untuk menjelaskan makna dari 30 peribahasa cuaca dalam e-book yang ditentukan, dan untuk menjelaskan nilai moral dari tiap-tiap peribahasa tersebut.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif atau deskriptif untuk menganalisis dan menjelaskan makna berdasarkan teory Leech serta nilai moral dari tiap peribahasa. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah peribahasa Inggris tentang cuaca dari tiga buku elektronik yang berjudul The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, Concise Dictionary of Proverbs, dan The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs. Data dikumpulkan dengan mengambil jenis peribahasa tentang cuaca saja hingga penulis menemukan 30 peribahasa dari keseluruhan peribahasa dalam tiga buku elektronik yang telah ditentukan.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada lima dari tujuh jenis makna berdasarkan teori Leech yang ditemukan, yaitu makna konseptual, konotatif, sosial, afektif dan tematik. Jenis makna yang memiliki jumlah kemunculan tertinggi adalah makna konotatif, dengan kemunculan 14 kali. Kemudian, makna konseptual muncul 9 kali, makna sosial 3 kali, serta kemunculan terendah adalah makna reflektif dan makna tematik yang muncul masing-masing 2 kali. Selanjutnya, untuk analisis nilai moral, peneliti menemukan lima jenis moral, yaitu nilai individual, edukasi, religius, budaya, dan sosial. Jumlah kemunculan tertinggi adalah nilai edukasi yang muncul sebanyak 12 kali. Nilai individual yaitu 9 kali, religius 4 kali, sosial 3 kali, serta yang terendah adalah nilai budaya dengan kemunculan 2 kali.

Kata kunci: Peribahasa cuaca, makna, jenis makna, nilai moral

ABSTRACT

EVI HN. 2022. A Study of Meaning and Moral Value of English Proverbs: The Weather Proverbs (supervised by **Husain Hasyim** and **Ainun Fatimah**).

The research aims are (1) to explain the meanings of 30 weather proverbs in selected ebooks, and (2) to explain the moral values of each proverb.

This research used a qualitative approach or descriptive methods to analyze or describe the meaning according to Leech theory and moral value of each proverb. The data were English proverb, mainly weather proverb from three selected e-books entitled The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, Concise Dictionary of Proverbs, and The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs. They were collected by choosing only the weather proverb until the researcher found 30 proverb from overall proverb contained in three chosen e-books.

The results of data analysis show that there are five out of seven kinds of meanings based on Leech's theory that the researcher found, namely conceptual, connotative, social, affective, and thematic meaning. The type of meaning that has the highest number of appearances is the connotative meaning, which has 14 times appearance. Then, the conceptual meaning is 9 times, social meaning was 3, and the lowest appearance is the reflected and thematic meaning, which appears 2 time each. As for the moral values analysis, the researcher found five types of them, namely individual, educational, religious, cultural, and social morals. The highest number of appearances is educational morals, which appear 12 times. Followed by Individual morals, which has 9 times, religious morals are 4, social moral are 3, while the lowest is the cultural morals with 2 times appearance.

Keywords: Weather proverbs, meaning, types of meaning, moral value

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Language is known to be a tool of communication between people and a tool for the exchange of information. The expressive and social functions are two functions that are inseparably linked with language. This is why these functions have developed different forms of language use, one of which is the use of proverbs. Proverbs are used to express a thing in conversation, and this is related to the social function of language. A proverb has become one of the artifacts of the language that can highlight the qualities, or the cultural characteristics of the people who use it.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, a proverb is a well-known phrase or phrase that gives advice or says something that is generally true. In the book, The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, a proverb is a traditional saying that offers advice or represents the morality of common sense, which is short and to the point (Speake, 2007: 14). A proverb is also said as a general short saying that expresses a general truth about life. Proverbs give advice, make an observation, or present teaching concisely and memorably (Manser, 2007: 9).

Of the meanings explained above, the researcher adopting the definition proposed by Manser. It can also be concluded that a proverb is a concise phrase that mostly includes a figurative word and has a broader meaning. Proverbs are commonly used as guidelines, advice, guidance, and virtue that then set us a good example for ourlives. In proverbs, things like animals, behavior, fruits, vegetation, or even weather become the subject of the proverb. This proverb must have a

meaning related to its subject, or simply as a symbol or metaphor. A proverb reveals a multitude of things by its meaning. In addition, through the proverbs, the culture or customs of the nation can be exposed.

Concerning this explanation, the researcher takes three books as sources for analysis: the first is entitled The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, the second is Concise Dictionary of Proverbs, and the last is The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs. The researcher decided to select a total of 30 proverbs about weather from these books. Weather proverbs are often used as a model for predicting future weather. However, there is an important lesson behind the meaning it contains. So in this study, the researcher set out to explain the type of meaning of 30 English proverbs about weather and then to discover their moral value.

As a result, the researcher found that these proverbs contain much good advice and suggestions on how to live our lives according to their meanings. The moral values were also inspiring. Additionally, there are two reasons the researcher is conducting this research. First, proverbs are unique and fascinating subjects to study as they have many values that can serve as a guide. Second, to introduce and inform the younger generations about English proverbs.

B. Identification of Problem

When reading a book or article, sometimes one finds some proverbs that not everyone can understand, whereas there are many value that one can learn from proverb. Hence, the researcher is inspired to explain the meaning of 30 weather proverbs and to look for the moral values they contain. The researcher selects a proverb about the weather, as the study focusing on this proverb topic is still limited.

C. Scope of Study

Based on the previous explanation, the researcher limits the discussion to English proverbs, mainly the weather proverb. This study discusses the meaning of 30 English proverbs and determines the moral value of each proverb.

D. Research Questions

The study intends to analyze the meaning of the English proverb, based on the following questions:

- 1. What are the meanings of 30 weather proverbs in selected ebooks?
- 2. What are the moral values of each proverb?

E. Objective of Study

Based on previous questions, this study has two aims, they are:

- 1. To explain the meanings of 30 weather proverbs in selected ebooks.
- 2. To determine the moral values of each proverb.

F. Significance of Study

The researcher expects the finding of this study to be useful, both theoretically and practically, as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

This study could contribute to the development of linguistic and semantic disciplines by demonstrating the use of language, namely proverbs and the types of meanings contained in proverbs. Besides that, the readers can understand the culture and a scientific explanation of the weather in the weather proverbs.

2. Practical Significance

This study can be used as a reference for future research on the meanings of proverbs. Then the readers can learn more about the type of meaning of 30 English proverbs about weather and know their moral value. This thesis can also be used as a reference for researchers who want to examine the same focus as the researcher.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Previous Study

In this chapter, the researcher discloses some of the previous research that was conducted in connection with this study.

The first research was conducted by Hassan Khalaf Amer Hummadi and Asst. Prof Dr. Muhammad Barjes Salman (Journal of Language Studies, 2018). They conducted research entitled "A Cultural and Sociolinguistic Analysis of English and Iraqi Arabic Certain Animal Proverbs". The study relates to several dog proverbs to show how English and the Iraqi Arabs interpret and use animal proverbs. Among the results, it is noted that English and Iraqi Arabs have different attitudes. Their animal proverbs give the proverbs different connotations and in turn, affect how they interact with social factors. It has also been discovered that both cultures associate the frequent use of dog proverbs with the lower prestigious professions (e.g., farmer). Also, the English are more flexible than the Iraqi Arabs in dealing with animal sayings with socially distant participants.

The second is conducted by Lonasari Afandi (IKIP Budi Utomo Malang, 2018). She conducted a study entitled "An Analysis of Moral Values of The Rainbow Troops Novel by Andrea Hirata". This research aims to describe the moral values in the novel Rainbow Troops. The moral values found in the novel are individual morals (such as discipline), social morals (such as tolerance and mutual help), religious morals (such as religious education, faith, and ethics), cultural and educational morals.

The third research is also conducted by Abbas Lutfi, Ph.D. (College of Education, 2008). He conducted research entitled "Weather Proverbs: Outstanding Sociocultural Traits". This study attempts to reveal outstanding sociocultural features identifying certain types of sayings as proverbs of weather. The paper aims at introducing the most crucial socio-cultural features by which weather.

The last research has been conducted by Abbas Lutfi Hussein and Ekhlas Sattar Mohammed (International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, 2020). They conducted research entitled "Linguistic Analysis of English and Arabic Weather Proverbs". The purpose of this article is to examine the linguistic construction of 180 weather proverbs in English and Arabic (90 each) chosen to qualitatively identify their syntactic, semantic, and lexical properties. The results of the study show that both data use almost the same linguistic resources to perform functions associated with weather state, except for some features related to language uniqueness.

Based on the previous study above, the researcher found that her research is much more different from those previous researchers. In this study, the researcher focuses on the proverbs of weather and their moral value. Besides exploring the meanings implied in them and the moral values, the researcher also tries to inform the scientific reasons of some weather that can help the reader to understand the meaning of the proverbs according to the weather phenomenon.

B. Theoretical Framework

This part discusses the theories related to this study.

1. Semantic

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that generally deals with how meaning is conveyed in a language made up of various unit structures such as sentences, phrases, words, morphemes, etc. According to Yule (1996: 4), semantics is the study of the relationships between linguistic forms and entities in the world, or how words relate to things.

The relationships between verbal descriptions and things in the world as accurate (true) or not, regardless of who produces that description, is what semantic analysis tries to determine. It leads to a new direction in how humans experience the world and how they understand each other. Moreover, the differentiation between literal meaning and figurative meaning is one of the biggest issues in semantics. The concepts at face value take in literal meaning; where figurative meaning uses similes and metaphors to represent meaning and convey greater emotion.

Therefore, semantics is the study of meaning. Leech (1983: 9) mentioned that there are two types of meaning: conceptual meaning and associative meaning. Associative meaning (including connotative meaning, affective meaning, social meaning, reflected meaning, and collocative meaning) and conceptual meaning (included thematic meaning).

2. Proverb

Proverbs are conventional sayings that give concise advice or represent a moral. In other words, a proverb is a concise expression that usually contains a broader meaning. Proverbs are typically used as guidelines for life, counsel, or guidance that later set a good example for us to live our lives. It is believed that almost every nation in the world has proverbs that reflect the thoughts and character of the country.

In general, proverbs reflect the vision the community has of the world around them. Since proverbs are the product of society's thoughts and experiences, there are likely similarities or differences in each country. Proverbs show a distinctive mindset, way of judging, and developing a way of life (such as spirit and character, manners, beliefs, and superstitions).

Proverbs are divided into three types. The first type is expressing general truths, for example, Absence makes the heart grow fonder. The second type, using observation from everyday experience to create a general point, for example, *don't* put all your eggs in one basket. The third type involves sayings of certain areas of traditional wisdom and folklore.

Sometimes it is said that a proverb has gone out of style or has become a cliché. However, in the Middle Ages and 17th centuries, proverbs often had the status of universal truths and were used to establish or refuting arguments. They also represent lifestyles, geography, history, and traditions in a community.

3. Meaning

Words, phrases, or sentences often contain meaning and are used to convey a specific purpose or message. The meaning of words, phrases, or sentences can reflect and make a very subjective worldview. This is a consequence of the fact that the meaning of the word is the historical product of its usefulness as a medium for the communicative intent of society. Meaning is typically viewed as a representation, but the essence of language is decision-making (Enfield, 2015: 1). Therefore, many linguists claim that it is challenging to discover the true meaning of a word.

There are seven types of meaning created by Leech (1983: 9); such as conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, affective meaning, social meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning. Leech then divides all meanings into two sub-categories, namely associative meaning (including connotative meaning, affective meaning, social meaning, reflected meaning, and collocative meaning) and conceptual meaning (including thematic meaning). These meanings are explained below:

a. Conceptual meaning

Conceptual meaning or occasionally called 'denotative or cognitive' meaning is broadly assumed to be the imperative issue in linguistic communication (Leech, 1983: 9). Conceptual semantics intends to provide, for any given interpretation of a sentence, a configuration of abstract symbols, which is its 'semantic representation'. In other words, the conceptual semantics of intending or a dictionary meaning. For example, the word "Rose" is a plant with a trunk

that has thorns, usually has red, white, yellow, and any other colors.

b. Connotative meaning

Leech (1983: 12) suggested that the connotative meaning refers to the communicative value of an expression, as by what it is referring to, beyond its purely conceptual content. For example, the connotative meaning of the word night is evil. The word rose means freshness, beauty, love, and much more. The connotative meaning is more than a dictionary meaning that includes properties of reverence based on personal, social, or community points of view. This meaning is used to convey the real experience associated with the phrase when someone has heard or used it. However, this meaning is relatively unstable due to age, society, and personal experience.

c. Social meaning

Leech (1983: 14) emphasizes that social meaning includes all social circumstances related to the use of a language. Social meaning is the use of language in communication that relates to the speaker's social circumstances. Since dialects arise from different backgrounds, speaking style or choice of words and tone of voice will be affected. Social meaning mainly encompasses the stylistic meaning of an utterance or the formality of the expression. For example, the word mother is formal while mom is colloquial. Hence, through the use of languages such as greeting, apology, blessing, or condolences, social meaning is imparted.

d. Affective meaning

According to Leech (1983: 15), affecting meaning has to do with how a language can reflect the speaker's personal feelings, what attitudes towards a listener or something they are talking about may be contained. Factors such as intonation and tone of voice are important here. Affective meaning is largely a parasitic category in the sense of expression of emotion. Emotional expression through style occurs, for example, when using an impolite tone to express displeasure or a casual tone to express friendliness. Elements of language (mainly interjections like Aha! and Yippee!) Whose main function is to express emotions (1983: 15-16). For example:

You are a horrible person and I hate you. (Direct message)

Boyfriend: "What's wrong?"

Girlfriend (in a nervous tone): "Nothing" (Indirect message)

e. Reflected meaning

As Leech (1983: 16) notes, the reflected meaning can be explained as that which occurs in situations with multiple conceptual meanings. Also, when one sense of the word affects our response to another sense, for example, the expressions *The Comforter* and *The Holy Ghost*. Both terms are conditioned by the everyday non-religious meanings of comfort and ghost. *The Comforter* sounds warm and 'comforting' (although in the religious context, it means 'the strengthening or supporter'), while *The Holy Ghost* sounds awesome. In another sense, it is "rub off" only if it has a dominant suggestive power, either by relative frequency and familiarity (as in the case of *The Holy Ghost*) or

through the strength of its associations.

f. Collocative meaning

According to Leech (1983: 17), collocative meaning consists of the associations a word receives from the meanings of the words that tend to appear around its environment. Collocative meaning is the meaning of a word produced in a specific context. As a result of the conventionality of collocation, a word will create different meanings when collocated with different words. For example, heavy news (a piece of sad news), fast color (the color that does not fade), etc. Leech used the examples of the adjectives "pretty" and "handsome" to clarify this definition. The word "pretty" can be used with words like girl, boy, woman, flower, color. Meanwhile, the word "handsome" appears with words like boy, man, car, vessel, overcoat, and typewriters.

g. Thematic meaning

The meaning communicated in such a way that a speaker or researcher constructs the message in terms of the order, focus, and emphasis is called thematic meaning (Leech, 1983: 19). Therefore, active is different from passive, although its conceptual meaning is the same. Leech shows that there are several examples of such occurrences, such as the ones where the active and passive sentence constructions are confronted, for example:

Mr. X donated the first prize. (Active)

The first prize was donated by Mr. X. (Passive)

The first sentence shows the focus on Mr. X that answers the "who" question, while the second sentence focuses on The first prize that answers the "what"

question. The conceptual meaning remains the same, but the focus is changed.

4. Moral Value

To find out what moral value is, we need to understand the meaning of the two words: moral and value. Morals are related to the standards of good or bad behavior that one believes in, rather than to laws, such as fairness, honesty, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary). While value is how valuable something is. In this sense, moral value can be described as a value that has been believed or recognized and that is crucial to us when it comes to determining whether something is good or bad in society.

Values, valued character traits, and moral virtues are terms that seem to refer to the same things most of the time, and it is generally difficult for us to perceive them all. Actions that are relevant in this spectrum, while the values relate to personal and social identity, to the ethical and moral sphere; are also related to ideas, actions, people, and groups.

In society, ethical or moral values are important. What is socially acceptable, good or bad, is defined by moral values. They play a role in interacting with the world in general, or in making decisions that have consequences for others. Following are common types of moral value, such as:

a. Bravery

According to the U-Dictionary, bravery is a quality of spirit that enables you to face danger or pain without showing fear. In Webster Dictionary, bravery means being able to meet danger or endure pain or hardship without giving in to fear. Bravery arises from or indicates, mastery of fear and intelligent use of the ability. So, it is concluded that bravery is a state in which anything can be

tackled without fear of the things that are confronted with it.

b. Honesty

In the Cambridge Dictionary, honesty refers to the quality of being honest. Honesty is a worthy character; Fairness and openness of behavior or sticking to the facts.

c. Loyalty

In the Cambridge Dictionary, it is found that loyalty is the quality of being loyal. Also in the Webster Dictionary, loyal is called faithful and devoted to a private person; faithful or persistent in adherence to a cause, idea, practice, or custom.

d. Peace-Loving

Peace is harmony in human or personal relationships. An intellectual or religious circumstance characterized through liberation from disturbance or oppressive minds or emotions (Webster Dictionary). The word love comes from love, a lover section, or an attitude (Webster Dictionary). According to the Cambridge Dictionary, Peace-Loving enjoys peace and seeks to live and act in a way that will bring it.

e. Perseverance

According to the U-Dictionary, perseverance is an ongoing determination, the act of persisting; persist, or repeating the behavior. Also in the Webster Dictionary, perseverance is the condition or power of persevering, persistence in the pursuit of goals, or to carry out any project.

f. Sacrificing for Others

Sacrifice is the dropping or giving up of something as a punishment for a mistake or failure or neglect to suffer the loss (U-Dictionary). Sacrifice is something dedicated and provided to God or kind placed on an altar or otherwise provided in the form of religion, thanksgiving, atonement, or reconciliation (Webster Dictionary). The Cambridge Dictionary states that sacrificing for others means giving up something of value to help another person.

g. Self-Confidence

In the Cambridge Dictionary, self-confidence is the belief that you can do things well and that others respect you. Freedom from doubt; believe in yourself and your abilities (U-Dictionary). Another meaning found in the Webster dictionary is that self-confidence is confidence in one's strength or ability.

h. Sincerity

Sincere (of a person, feeling, or behavior) means no longer pretending or lying; honesty. (Cambridge Dictionary). Sincerity is the quality of being open and honest; not misleading or hypocritical, a serious and sincere feeling (U-Dictionary). In addition, Webster Dictionary stated that sincerity is the quality or condition of being sincere; an expression of sincere feelings.

i. Strong Belief

Strong is the ability to withstand stress or violence; have or demonstrate moral or intellectual strength, perseverance, or vitality (Webster Dictionary). Belief is the conviction of the truth of a statement or the reality of something based on an examination of the fundamentals to accept them as true or real (Webster Dictionary). It is concluded that strong belief means having a strong feeling of being certain of something and accepting it as fact or truth.