HASIL PENELITIAN

TRANSITIVITAS PADA SLOGAN IKLAN BERBAHASA INGGRIS: PENDEKATAN TATA BAHASA FUNGSIONAL (Transitivity in English Slogans: A Functional Grammar Analysis)

Ratnawati

PENULISAN KALIMAT PEMELAJAR BAHASA INDONESIA BAGI PENUTUR ASING: SUATU KAJIAN ANALISIS KESALAHAN DAN MANFAATNYA DALAM PENGEMBANGAN BAHAN AJAR (Writing Sentences of Learners of Bahasa Indonesia for Foreign Speakers: A Study of Error Analysis and its Usage in Materials Development)

Ratnawati

CORAK KEBAHASAAN DALAM SAstra BUGIS KLASIK (Language Style in Classical Buginese Literature)

Herianah

SINONIM KELAS KATA NOMINA BAHASA BUGIS (Noun Synonym in Buginese Language)

Syamsurijal dan Musayyedah

METAFORA DALAM BERITA PRODUK CINA PADA SURAT KABAR MEDIA INDONESIA DAN KOMPAS: ANALISIS WACANA KRITIS (Metaphors in the China’s News Products in Media Indonesia and Kompas Newspapers: Critical Discourse Analysis)

Winci Firdaus

KETIDAKSANTUNAN DALAM INTERAKSI ANTAR TOKOH NOVEL KAWIN KONTRAK KARYA SYARIFAH ALIYYAH (Impoliteness in Character Interaction of “Kawin Kontrak” Novel by Syarifah Aliyyah)

Rahmatiah

EXPRESSING COMPLIMENTS IN ENGLISH AND INDONESIAN LANGUAGE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY (Pernyataan Pujian dalam Bahasa Inggris dan Bahasa Indonesia: Suatu Studi Komparasi)

Harlinah Sahib

AKTUALISASI Diri T O KOH DALAM NOVEL THE HUNGER GAMES (Self-Actualization Character of “The Hunger Games” Novel)

Hasina Fajrin R.
INTRODUCTION

When two or more people communicate to each other in speech, they are actually employing a code as an in separable part of the system of communication. Communication is defined as "the exchange and negotiation of information between at least two individuals through the use of verbal and nonverbal symbols, oral, and written form (Richards, Jack C, Richard W. Schmidt, 1987).

Regardless of the natural system of communication as mentioned above, Canale and Swain (1980) have postulated that communication requires some important aspects that includes socio-cultural rules of use and rules of discourse". This is popularly known as sociolinguistic competence that is concerned with the extent to which utterances are produced and understood appropriately in different sociolinguistic contexts which also depends on the contextual factors such as status of participants and purposes of interaction.

It is known that speech changes according to the degree of formality and Japanese is well known for its differences in styles. Speech is defined by many factors; among them are alike, speakers, status, and roles. Most languages in
the world possess a number of mechanisms to show politeness or solidarity (Brown & Levinson, 1987) which range from an elaborate honorific system. The importance of appropriateness of using language in social interaction had long been emphasized by some linguists and hence, the idea of systematic study of speech acts as a social phenomenon is not new. Therefore, when two people from similar and different culture interact, they often state compliments in order to please each other.

In our daily lives, we generally exchange compliments as an effort to keep solid relationships. In other words, compliments are supposed to be for rapport instead of report and for cooperation instead of complimenting in Tannen’s terms (1996). There are many ways that people use to express compliments, therefore the ways to respond are also various. Different person may have different ways in giving responses of the responded givers, depending on the situation, and the ways the recipients of the compliments assume the compliments given and also who the one do the compliments.

In Indonesian culture for example, state compliments are relatively rare because state too many compliments the recipients are often misunderstood among people. Therefore the statement is usually used only among members of the educated class who have been exposed to western customs.

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In order to provide insightful understanding about the objectives and detailed analysis regarding the subject of the research, the writer outlines the problem statements which are formulated in the following research questions:

1. What is the characteristic of compliments between sexes in the two languages?
2. How are the similarities and differences between the two cultural groups revealed?
3. Why do people disclose compliments?

After revealing research questions of this study, the writer would like to present objectives as follows.

1. To describe the characteristics of compliments between sexes in the two languages.
2. To explain the similarities and differences between sexes in the two languages.
3. To discuss the reasons for people to disclose compliments.

FRAMEWORK THEORY

According to Brown and Levinson (1975), "a compliment is a positive strategy to address the hearers' positive face". The positive face is the person a person's desire to be approved by others and to have one's goal thought of as a desirable one by others who share similar interests. For example, a compliment such as “your personal opinions are..."
very valuable and interesting,” conveys approval and a sense that speaker and hearer share similar views. It works as a kind of social accelerator.

A compliment is a speech act with or implicitly attributes credit to someone or other than the speaker, usually the person addresses, for some “good” (possession, characteristics, skills, etc.) which is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer (Holmes, J., 1988).

Brown and Levinson (1987) also claimed that speech acts of complementing are a largely positive and politeness strategy, since it lets the addressee knows that he or she is liked. As the positively affective speech acts, the most obvious function of compliments is to polish the social relationship, pay attention to positive face wants and thus increase or integrate solidarity between people. Holmes (1992) in her work complementing in speech has provided the definition of compliments as a speech act, which explicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speakers, usually the person addresses, for some good that is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer. In shortly, the act of compliment can also serve other functions such as greeting, thanking, and apologizing or even as substitute for them. Yet, to express so many compliments, people can often be really annoyed and strange. In another word, a person does not fell convertible.

Cultural differences also account for differences in making sense of the so called politeness. Brown and Levinson (1978) cited in Richards (1984) suggest that in order to enter into social relationships with each other, one must acknowledge the face of other people. This is to assume that both sides avoid intruding upon each other’s territory such as physical territory, a particular field of knowledge and try to seek to enlarge the territory of others. Lakoff (1993) provides term as to make other people to feel good on the assumption that the same will be done to them which is believed to be different from society to society.

They further state that the precise ways of indicating respect for face may be specific culture and not subject to direct translation. For example, in some cultures, initial refusal of an offer may be merely polite, and invite repetition in others, the opposite may be true.

The Function of Compliments

The study has shown that complimenting involves a variety of linguistics functions. It is argued that the main function of compliment is to establish solidarity between speakers and addressees (Holmes 1992). Manes (1983), maintains that praise in American English functions to both establish and reinforce solidarity between speaker and listener and that solidarity between interlocutors thus emerges or establishes.

Another possible function of compliments may serve to strengthen or replace other speech acts like apologizing, greeting, reprimanding or thanking or to soften acts such as criticism (Wolfson, 1983).

Tips for Compliments

It is suggested by Wolfson (1983) that there are several tips for giving powerful compliment as follows.

1. Be specific. Don’t vague when you give compliment. Say something truly.
2. Acknowledge their character when complimenting an accomplishment. Do not just acknowledge what the person did. Point to a person’s character traits such as persperance, kindness, and thougfulness.
3. Be authentic. If you do not really mean the compliment, do not give it. Every one has some characters strength or gift worthy of acknowledgement.
4. Express your appresiation when complimenting someone about something they did not benefit you. Be direct in your praise.

Syntactic Pattern of Compliment

Manes and Wolfson (1981) have suggested the structural pattern of compliment, compliments are remarkably formulaic speech acts in that a very small number of lexical ideas and syntactic patterns account for the great majority 175 compliments. The syntactic pattern can be seen as follows.
CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing all data written in the table, it has been found that there are significant similarities and differences between Indonesian and English people in stating compliments. Both Indonesian and English people state compliments when they see something beautiful or interesting. However, Indonesian people are rarely used to compliment rather than English. In other word, English people are commonly reluctant to be complimented directly. Only among members of the educated class who have been exposed to western customs. Although English people are more directly in stating compliments they do not tend to giggle the people who are complimented. They tend to show their friendly manner. The data assert that English people in the table above seem more complimented, such as, great, you lost a lot of weight, what have you been doing? Hi, you are, you are looking just terrific. Failure of communication in the process of interaction might be caused by differences in cultures, values systems, and norms that the interlocutor harbor. This study forms a small contribution to the growing body of research on language and sex. It also does a variety of acts such as expressive of missing, congratulating, and thanking.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

