A SOCIO-PRAGMATICS STUDY OF CONDOLENCE UTTERANCES TO THE DEATH OF BBC DISCOVERY CHANNEL, STEVE IRWIN

Radityo Tri Nugroho
Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris

Affifah Linda Sari
Antasari Islamic State University

ABSTRACT

This research is aimed at describing the intention of using condolence utterances and also determines the proper speaker’s reasons. The data are taken from virtual references called the internet. In collecting the data, the writer uses a documentary method by selecting the condolence utterances, which can be found on the internet. The first step of analyzing data is that the writer described the intention of using condolence utterances used to condole to the death of Steve Irwin. Then in determining the proper reason of using condolence, the writer used the SPEAKING theory of Hymes. Having analyzed the data, the writer finds that there are 3 intentions found in all data are to inform, to assert, and to address. And also the reason for using condolence utterances are showing intimacy, showing solidarity, showing grief, showing distress, and showing respect.

Keywords: Socio-Pragmatics, Condolence, Steve Irwin
INTRODUCTION

The main function of language is a communication medium. Language allows people to say things to each other and to express their communicative needs. Language is the cement of society, allowing people to live, work, and play together, to tell the truth, but also to tell a lie or lies. In the interaction setting people to make use of many kinds of language variation. This reflects a change in situational processes, such as addresses, settings, and topics. They utilize the specific vocabularies to describe the utterances. This interaction causes people to use certain utterances in which used for a specific goal or purposes. Condolence utterance is one of the most various utterances that might be utter to another. Condolence utterances are used to show people’s empathy or sympathy for another people who have certain problem or worries.

When someone condoles or offers their condolences to a particular situation or person, they are offering active, conscious support of that person or activity. Often, the English language expression "my condolences" will be in a context, such as the death of a friend's loved one, in which the one offering condolences is compelled to feel pity towards the unfortunate party. But condolences can also be offered by friends or supporters of circumstances that are legally debatable, such as the justifiability of a domestic abuse victim killing her/his abusive partner. In this case, some might offer their condolences to the victim, while others might not.

Nurnaningsih (2005) with his research paper entitled “An Analysis of Address Terms Used in Aristocratic Movie Manuscript (A Sociolinguistics Study)”. She found that the pattern of address term is categorizes based on the estate. The first estate employs Tu and Vous to the second estate and that the second estate, usually gives Vous to the first estate. Among the second estate there is the exchange of non-reciprocal Tu and Vous Mutual Vous, and also Mutual Tu. The second estate gives Tu to the third estate. On the other hand, the third estate gives Vous to the second estate. The third estate usually gives Mutual Tu to each other. The reason for employing the address terms include showing respect, power, intimacy/solidarity, anger and to insult.

Furthermore, Hasanah (2006) discuss “The Use of Deixis in Gladiator Movie Manuscript”. She found that the forms of deixis are person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Person deixis consists of the first person, second person and the third person which are distinguished into singular and plural person. It is also distinguished based on its function in the sentence, as subject and object personal pronoun, as a subject in possessive pronoun, as an object in the possessive pronoun, as reflexive in possessive pronoun. She clarified the reference of deixis based on semantic meaning. It refers to the lexical meaning and based on the pragmatic meaning which refers to the meaning covers in the discourse, such as refers to a first person, second person, third person, proximal distance, distal distance, proceeding portion, present time, past time, future time and social relationship.

While the writer analyzes the intention and the reason of condolence utterances to the death of Steve Irwin by applying socio-pragmatics approach.
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Notion of Pragmatics

Pragmatic is another branch of linguistics that is concerned with meaning and context. The primary focus of pragmatics is a person’s ability to derive meanings from specific kinds of speech situation and recognize what the speaker is referring to, to relate new information what has gone before, to interpret what is said from background knowledge about the speaker and the topic of discourse and to infer or “fill in” information that the speaker takes for granted and doesn’t bother to say (Brown and Yule, 1980:3). According to Levinson (1983:9), Pragmatic is the study of those relationships between languages that are encoded in a structure of language. Pragmatic is the relationships between language and context, which is a basis for understanding the meaning of language. It deals with language form and language use. While Leech (1983) states that pragmatics can be usefully defined as the study of how utterances have meanings in a situation.

Based on the definitions above the writer can give a conclusion that pragmatics is the study of language in use, including the ways in which the hearer derives meanings from the context and from knowledge of speakers apart from the linguistic meanings of what is said.

Principal of Pragmatics

Some of the aspects of the language studied in pragmatics include deixis, presupposition, implicature, performative, and entailment.

a. Deixis

Deixis is a technical term (from Greek) for one of the most things we do with utterances. It means “pointing” via language. Any linguistics form used to accomplish this “pointing” is called a deictic expression. There are three kinds of deixis. They are person deixis (‘me’, ‘you’) to indicate people, spatial deixis (‘here’, ’there’) to indicate the location and temporal deixis (‘now’, ‘then’) to indicate the time. Deixis expression depends on the speaker and hearer sharing the same context.

b. Presupposition

A presupposition is something the speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance. Speakers, not sentence, have a presupposition.

c. Implicature

Implicature is additional meaning that refers to an indirect or implicit meaning of an utterance derived from the context that is not present from its conventional use.

d. Entailment

Entailment is something that logically follows what is asserted from the utterance or a relation in which the truth of a sentence necessarily implies the truth of another. If the utterance (1) is false (not dead), then the utterance (2) must necessarily be false (not assassinated). To show that (1) true forces (2) to be true and (2) false forces (1) to be false.

e. Speech Act

Speech act is actions performed via utterances. A speaker expects that his/her intention will be recognized by the hearer. The instruments used are a locutionary act (the literal meaning of the
utterance), locutionary act (the meaning intended by the speaker), and perlocutionary act (the effect of the utterance toward).

**Notion of Socio-Pragmatics**

In conducting the research, the writer applies Socio-Pragmatics analysis. According to Leech (in Kawate, 2003:1) Socio-Pragmatic is “the sociological interface of pragmatics” involving speaker’s and hearer’s beliefs built on relevant social and cultural values. Thus, Socio-Pragmatics competence is the ability to adjust speech strategies appropriately according to different social variables such as the degree of imposition, social dominance, and the distance between the participant of conversation, and participant’s right and obligations in communication.

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes that Socio-Pragmatics is the study of language meaning in the phenomenon including the language usage and language users in cultural and social context.

**Speech Act Theory**

**Level of Speech Act**

Levinson (1983:236) states that speech act is carrying out some actions by saying. There are three basic acts of saying utterance, namely A) Locutionary act, the utterance of a sentence which determinates sense and reference. B) Illocutionary act, the performing of a statement, offer, order, in uttering a sentence. C) Perlocutionary act, the bringing of effects on the audience by uttering the sentence.

a. **Locutionary Act**
   
The literal meaning of a sentence. According to Austin (in Levinson, 236), Locutionary act is the utterance of a sentence which determines sense and reference. A locutionary act is a physical act of a producing an utterance. For example: A guest said to the owner of the house, “it’s hot here”. Locution: the guest wants to inform the owner of the house that the weather is hot.

b. **Illocutionary Act**
   
   Austin in Levinson (1983:26) states that illocutionary act is the act that is committed by the utterance. This is so because the locution is what is said by the speaker certainly. For example: There is a teacher in a crowded class. The teacher says, “I will make you stay longer in class”. The illocutionary act is the teacher asking the students to be quiet. The speaker’s intention is ordering. It can be known that illocutionary act is an intended meaning or what the speaker is doing by uttering.

c. **Perlocutionary Act**
   
   Perlocutionary act refers to the action of the hearer after hearing the sentence of utterance from the speaker. Austin (in Levinson, 1983:236) states that perlocutionary act is the act of bringing an effect through locutionary and illocutionary. Perlocutionary refers to how the utterance received by the hearer by doing some action.
   
   For example, when one hears the utterance “would you like a cup of coffee?” the hearers will give response by answering “yes”, “sure”, “no thanks”. These answers are called the effect of the utterance or perlocutionary.

**Context of S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G Formula**
In finding the proper meaning of language one must consider not only in the language but also the occurred context. Levinson (1983:3) asserts that “understanding the context leads us inappropriate or felicity condition”. Hymes (in Brown and Yule, 1983:38) describes the various kind of context which influences the meaning. One of his famous theories of the SPEAKING formula is employed to convey the analysis results and discuss in the research and its abbreviation, such as:

a. Setting and Scene (S)
   Setting refers to the physical relation of communication occurred in place and time. While the scene tends to more psychological or cultural situation such as serious or festive, formal or informal situation. It is necessary to decide the language style.

b. Participants (P)
   Participants consist of two categories namely addresser (speaker or writer) and addressee (hearer or reader) included in the conversation. It relates to the social factors like age, gender, profession, status, etc.

c. Ends (E)
   Ends involve the purposes of what the participant intended as a result of communication like imperative, persuasive, discussion, and many others.

d. Act Sequence (A)
   Act sequence refers to recent form and content of the message when the person speaks. Message from refers to how something (topic) is spoken and message content belong to what is. To distinguish both of them, it can be drawn by direct and indirect sentence.

e. Key (K)
   Key includes (1) the tone or general spirit of conversation (brave, persuade, sarcastic, fierce, pedantic, light-hearted, mocking, frustration, anger, desperation, irony, happiness, etc. (2) the manner which referring to participant behaviour, others like formal, informal, intimate, respectful, polite, impolite, serious, optimistic, bitterness, sympathetic, etc.

f. Instrumentality
   Instrumentality shows the choice of channel or medium of speech for instance written, spoken, signal (semaphore or telegraphic) or codes which refers to whether a language or a direct language is being used.

g. Norms of Interaction or Interpretation (N)
   Norms of interaction or interpretation refer to the specific attitude or properties during the conversation which may be seen by the people who does not share them. For example: loudness, silence, etc.

h. Genres (G)
   Genres are defined as the categories of communication appear in utterances such thing as a poem, sermons, prayers, jokes, proves, adverb, and many other things.

Notion of Condolence

Condolence is a feeling of worry or pity. When someone condoles or offers their condolences to a particular situation or person, they are offering active, conscious support of that person or activity. Often, the English language expression "my condolences" will be in a context, such as the death of a friend's loved one, in which the one offering condolences is compelled to feel pity
towards the unfortunate party. But condolences can also be offered by friends or supporters of circumstances that are legally debatable, such as the justifiability of a domestic abuse victim killing her/his abusive partner. In this case, some might offer their condolences to the victim, while others might not. (Steve Jobs and James Lovey Sorenson, 2005). And according to Oxford Learner’s Dictionary (2003) condolence is an expression of sympathy.

**Synopsis of the Death of Steve Irwin**

On September 4, 2006, Irwin was fatally pierced in the chest by a stingray spine while snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef, at Batt Reef, which is located off the coast of Port Douglas in Queensland. Irwin was in the area filming his own documentary, *Ocean’s Deadliest*, but the weather had stalled filming. Irwin decided to take the opportunity to film some shallow water shots for a segment in the television program his daughter Bindi was hosting, when, according to his friend and colleague, John Stainton, he swam too close to one of the stingrays. "He came on top of the stingray and the stingray's barb went up and into his chest and put a hole into his heart," said Stainton, who was on board Irwin's boat the *Croc One*. The events were caught on camera, and a copy of the footage was handed to the Queensland Police. After reviewing the footage of the incident and speaking to the cameraman who recorded it, marine documentary filmmaker and former spearfisherman Ben Cropp speculated that the stingray "felt threatened because Steve was alongside and there was the cameraman ahead." In such a case, the stingray responds to danger by automatically flexing the serrated spine on its tail (which can measure up to 25 cm or about 10 inches in length) in an upward motion. Cropp said Irwin had accidentally boxed in the animal. "It stopped and twisted and threw up its tail with the spike, and it caught him in the chest. It's a defensive thing. It's like being stabbed with a dirty dagger." The stinging of Irwin by the bull ray was "a one-in-a-million thing," Cropp told *Time* magazine. "I have swum with many rays, and I have only had one do that to me..." Initially, when Irwin's colleague, John Stainton, was interviewed by CNN's Larry King late on September 4, 2006, he denied the suggestion that Irwin had pulled the spine out of his chest, or that he had seen footage of the event, insisting that the anecdote was "absolute rubbish." The following day, when he first described the video to the media, he stated, "Steve came over the top of the ray and the tail came up and spiked him here [in the chest], and he pulled it out and the next minute he's gone." It is thought, in the absence of a coroner's report, that a combination of the toxins and the puncture wound from the spine caused Irwin to die of cardiac arrest, with most damage being inflicted by tears to arteries or other main blood vessels. A similar incident in Florida a month later in which a man survived a stingray barb through the heart showed that Irwin's removal of the barb may have caused his own death. The coroner's report has not yet been released.

Crew members aboard his boat called the emergency services in the nearest city of Cairns and administered CPR as they rushed the boat to the nearby Low Islets to meet an emergency rescue helicopter. However, despite the best efforts of Irwin's crew, medical staff pronounced him dead when they arrived a short time later. According to Dr Ed O'Loughlin, who treated Irwin, "it became clear fairly soon that he had non-survivable injuries. He had a penetrating injury to the left front of his chest. He had lost his pulse and wasn't breathing."
Irwin's body was flown to a morgue in Cairns. His wife, Terri Irwin, was on a walking tour in Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park in Tasmania at the time and returned via a private plane from Devonport to the Sunshine Coast with their two children. Fatalities due to stingrays are infrequent and occurrences are not consistently collated. The attack on Irwin is believed to be the only fatality from a stingray ever captured on film. Stainton told CNN's Larry King "[The tape] should be destroyed". In an ABC interview with Barbara Walters, Irwin's wife Terri said she has not seen the film of her husband's deadly encounter with the stingray and that it would not be shown on television. On January 3, 2007, the only video footage showing the events that led to Irwin's death was handed over to Terri, who said that the video would never become public, and noted her family has not seen the video either. In a January 11, 2007 interview with Access Hollywood, Terri said that "all footage has been destroyed." Production was completed on Ocean's Deadliest, which aired for the first time on the Discovery Channel on January 21 2007. The documentary was completed with footage shot in the weeks following the accident. According to Stainton, "Anything to do with the day that he died, that film is not available." Perhaps to maintain the film's original purpose as a nature documentary and prevent it from becoming a documentary of Irwin's final days, his death is not mentioned in the film, aside from a still image of Irwin at the end alongside the text "In Memory of Steve Irwin".

News of his death prompted widespread worldwide shock. Australian Prime Minister John Howard expressed his "shock and distress" at the death, saying that "Australia has lost a wonderful and colourful son." Queensland Premier Peter Beattie commented in a Channel Seven television interview that Irwin "will be remembered as not just a great Queenslander, but a great Australian". Several Australian news websites went down because of high web traffic and for the first time, the top 10 list of most viewed stories for Fairfax Digital news sites were swept by one topic. Talk-back radio experienced a high volume of callers expressing their grief. Flags at the Sydney Harbour were lowered to half-staff in honour of Irwin. The U.S. feed of the Animal Planet cable television channel aired a special tribute to Steve Irwin that started on Monday, 4 September 2006. The tribute continued with the Animal Planet channel showing highlights of Irwin's more than 200 appearances on Discovery Networks shows. On the evening of his death, Enough Rope re-broadcast an interview between Irwin and Andrew Denton originally broadcast in 2003. CNN showed a repeat of his interview on Larry King Live, originally recorded in 2004. The Australian federal parliament opened on September 5, 2006, with condolence speeches by both Prime Minister John Howard and the Leader of the Opposition Kim Beazley. The Seven Network aired a television memorial show as a tribute to Irwin on 5 September 2006, as did the Nine Network on September 6, 2006. Jay Leno delivered a tribute to Irwin, describing him as a great ambassador of Australia. Irwin appeared on Leno's talk show on more than ten occasions. There were also tributes on Live with Regis & Kelly and Barbara Walters' The View; on the former show, Kelly Ripa came close to tears with her praise of Irwin. Hundreds of people visited Australia Zoo to pay tribute to the deceased entertainer and conservationist. The day after his death, the volume of people visiting the zoo to pay their respects affected traffic so much that police reduced the speed limit around the Glass House Mountains Road and told motorists to expect delays. BBC reported on September 13, 2006, that thousands of fans have been to Australia Zoo since Irwin's death, bringing flowers, candles, stuffed animals and messages of support. In the weeks after his death, Irwin's conservation
foundation Wildlife Warriors reported that thousands of people from around the world were offering their support via donations to the conservation group.

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie extended the offer of a state funeral to Irwin's family, an honour also agreed to by Prime Minister John Howard. The family decided that such a funeral wouldn't be appropriate, a sentiment echoed by many Australians outside media and political circles. Steve Irwin's father, Bob Irwin, stated that his son would not have wanted such an honour, and would want to be remembered as an "ordinary bloke". Beattie stated he would honour the decision of the Irwin family regarding their arrangements. Irwin was farewelled by family and friends at a private funeral service held at Caloundra on the afternoon of 9 September. The naturalist was buried in a private ceremony at the zoo on the same day.

METHODOLOGY

Type of Research

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative because it does not include any calculation or statistic; instead, it includes a sentence or description of the object as a result. Qualitative research (Moleong, 1995:02) is a research of which data in the form of a written or oral word are descriptively analysed.

Object of the Research

In the research, the writer chooses condolence utterance to the death of Steve Irwin as the object of the research.

Data and Data Source

The data that will be analysed in this research are condolence utterances that are in the form of the phrase, clause, and sentence taken from virtual references.

Technique of Collecting Data

In order to collect the data, the writer uses the documentation method. The step that the writer’s take as follows:

1. Finding the data on the internet.
2. Reading the condolences utterances carefully.
3. Selecting and writing the utterances that consist of condolences utterances.

Technique of Analysing Data

The researcher conducts the data analysis using the following steps:

1. Separating each data and giving the number of each data which to be analysed.
2. Describing the intentions of condolences utterances to the death of Steve Irwin by referring speech act (locutionary and illocutionary).

3. Determining the reasons of using condolences utterances to the death of Steve Irwin by applying the SPEAKING theory of Hymes.

4. Making conclusions and suggestions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher will analyze the data based on their intention and the reason of using condolence utterances used to condole the death of Steve Irwin. The data to be analyzed in this research is in the form of clauses, phrases, and sentences taken from virtual references called the internet. Based on the research findings, the researcher can summarize as follows:

Table 4.1 The Intention of Using Condolence Utterances to the Death of Steve Irwin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Number of Data</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>To inform</td>
<td>3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 28</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>36,67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>To assert</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 30</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>46,62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>To address</td>
<td>6, 10, 11, 22, 29</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16,67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the table above, the researcher found that some intention of why do people use condolence utterances used to condole the death of Steve Irwin such as to inform are about 36,67% consist of eleven data, to assert is about 46,62% consist of fourteen data, and to address are about 36,67% consist of five data.

Table 4.2 The Reason of Using Condolence Utterances to the Death of Steve Irwin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Number of Data</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Showing intimacy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3,33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Showing solidarity</td>
<td>1, 2, 6, 17, 23, 26, 30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23,33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Showing respect</td>
<td>8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24, 25, 28, 29</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>39,96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Showing grief</td>
<td>4, 7, 10, 19, 22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16,67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Showing distress</td>
<td>5, 12, 14, 21, 27</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16,67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the table above, the researcher found some reason of using condolence utterances such as showing intimacy is about 3,33% consist of three two, showing solidarity is about 23,33% consist of six data, showing respect is about 39,96% consist of twelve data, showing grief is about
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the data analysis, finally the writer comes to some conclusion:

1. Related to the intention of using condolence utterances to the death of Steve Irwin.

From thirty data of condolence utterances found in condolence utterances which spread out via the internet, the data are in the form of clauses, phrases, and sentences, the intention is to inform are about 36.67% consist of eleven data number 3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 28, to assert is about 46.62% consist of fourteen data number 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 30 and to address are about 36.67% consist of five data number 6, 10, 11, 22, 29.

2. Related to the reason of using condolence utterances to the death of Steve Irwin.

The researcher found some reason of using condolence utterances such as showing intimacy is about 3.33% consist of three two number 3, showing solidarity is about 23.33% consist of six data number 1, 2, 6, 17, 23, 26, 30, showing respect is about 39.96% consist of twelve data number 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24, 25, 28, 29, showing grief is about 16.67% consist of five data, number 4, 7, 10, 19, 22, showing distress is about16.67% consists of five data number, and showing means of sea transportation is about 10% consists of three data number 5, 12, 14, 21, 27.

Implication

The implication of this research paper is the theoretical proposition of this research. The result should be associated with their theoretical approach the research underlies. The following statement can suggest the underlying theory which underlies this research. The intention of using condolence utterances to the death of Steve Irwin is mostly to assert, and the reason of using condolence utterances to the death of Steve Irwin is mostly showing respect

Suggestion

Based on the findings above, the researcher suggests:

1. To lectures of the English Department, they suggest to their students to analyze language phenomenon by using the socio-pragmatics approach in order to enrich the knowledge about linguistics.

2. The researcher hopes that there are future researches who will complete or critics this study to make a betterment and perfectness.
REFERENCES


