

Language Functions Used by Local Drivers at Tanah Lot Area

I Gede Dwi Setiadi

STISIP Margarana

igddwisetiadi319@gmail.com

igededwisetiadi@stisip-margarana.ac.id

Abstract- The topics discussed in this paper are related to the language function used by local drivers at Tanah Lot in the context of the situation. This topic was chosen because of the language function used by local drivers in Tanah Lot as a daily routine to lift passengers to their destinations. The analysis focused on two main issues. What kind of language functions are used by local drivers at Tanah Lot Area, and what expressions are used in local driver conversations at Tanah Lot Area? The main theory used to analyze data is taken from the Function theory in English proposed by John Blundell (1982). The collected data is analyzed descriptively to find out the type of language function. The results of the study show that there are several types of language functions used by local drivers at Tanah Lot Area when the driver and passengers have a conversation. The findings show that drivers are able to express and use language functions related to the situation in which they are in and who they are talking to. Moreover, they are able to make communication understood by each other. According to research, the phrases used by drivers are mostly related to grammatical errors. This situation is biased due to the driver's lack of knowledge as respondents in their grammar, basic education, or their experience, or sometimes they remain influenced by their native language.

Keywords: language function, situational context, type of language function

I. INTRODUCTION

Communication is broadly defined as an act or instance of transmitting. Merely translating or sending information does not mean that communication has taken place (Philips, 1983: 2). All communication is based on how each of us perceives, or sees and interprets, or explains, information. The ability to communicate increases when it is understood that observation is selective. (Philips, 1983: 3).

The communication process is defined as the transmittal of intended meaning to others. This implies that the speakers have a clear idea of the meaning they wish to convey and that the listeners interpret the message in such a way as to receive the intended meaning. In the process of communication, we have made up four elements, like: the sender is the person who is trying to transmit the message; the message is the verbal or nonverbal information that is being transmitted; the channel is the means by which the information is being sent; and the receiver is the person who is receiving and interpreting the message (Philips, 1983: 2-3). There are two aspects to communication, such as the linguistic feature implying language, which is essentially a

matter of words. Nonlinguistic features include facial expressions, movement gestures, attitudes, and so forth.

All communication contains nonverbal signals. Verbal communication involves using words, while nonverbal communication encompasses other aspects of communication. Nonverbal cues include posture, tone of voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Even words cannot communicate by themselves. The manner in which words are spoken or written is crucial. Nonverbal cues are crucial for effective communication.

According to Blundell's book, *The Function in English*, he separates language functions as follows: "Language functions are the reasons why people talk or write. We may say that everything we do, even utilizing language, serves a purpose. In certain ways, we only speak or write with a purpose in mind, such as helping someone see our point of view, seeking their counsel, or reaching an agreement with them; we refer to these purposes as the function of language. He also claims that every language has such capabilities. (Blundell, 1987:5)".

He also mentions that every language has such functions. However, different languages express these functions differently. There are various English expressions within one function that we can utilize in both our language and English at any moment. However, some expressions are more appropriate at certain times than others.

In general, English speakers employ formal language when dealing with people in positions of power or high status. People who talk in formal situations are more likely to employ good grammar and complete sentences. They typically talk more carefully, clearly, and slowly. Formal events, such as report writing, business meetings, conferences, and polite discussions with strangers, often require precise expression. In informal contexts, such as conversations with friends or letters to family, certain vocabulary and structures are commonly utilized. Informal writing is more common, yet formal speech may be required in some situations. People typically utilize informal language while communicating with friends and family. They may adopt a more relaxed pronunciation. In an informal setting, people may speak more quickly.

So, language is a fact, and its position in society is extremely important. Language is essential for all parts of life and cannot be fully lived without it. Even with a lifetime of language learning, it is impossible to know every language in the world. Each country in the world may have multiple languages. Language is one of the most essential forms of communication in the world. Without language, we cannot communicate and live in society with other people. To use the language, we must first understand where we are, who we are speaking with, and the topic at hand.

An individual's attitude about speaking will be influenced by their background. English, as the first foreign language in Indonesia, is well known due to the growth of the country's tourism industry. Indonesia's tourism business has grown in recent decades, and the Indonesian government pays close attention to it.

In the age of globalization, it is feasible that a country is truly monolingual. Everyone in the

world wishes to learn diverse languages from other countries. They do this not only to gain knowledge but also to improve their communication abilities. Bali is one of the tourist locations. As a way to make the tourism industry run smoothly, tourism facilities are very important. Local drivers are an important demand for the tourism business. At the same time, all tourism aspects need people who are able to use English well, namely to have the ability to express their ideas smoothly in English. Talking about English Function, it seems that it is very long to be discussed. Considerately the ability of the researcher, so the problems of this research was limited into two, there are: What expression is used in conversations of the local driver at Tanah Lot Area? And What types of language functions are used by the local drivers at Tanah Lot Area and the context of the situation?

II. METHODS

Method is a regular and important step to reach a very well purpose. A great method will start successful research. The method or technique used in this research namely: method of analyzing, and method of presenting the analysis. In this research, the method that was applied was descriptive qualitative method, it is by describing and analyzing the data descriptively.

All data were collected through field study in the Tanah Lot area. The data was gathered through observation, interviews, and note-taking. In this observation, the data was recorded on paper and subsequently converted into the form of a conversation to facilitate analysis. There are several steps to data analysis. It begins with transcribing the data collected from the communication (even if it comes from a recorder or notetaking), then classifying the data into written form, comparing the written data according to their functions, and analysing the data using the language function theory. The final step is to present the results.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The functions of English have several means of expression. There are several English

functions present in the interactions between the local driver and passenger, as seen below:

1. The function of Greeting

Greeting refers to the act of greeting someone for the first time, even if they are unfamiliar with one another. The greeting expression is significant because it can initiate or foster effective follow-up conversation between one person and another. You can also use this term to start a conversation or initiate a discussion. This statement is used to express feelings and show respect for others. If we consider the context of the conversation, greetings might be both formal and informal. It depends on who the speakers and listeners are. Greeting expressions were quite common among locals. When we meet someone or receive a traveler, we utilize a greeting to express our welcome or pleasure. We decide whether to use formal or informal language based on the situation. Some expressions within a single function, such as neutral expression, can be used at any moment. These expressions can be seen as follows:

Data 1

Driver : **Hay**, welcome to my car.
Passenger : **Hay**...
Driver : Where do you want to go?
Passenger : I want to go to Little Ripper Restaurant at Kedungu.
Driver : Okay. Oh, Little Ripper Restaurant.

Based on the conversation above they used an informal expression to greet someone you know well (Blundell, 1987: 5). There were some reasons that make the conversation called informal expression. First, the local driver used **Hay**.... To greet the passenger, want to go to Little Ripper Restaurant, and the taxi driver used **Hay**...because he knows that the passenger was his customer.

Data 2

Driver : **Hello**, Sir.
Passenger : **Hello**...
Driver : Where do you want to go?

The bold word in the conversation above shows that the local driver used greeting function. The local driver used this function

when start conversation. Seen from the word used, this expression belongs to formal expression because he used a formal greeting "Hello" and followed by "Sir" word to greet the passenger in a polite and friendly manner. Most of the local driver at Tanah Lot Area used these words to greet the passenger.

2. The Function of Giving Information

Giving information is one of the functions of English that is used to bring information about something. Based on this research there is some expression or giving information which are use by local driver. Those expression can be seen in the conversation below:

Data 1

Passenger : How far is it from here to Canggu?
Driver : **Maybe 30 minutes but depends on the situation can't be prediction.**
Passenger : Oh, thank's
Driver : Welcome

The bold word in conversation above show that the local driver to giving information about how long time go to Canggu. The local driver is using informal express because we can't be predict regarding about the time. Most of the local driver at Tanah Lot Area used these words to explain about the time.

Data 2

Passenger : You have recommended place for dinner, nearby please?
Driver : **Yes, near here is De Jukung Resto. De Jukung is seafood restaurant and good place for dinner. The De Jukung Resto you can't only dinner, but you can watch Kecak Dance, maybe you can go to the restaurant?**

Passenger : Okay, can we go there?

Driver : Yes, sir.

In the example above, looked a informal expression. It was shown by this sentence "**Yes, near here is De Jukung Resto. De Jukung is seafood restaurant and good place for dinner. The De Jukung Resto you can't only dinner, but you can watch Kecak Dance, maybe you can go to the restaurant?**"because the local driver giving information to the passenger.

3. The Function of Offering Something

This function is used when we put forward something to be considered, so it can then be either accepted or refused. The local driver is required to give a good service to all passenger by offering the local driver and they use an expression to offer it, there were some expressions have been used by local driver such as:

Data 1

Driver : **May I help you?**

Passenger : I want to go to Le Mayeur Museum. Do you know where it is?

In the example above, looked a formal expression. It was shown by this sentence "**may I help you**" because the local driver offered his help to the passenger. We used this expression; it means the guest needed the help or maybe he did not need the help. But sometime we find the sentence like "**How may I help you**". It can be thought has more meaning than previous sentence because we use "**How may I help you or How may I assist you**", it means we are sure that the guest needs our help and to be helped.

Data 2

Driver : **You, want buy something before we are going to hotel?**

Passenger : No, thanks?

The bold sentence above also belongs to offering something functions. The local driver expressed this function by saying "You want buy something before we are going to hotel?". The local driver tried to offer buy something to the tourist. This sentence is an informal expression and grammatically wrong. It would be more polite if the local driver attendant says: "May I offer you buy something".

4. The Function of Requesting

The function of requesting is used to ask politely for something. When we want someone to do something for us, there are many English expressions we can use. This function is used by the person with a hope the speaker influences the addressee to do something. We can see the requesting expressions by local driver in the bellow.

Data 1

Driver : Hi. Where are you going?

Passenger : To the Hospital, please.

Driver : **Shall I put your bag in the trunk?**

Passenger : No thanks. I'll keep it with me. How long will it take to the hospital?

Driver : About 30 minutes. Are you in a hurry?

Passenger : Yes

Based on the above conversation, the bold sentences were the expression of requesting used by local driver in expressing the function of requesting. We can see from the sentences "**Shall I put your bag in the trunk?**", which formed the expressions more polite. From the conversation we know that the local driver attitude in this conversation was friendly, polite, helpful, intelligent and efficient to handle the passenger.

5. The Function of Apologizing

The function of apologizing one is sorry, especially for having done, something wrong or for upsetting somebody. In handling complaint, the local driver should know what the passenger expects. It is the emotive function in which the speaker is expressing his regret, there are many elements can be applied to describe this function such as: I'm sorry, sorry, I'm about late, please accept my apologies, I'm awfully sorry.

Data 1

Passenger : Good afternoon! Could you please take me to the Clinic?

Driver : Yes, of course madam! Please come in. Is there any trouble withyou?

Passenger : Yes, I hit a rock on my feet while I'm surfing in Batubolong beach.

Driver : **I'm sorry to hear that, madam.** But is everything fine with your feet?

Passenger : I think so, but I have to go to the clinic now.

Driver : Okay, I will drive very fast.**I'm awfully sorry about that accident.**

Passenger : Thank you.

From the conversation above the local driver used two kinds of expressions, the first one is to say sorry for her to order that she got an accident while she was surfing, by using the expression "**I'm sorry to hear that, madam**". The second is an expression to apologize to the passenger by saying "**I'm awfully sorry about**

that accident,” this expression is very important for us to give a respect for her.

6. The Function of Thanking

Thanking is used to say thanks to someone else, who help us or because we want to respect them. Generally, it is done when the passenger comes to the taxi and when they want to leave. We should say thanks to show our respect for their arrival. There were some examples below:

Data 1

Driver : Where do you want to go?

Passenger : I want to change my hotel from Natya Hotel to Sense Canggu Beach Hotel. How much do I pay for you?

Driver : Just 300.000 rupiah

Passenger : Here 350.000 rupiah keep for your tip.

Driver : **Thank you very much, sir.**

Have a good day.

Passenger : You're welcome.

Based on the above conversation, the bold sentences were the expressions of thanking used by the local driver in expressing the function of thanking. We can see from the sentences:” **Thank you very much, sir. Have a good day**”. The passenger was very happy and pleased with the way when the taxi driver used the expressions of thanking to him.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded as follows: There are six language functions that have been analysed: the function of greeting, the function of giving information, the function of offering something, the function of requesting, the function of apologizing, and the function of thanking. Based on the analysis, the function of greeting and offering something is used by the local driver and passenger to interact, get closer, find attention, and make a good relationship in the conversation, and they need to answer yes or no, or at least the expression between them. Then, the function of giving information and the function of describing things are used by local drivers and passengers to show the performance, ability, and knowledge about recommended restaurants.

The language functions used by local drivers in Tanah Lot Area can be formal or

informal, depending on the context situation between the local driver and the passengers, because they must make the situation more familiar and happier for the passengers in order for them to enjoy themselves and feel as if they are being escorted by their own family.

REFERENCES

- Antari, N. N. P., Rajistha, I. G. N. A., & Warmadewi, A. I. M. (2023). The Sign Found in The Movie “Mr Harrigan’s Phone”. *PRAGMATICA: Journal of Linguistics and Literature*, 1(1), 18-29.
- Blundell, et al. (1982). *Function in English*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Fromklin, Victoria & Robert Roadman. 1981. *Introduction to Language*. Japan: Holt-
- George, M jacobs and Kristin Kline Liu. "Integrating Language Functions and Collaborative Skills in the Second Language Classroom". Regional language centre Singapore.
- Jacobson, Roman. 1973. *Function of Language for Applied Linguistics*, London.
- Leech, Geoffrey & Jan Svarvik. 1972. *A Grammar of Contemporary English*. Macmillan: The English Association.
- Philip, Bonnie.D. 1983. *Business Communication*. Canada : Delman Publisher, Inc.
- Windayani, N. K. H. T. (2023). Lexical Cohesion Used In Donald Trump’s Campaign Speech. *PRAGMATICA: Journal of Linguistics and Literature*, 1(1), 1-11.