

**SPEECH FUNCTIONS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER, STRANGE,’S
UTTERANCES IN DOCTOR STRANGE FILM****Naila Shafira, Retno Purwani Sari****Universitas Komputer Indonesia (UNIKOM) – Bandung****(Naskah diterima: 1 Januari 2020, disetujui: 1 Februari 2020)*****Abstract***

This study aims to explain social functions carried by a certain utterance. Situational context initiates a speaker with evaluating and deciding which appropriate utterances may be uttered, and those mostly performs varied speech functions. In Doctor Strange film, especially, some different functions are debatable being intended and communicated. This study, though, describes potential proposed functions and their implication in conversational communication by identifying and analyzing: (1) types of speech functions; and (2) their implications. The adaptation of Holmes’ perspectives was due to those aims. Descriptive method with qualitative approaches was implemented through observation, note taking, transcription techniques of data collection and descriptive technique of data analysis. The result of this study shows that Stranger’s utterances perform Holmes’s six types of speech functions: 24 expressive, 35 directive, 80 referential, 12 metalinguistic, 6 phatic, and 5 poetic. These facts imply that identified functions represent social context in which the utterances are uttered. The context has determined the choice of utterances.

Keywords: *Holmes’s Theory, Speech Function.****Abstrak***

Penelitian ini bertujuan memaparkan fungsi sosial dari suatu ujaran. Konteks situasional mendorong penutur melakukan evaluasi dan memilih ujaran yang tepat berdasarkan konteks yang diberikan. Kebanyakan ujaran yang dituturkan memiliki fungsi ujaran yang bervariasi. Pada film Doctor Stranger, khususnya, disinyalir setiap ujaran yang diujarkan dimaksudkan dan dikomunikasikan dengan berbagai fungsi yang berbeda. Penelitian ini menelaah fungsi ujaran yang dimaksudkan, dan implikasinya pada konversasi; berfokus pada: (1) jenis fungsi ujaran; dan (2) implikasinya. Untuk membongkar isu tersebut, teori fungsi ujaran gagasan Holmes digunakan sebagai pisau bedah penelitian. Metode kualitatif deskriptif diterapkan dengan melalui tahapan pengumpulan data dan analisis data. Teknik observasi, pencatatan, dan transkripsi digunakan pada saat mengumpulkan data, sedangkan teknik deskriptif dipakai pada saat analisis data. Adapun hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa fungsi ujaran Stranger, tokoh utama pada film Doctor Stranger, adalah 24 ekspresif, 35 direktif, 80 referensial, 12 metalinguistik, 6 fatik, dan 5 poetik. Hasil penelitian ini mengimplikasikan bahwa fungsi-fungsi ujaran tersebut memperlihatkan konteks sosial tempat ujaran-ujaran tersebut diujarkan. Konteks menentukan pilihan ujaran.

Kata kunci: Fungsi Ujaran, Teori Holmes

I. INTRODUCTION

In social interaction, every utterance conveys speakers' intention based on the situation to execute a certain function. However, speakers sometimes may not realize that their utterances, spoken and/or written, carry a specific function. The fact leads to misunderstanding or misinterpretation causing a communication conflict. For example:

(1) Cinta : I heard there was a new café near our school.

Rangga : Yes indeed.

Cinta : So.... (Cinta expects Rangga will take her to the café after school)

Rangga : That's cool.

Cinta : (gives a poker face)

In conversation (1), misinterpretation happens between *Cinta* and *Rangga*. In the first utterance, *Cinta* said that she had heard about a new café that never been visited. She, in this conversation, intended to ask *Rangga* to take her to the café. However, he did not understand her actual intention. Instead of understanding her persuasion, he understood that utterance was only information or a question. So, his response was unexpected response; he gave confirmation based on he knew, *yes indeed*. Since the response was

unexpected one, she tried to motivate him to think further by saying *so....* Unfortunately, once again he misinterpreted her intended message. He gave his appreciation on the café, *That's cool*, another unexpected response. Because of it, she showed her strong attitude toward his action, *a poker face*. The conversation (1) provides an illustration how such failure leads to a conflict of communication.

The presented case proposes that implied meaning, often an intended one, should be interpreted. Intricately, this meaning may serve a speech function. As a result, addressers should discover this implied meaning to avoid a conflict. Thus, the function can be understood to give appropriate response. The speakers, on the other hand, should provide sufficient information to assist addressers to succeed in interpreting the implied meaning as well as the function. The success for interpreting speech function allows addressers to respond properly to speaker's utterance.

This issue suggests the study of speech functions brings to effective communication as well as better language competence and language performance. These speech functions support the meaning of the utterances (also called a message). According to Holmes

(1992:275), the categories of speech functions are expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic and phatic function. This perspective is related to sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistic approach is used in order to explain the reason why people utter a different utterance in different social context, and to identify the social functions of language, and the ways that such utterance conveys social meaning.

Choosing specific utterances in accordance with social context makes speakers consider to connect the social distance with the interlocutors. In speaking, politeness could build connection contributing to social harmony and avoiding social conflict. The utterance shown may be considered polite, meaning that the speaker will preserve the relation between the speaker and the addresser.

Speech function can be used not only in reality. Concerning to Ardianto (2014:2), film can be defined as an image of human life where the situation and setting of the conversation reflect the real life; it presents a miniature of reality. Since treated with the life characteristics, film creates its story through its characters' conversation, constructed by characters' utterances – in the film, characters are considered to be speakers-addressers or

interlocutors. Similarly, the utterances perform varied speech functions supported by situational context given. The situational context itself conveys moral and social values. These values are manipulated in some way to be delivered easily. Considering this issue, film meet the qualification of life itself. Characters' interaction in film imitates speech events in real life.

As proposed, a choice of interlocutor's utterance reflects his response to previous another interlocutor's utterance. If a character as an interlocutor, for example, evaluates something good, his utterance represents his action. When Rangga said, "*That's cool,*" in conversation 1, the utterance functions expressive as well as phatic at the same time; he expressed his evaluation and be polite to Cinta's good evaluation. Rangga's utterance was selected based on his intention and situational context.

This study supports that language takes a specific function in society. As Halliday's proposal (2004), language is a 'social semiotic' that is attended directly to communicative and socially functions. Adapting pluralist's idea, Leech and Short (2007:24) mentions that utterance is the result of choices that a speaker makes on different level to perform

different functions. Utterance is intrinsically multifunctional. For example, repetition “*some lather, and more lather and more lather AND MORE LATHER*” conveys persuasive function in Curious George’s social context (Sari, 2017:33). In different level, repetition may be social function (maintaining a bond of involvement to the story) and directive (demanding an action from the addresser) (Sari and Sobarna, 2018:19).

However, to focus on how social context performs a significant role to make a choice, Holmes’s theory was adapted in this study – which was applied descriptive qualitative method. For specifying data, main character’s utterances were investigated. The reason behind the decision was that this study intended to limit register. Since the film takes a doctor life as a background, this study considered on how a doctor speaks, what specific language he produces, how social situation triggers the choice of language, and how language performs social function(s). Thus, this study investigates (1) types of speech function; and (2) the implication of the function.

II. THEORITICAL REVIEW

A. Speech Functions

Utterances can be investigated in varied functions. It can be shown as how people talk

about speech function, they talk about the reason for using that speech function. According to Halliday (1973) a functional approach to language means, first of all, investigating how language is used; try to find out what the purpose that language serves for, and how people are able to achieve these purpose through speaking and listening, reading and writing. It means that the speech function refers to the purpose itself. So, speech function leads addresser to understand the purpose of speaker’s utterance.

Holmes (1992:275) classifies speech function into six types. They are expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic and phatic function. Paraphrasing for Holmes’s theory (1992), those six types is explained as follows.

1. Expressive Function

Expressive function means express the speaker’s feeling. This focuses on hearer. It means that a speaker delivers a message. The aim of expressive function is to convey the speaker’s emotion or expression. The aim of a direct expression of the speaker’s attitude toward what the speaker talks about. It tends to provide an effect of a precise feeling of speaker. It means that the hearer’s own

towards the content of the message could be emphasized.

2. Directive Function

Directive function means arrange to get someone to try and do something. It means that speech is used for purpose of causing (or preventing) by an action. This function is most commonly found in command and requests. Directive function focused on the hearer; it means that the speaker needs the reaction from the hearer or to make someone perform an action. The aim of directive function is to convey the speaker's commands.

3. Referential Function

Referential function means provide information. Essentially, referential function is the communication of information. This function affirms or denies propositions, as in science or the statement of fact. They are important for logic and the information for the hearer. The aim referential function is to provide the information.

4. Metalinguistic Function

Metalinguistic function means comment on the language itself. This function is the use of language to discuss or describe itself. It focuses attention upon the code itself, to clarify it or negotiate it. This is the function of language about language. Where the code is

misunderstood and needs correction or clarification. The aim of metalinguistic function is to convey the code analysis and assure felicitous communication between speakers

5. Poetic Function

Poetic function means focus on aesthetic feature of language. It is in which the particular form chosen is the essence of the message. Messages convey more than just the content. The word poetic does not refer to the ability to write poetry, but the ability to manipulate language in a creative way. The aim of poetic function is to convey the pleasure.

6. Phatic Function

Phatic function means express solidarity and empathy with others. The phatic function helps to form contact and refers to the channel of communication. It opens the channel or checking that it is working, either for social reason. This function is used for sociability.

B. POLITENESS

Holmes (1992:285) has adapted Brown and Levinson's idea on positive and negative face. She suggests that politeness covers two types.

1. Positive politeness

Positive politeness is solidarity oriented. It emphasizes shared attitudes and values. It also intended to avoid giving offense by highlighting friendliness. It uses nicknames, slangs or jokes.

2. Negative politeness

Negative politeness pays people respect and avoids intruding on them. It involves expressing oneself appropriately in terms of social distance and respecting status differences.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

The study used descriptive qualitative method. The method described data in the form of utterances descriptively based on speech function found in the film. According to Moleong (2007:6), qualitative research is a research of which data in the form of written or oral word are descriptively analyzed. Qualitative research is done by describing the phenomenon found in the data, then continued with general conclusion.

This study focuses on the analysis of types of speech function conveying in the conversational utterances of the main character, *Strange*, and the implications. Using Holmes's theory, the study investigated and described *Strange's* utterances based on time

sequence appearance which was dealing with speech function as the focus. *Strange's* choice of utterances has showed different types of functions.

Collecting data technique began with observing and note taking. Here the researchers collected data while watching. 'Watching' was a step in which understanding speaker's intended message became a main goal. Transcribing respectively was done when the utterances were written, listing data by the time sequence appearance. After transcribed, data were classified based on their speech function. Classification, the result of analysis, showed the facts that Holmes's theory is adaptable. Holmes's six types of speech functions (1992:259) were identified.

After organized in the table, data were analyzed comprehensively. Descriptive technique was used to explain phenomena of social functions of linguistic expressions in the form of utterances. In the finding and discussion section, representative data analysis of each function are presented to introduce how such utterance performs a specific function

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The analysis shows the Speech function used by the main character in "Doctor Strange" film, *Strange*. It can be seen that all

types of speech function were used by *Strange*.

Tabel 1. Data Recapitulation

No	Classification of Speech function	Number of Speech function
1	Expressive	24
2	Directive	35
3	Referential	80
4	Metalinguistic	12
5	Poetic	5
6	Phatic	6
Total		188

It can be categorized that referential function becomes the dominant type of speech function used by *Strange*. *Strange* mostly uses referential function because he mostly talked about the information that his interlocutors need. However, all types of the speech functions are found, being uttered by *Strange*. They are expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic and phatic function.

Expressive Function

Expressive function means express the speaker's feeling. This function is delivered toward the addresser.

1. It's amazing you kept him alive. (00:05:58)
2. You've ruined me. (00:14:16)
3. Well, it's been lovely talking to you, thank you for the books and for the horrifying

story and for the threat upon my life (00:38:15)

In the first data, *Strange* as the speaker tried to convey his emotion towards the addressee, Christine Palmer. He felt surprised if Palmer, his former colleague succeeded to make the patient that was in very bad condition keep alive. 'Keep alive' could have lots of meanings. If we related this to a medical thing, 'kept him alive' in this sentence means the medical workers give a life support to make someone stay in the good condition and keep he or she healthy. Giving a life support is not easy to do. It is possible to be success or be failed. Because the possible of failing could be happened, *Strange* was relieved and also surprised because she succeeded doing a life support.

The second data, *Strange* conveyed his disappointment towards the addresser, the doctor who handled him when he got a car accident. His low voice, stuttering and his gaze to his hand supported that he conveyed his expression that was disappointment. The word choice 'ruined' in this sentence means the speaker is frustration, failure or disaster. All of them can be included as expressions.

The third data, *Strange* read an ancient book that was highly protected in the Kamar-

Taj Library. He was with the keeper of all the ancient books. The keeper named Wong told a story about the book and why the book had a missing page. That missing page was stolen by Kaecilius, an ex-master in Kamar-Taj. Wong said the previous keeper got hung then beheaded in that time. After that, they had little chat about their lives. In the end, *Strange* responded Wong with “Well, it’s been lovely talking to you, thank you for the books and for the horrifying story and for the threat upon my life.” ‘Lovely talking with you’ means *Strange* expressed he was happy to talk with Wong and it also could be keeping solidarity and politeness because Wong was honored in Kamar-Taj. ‘Horrifying story’ means *Strange*’s response about a missing page story. ‘for the threat upon my life’ means Kaecilius was still alive and had an intention to destroy Kamar-Taj. It threatened *Strange* because he might be involved.

Directive Function

Directive function means arrange to get someone to do something. This function is delivered toward the hearer.

1. We need to get him prepared for a sub occipital craniotomy. (00:06:24)
2. Please, be careful with the needle (01:07:24)

3. You have to return to your body now (01:23:19)

In the first data shows that *Strange* as the speaker used the directive function to attempt another doctors to make the surgeon ready. Therefore, that is a command. Medical workers have to pass through the steps that is giving a clear directive to make the surgeon goes smoothly. Besides of the ‘medical workers standard of operational’, Making directive function clearly reduces a chance of failure in the surgeon.

The second data is the one of the function used by the *Strange* to convey the command to the addresser, Palmer. In that situation, *Strange* would be injected a medicine by Christine Palmer. He hoped that Palmer was aware to inject a medicine correctly and slowly. Also, same as the first data, making directive function clearly reduces a chance of failure when she injects a medicine.

The third data, *Strange* used directive function to attempt his master, Ancient One to return to her body. Both *Strange* and Ancient One were outside the body. The difference was that she was dying. To keep her alive, *Strange* urged her to return her soul to the body to reduce death chance.

Referential Function

Referential function means provide information. Referential function is the communication of information. This function is delivered toward the addressers or the responses to be informed.

1. Feels So Good, Chuck Mangione, 1977 (00:05:18)
2. I came here to heal my hands not to fight in some mystical war. (00:54:23)
3. Well, after Western Medicine failed me, I headed to East, and I ended up in Kathmandu (01:11:13)

In the first data, *Strange* conveyed the information to the fact that the song that *Strange* and his colleagues listened to was named Feels So Good by Chuck Mangione produced in 1977.

Another case for the referential function is in the second data. *Strange* conveyed the information. In fact, he came to Kamar-Taj just for healing his hands. He clarified so that there was no misunderstanding between the speaker and the addresser.

The last data of referential, previously, Palmer asked *Strange* where he had been. *Strange* told Palmer a story about his hand treatment. Before he went to Kathmandu, he had surgeries but those did not really help.

Then, he got an information that Kamar-Taj might heal his hand. So he went there. *Strange* conveyed the information that was happened to him to Palmer. Also, he answered her question with the information.

Metalinguistic Function

Metalinguistic function means comment on the language itself. It focused to clarify or negotiate a previous speech.

1. Woah! "Feels so good", doesn't it? (00:05:44)
2. I control it by surrendering control? (00:41:15)
3. Sorry, what do you mean 'threats'? (00:45:39)

The first data, *Strange* ensured what the previous speaker talked about. The previous speaker said "1977." Which is related to a song named "Feels So Good" This song was listened to the medical workers in the surgery room before. So, they realized that the previous speaker connected the condition of patient to a name of song. Before the previous speaker said "1977", *Strange* asked about the condition of the patient. "Feels so good" in this situation means the patient was in a good condition.

The second data, same as the first data, *Strange* ensured what the previous speaker

talked about. It was happened because *Strange* did not believe what the previous speaker talked before so he asked her to clarify what she said.

The last data, *Strange* was with Ancient One. They were talked about the Mirror Dimension. Ancient One added that Mirror Dimension is used by people in Kamar-Taj to train, surveil, and sometimes to contain threats. Because *Strange* did not understand what threats that Ancient One talked about, he asked her back about the threats.

Poetic Function

Poetic function is delivered toward message and it focused on the message for its utterance.

1. This is the part where you leave. (00:17:36)
2. Pain's an old friend. (01:38:41)
3. Dormammu, I've come to bargain
(01:37:25) (01:37:52) (01:38:17)
(01:38:46) (01:38:50)

The data show that *Strange* used poetic function to respond what the previous speaker said. He used metaphor in his sentences and made a new statement based on the words that the previous speaker said, so *Strange* made the poetic function to convey the message that he wanted to express.

In the first data, in this situation, Palmer and *Strange* squabbled to each other. *Strange*, with his behavior opposed some of Palmer's statements. This matter made Palmer angry and said "This is the part where you apologize." *Strange* responded, "This is the part where you leave." The sentence that *Strange* responded, shows an aesthetic feature on language. He integrated Palmer's statement to make a new statement that he wanted. It seems like they squabbled with the same words but different purposes.

In the second data, *Strange* used metaphor in his sentence. The sentence means he was used to feel pain before. This kind of sentence shows an aesthetic feature on language because he used a figurative language to express what he felt in that time.

In the last data, the world was stuck in freezing time. However, *Strange* tried to fix that with dealing with Dormammu. The first sentence that he said when they met was "Dormammu, I've come to bargain." because it was hard to make a negotiation with Dormammu. *Strange* made a plan to make time loops so that made Dormammu annoyed. He would not stop until Dormammu fix the time. When his plan was on going, *Strange* said the same sentence every time they met.

That has made the sentence sounds iconic for this film because it was repeated several times.

Phatic Function

Phatic function expresses solidarity and empathy with others. It focused on establish the contact.

1. Billy, what have you got for me?
(00:11:05)
2. Hello. (00:25:12)

In the first data, *Strange* was on his way with his car. Then, Billy, his colleague, made a call. He had medical cases to be shared to *Strange*. To open the channel of communication and express solidarity, *Strange* greeted Billy first, then focused on what Billy wanted to say.

In the second data, *Strange* came to Kamar-Taj for the first time after a long time. *Strange* greeted people to show politeness. It was the first time he visit Kamar-Taj and people might not act a lot in unknown places. Also, it increases the level of solidarity because *Strange* had a purpose to heal his hands in this place. To make his purpose went well, he greeted them to see him come in peace. 'Hello' is a common speech acts to be said in real life. It is a simple beginnings of this

modest word and the role of has played in communications for more than a century.

V. CONCLUSION

After analyzing data, it can be concluded that; all six types of speech function that are used by *Strange* in "Doctor Strange" film with the occurrences of expressive is 24, directive is 35, referential is 80, metalinguistic is 12, phatic is 6, and poetic is 5. Referential is the dominant function. These facts imply that identified functions represent social context in which the utterances are uttered. The context has determined the choice of utterances.

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