

LANGUAGE FUNCTION IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IN 1975

Ida Ayu Made Puspani
Udayana University
made_puspani@unud.ac.id

Ketut Santi Indriani
Udayana University
kt.santi.indriani@unud.ac.id

Made Ayu Diah Prabandari
Udayana University
diah.prabandari66@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Language is an inseparable part of human life. Sometimes we have to organize and observe in such a way that we can enter every sphere of speech, because language has many different rules and function in each community of speech. This paper aims to identify and analyze the functions of language in one of Queen Elizabeth II speech – a Christmas Message in 1975. The data were collected from a speech video of Queen Elizabeth II on YouTube and the official script from Official Website of The Royal Family. The kind of data used in this study is qualitative data, which consist of 572 words of speech, analyzed using the qualitative descriptive: literary approach method. Based on the analysis it found that The Queen Elizabeth II's using some Language Function in her speech, namely Instrumental, Regulatory, Interactional, Personal, Heuristic, Imaginative, and Representational Function. The most used function in her speech is a Personal Function.

Keywords: function; language

INTRODUCTION

Language is an inseparable part of human life. Language plays a fundamental role in human social life, as an intermediary in communicating and interacting, either in writing, orally or even with various symbols. Language is formed and raised through human reason and mind which is reflected in life, culture, norms, customs, and the environment.

According to Halliday (02:1975) A language is a system of meaning - a semiotic system. This system explains how language itself is created a meaning and meanings are exchanged. In its used, language certainly has different functions and rules in each community of speech. Sometimes we have to organize and observe in such a way that we can enter every sphere of speech.

The United Kingdom, a country adheres to monarchical system, is very regard this point. With this kind of system carried out from generation to generation, traditions and norms become sacred and very essential to consider in every context of conversation.

Queen Elizabeth II is The Queen of United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms. Elizabeth II's reign considered as one of the most successful and popular in British history. During her reign, the Royal Christmas message, or a message from the royal family given every Christmas, has become a hereditary tradition that is delivered every year. This tradition was started by King George V, as the Queen's grandfather, and it continued in 1932 and continues ever since. This tradition has become a traditional part of the British Christmas as roast turkey and Christmas pudding. Since

1952, Millions of people across the United Kingdom have watched the Queen's speech on television. The message was conveyed in a broadcast by televisions, radio stations and the Internet to countries all over the world.

In the past, the development and function of language, especially in the United Kingdom, was still relatively underdeveloped. According to A Language for Life report, or known as the Bullock Report (a UK government report published in 1975) the allegations about lower standards at this time come from employers, who maintain that young people joining them from school cannot write grammatically, are poor spellers, and generally express themselves badly. This indicates at that time the quality of language was poor, and it was very difficult to approach it either oral or written with the right target.

Therefore, every speech delivered by the royal family as a hereditary tradition, takes into account many aspects. The function of language plays a very crucial role in directing speech targets in order to achieve diplomatic goals which can implicitly affect diplomatic relations between countries. Especially at that time, news related to the economic crisis and employment has become a very sensitive issue to be discussed. So, a systematic speech is needed according to the function of the language and the purpose of the speech itself.

The speech delivered by Queen Elizabeth II on the joy of Christmas in 1975 was not only a speech aimed at celebrating the warmth of Christmas, but also carried a warm message of its own. In addition to the implied message to unite themselves in the midst of inflation and the crisis occurred at that time, this speech also conveyed a strong message to unite and bring good influence to fellow individuals. This speech is also the first time, Queen's speech delivered interactively, which is located in The Garden of Buckingham Palace. The Analysis of Language Function in The Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas Message In 1975 was made for this uniqueness and the fact that the speech delivered this year was very inspiring.

literature review is about evaluating some available literature from previous studies in form of journal or undergraduate thesis related to the study. There are one thesis and two journal related to this study.

a) A Thesis by Yuni Lestari (2018) entitled An Analysis of Language Function in Maybelline Advertisements Recent. The writer of this thesis investigates language functions used in Maybelline advertisements using a theory by Roman Jakobson. The aims are to find the kinds and describe the contexts of language functions that used in Maybelline advertisements. The data were collected from the utterances of Maybelline advertisements in among 177 Utterances in the videos. This thesis uses a descriptive qualitative approach, which results in the fact that there are five most common language function in used. This thesis serving a good point of analysis, by elevating Maybelline as one of the leading brands whose advertisements are very attractive. The writer also adds a chart that makes it easier to understand the data quickly, but there are some repetitions of the theory that look a bit redundant.

b) An article by Bunga Darma Uli and Komala Dwi Syaputri (2018) entitled Language Function in Hillary Clinton's Speeches on Youtube. This article discussed the language function in Hillary Clinton's speeches on YouTube, using a theory by Jakobson. The aims are to identify and describe the types of language function and meaning of Hillary Clinton's speeches. The data were collected from four of her speeches on YouTube. The descriptive qualitative approach was used in analyzing this speech, which is showing that there are eight types of language function and meaning expressions used and the writer conclude that Hillary instilled the language function in her speech to make it understandable and meaningful to the audiences. This article gives a detailed explanation and emphasis some important point about her speech, such as "The meaning of this is actually literally clear to everybody who hear it.", and "She felt grateful that she could stand in front of the audience."

c) A Journal Article by Fauzi Usrya Kanaza (2020) entitled A Language Function: The Analysis of Conative Function in Meghan Markle's Speech. This journal article examined the types of language functions used in Meghan Markle's speech, using a five functions of language theory proposed by Jakobson (1985). The aim is to analyze the utterance produced by

Meghan Markle, using a qualitative method. The data were collected from the utterances that produced by Meghan Markle in her speech. The result is there five types of language functions used and the most dominant is the conative function. This journal article serving a good analysis, but there are several parts which less clear or have an irregular structure.

METHOD

Research methods are specific procedures for analyzing and collecting data. Developing a research method is a crucial part of a research design. It usually consists of three elements, namely; Data Source, Data Collection, and Data Analysis.

The kind of data used in this study is qualitative data. The data in this study were taken from the speech video by Queen Elizabeth II on YouTube, who presented a message for Christmas Day in 1975 and the official script from Official Website of The Royal Family (Anonymous, 2015; Guzman, 2018). Queen Elizabeth II is The Queen of United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms. Elizabeth II's reign considered as one of the most successful and popular in British history.

This study used the literary approach method, which used the collection of data derived from a variety of secondary data, such as thesis, journals, textbooks, pdf, e-book, and official website. The data will qualitatively be analyzed by a descriptive explanation based on the theory of Halliday (1973).

DISCUSSION

In The Queen Elizabeth II's speech there are some of language functions, they are:

1). Instrumental Function

In the Queen Elizabeth II's speech, there is only one Instrumental Function, occurs in the sentence below:

- *"The responsibility for the way we live life with all its challenges, sadness and joy is ours alone."*

This sentence is categorized as a sentence using an Instrumental Function because it is expressing what people's needs. It is expressing that the responsibility for life, challenges, sadness and happiness is personal.

2). Regulatory Function

The Regulatory Function, in this case, occurs in six sentences, located in the sentence below:

- *"I think it's worth reminding ourselves why."*

This sentence is categorized as Regulatory Function because it is a kind of satire that focuses on influencing people to remind them of this point.

- *"I believe it means trying to make the most of the abilities we have been given, it means caring for our talents."*

In this case, the sentence seems to persuade people to carry their talents well.

- *"It is a matter of making the best of ourselves, not just doing the best for ourselves."*

This sentence also seems to persuade people to do the things. It emphasis the point about self-improvement, which also a part of Regulatory

- *"We are all different, but each of us has his own best to offer."*

The Queen in this sentence seems to imply a message that everyone has their own best. This is a strong way to persuade the audiences as well.

- *"And the combined effect can be enormous."*

The speech seems to proudly state that the effect can be enormous. It triggered the audience to listen to more explanations.

- *"So, take heart from the Christmas message and be happy."*

This last sentence is a command/invitation to be happy and absorb the message of this Christmas deeply.

3). Interactional Function

In Interactional Function there are seven of sentence conclude, such as:

- *"Today we are not just nameless people in a crowd."*

By saying this, The Queen tried to greet and open her speech in a warm way to "embrace" and enhance the social qualities as in the purpose of this function.

- *"We meet as friends who are glad to be together and who care about each other's happiness."*

Continuing the first sentence, this also can help in building a good social relation, especially between a Queen and her resident.

- *“Then Christmas comes, and once again we are reminded that people matter, and it is our relationship with one another that is most important.”*

In this sentence, The Queen also declared about how important is the social relationship among the residents.

- *“He showed that what people are and what they do, does matter and does make all the difference.”*

This sentence has a correlation with the story she explained previously, and emphasizes that people are different.

- *“If we do this well, it will also be good for our neighbours.”*

This is showing us the benefit of the point of this speech in society, so this sentence is categorized as Interactional.

- *“We may feel powerless alone but the joint efforts of individuals can defeat the evils of our time.”*

This sentence emphasizes how important the unity of each individual in society is. The Queen tried to imply that when we are together, we can solve many problems.

- *“Together they can create a stable, free and considerate society.”*

This last sentence is categorized as an Interactional one because it has a good statement that can impact society.

4). Personal Function

In Personal Function there are eight of sentence conclude, such as:

- *“Every year I have this special opportunity of wishing you a happy Christmas.”*

In this sentence, The Queen expressed her personal feeling, the gratitude of her chance to give a Christmas message every year.

- *“I like to think I am speaking to each child who can see or hear me, each woman, each man in every country of the Commonwealth.”*

This sentence shows the hope of The Queen who wants this message not only to be heard by a few people, but to be heard by the whole world, especially the Commonwealth of Nations. It expresses the personal feelings of The Queen.

- *“So much of the time we feel that our lives are dominated by great impersonal forces beyond our control, the scale of things and organizations seems to get bigger and more inhuman.”*

This shows The Queen's personal concern about the backward people who feel oppressed, feel disadvantaged. This reflects The Queen's personal approach as head of the commonwealth.

- *“We are horrified by brutal and senseless violence, and above all the whole fabric of our lives is threatened by inflation, the frightening sickness of the world today.”*

This sentence shows The Queen's concern for the situation, which has an impact on many parties. This sentence reflects the queen's sadness personally about this situation.

- *“For most of us - I wish it could be for everyone - this is a holiday, ...”*

This sentence implies The Queen's hope that everyone can feel the same happiness and serenity in the current situation. It also illustrates the queen's respect for those who are struggling out there.

- *“It does matter therefore what each individual does each day. Kindness, sympathy, resolution, and courteous behaviour are infectious.”*

The Queen tries to suggest that the only key in the current situation is to instill kindness, sympathy and other good things and implement them into everyday life.

- *“Acts of courage and self-sacrifice, like those of the people who refuse to be terrorised by kidnappers or hijackers, or who defuse bombs, are an inspiration to others.”*

The Queen in this sentence tries to emphasize that the courage and self-awareness to remain in goodness and emphasize that goodness is very inspiring so that it can be an example for many people.

- *“God bless you all.”*

The Queen gave a warm greeting for the closing using "God bless you all" which is an expression and expression of the queen's personal feelings.

5). Heuristic Function

In Heuristic Function there is only one of sentence conclude, such as:

- *“He commanded us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves, but what exactly is meant by 'loving ourselves'?”*

This sentence is considered as a Heuristic Function because it seems to explore the environment, the situation in the society by asking a question about “loving ourselves”.

6). Imaginative Function

In Imaginative Function there are five of sentence conclude, as follows:

- *“If you throw a stone into a pool, the ripples go on spreading outwards.”*

This sentence is categorized as an Imaginative Function because it seems to invite us to imagine a parable, if we throw a stone into a pool.

- *“A big stone can cause waves, but even the smallest pebble changes the whole pattern of the water.”*

Continuing the first sentence, this sentence also invites us to imagine a parable which contains a message, even one small step of change is meaningful and has an impact.

- *“Our daily actions are like those ripples, each one makes a difference, even the smallest.”*

This sentence also leads us to imagine the previous situation, which is a part where the meaning of the parable is explained.

- *“If enough grains of sand are dropped into one side of a pair of scales they will, in the end, tip it against a lump of lead.”*

In this sentence, we are invited again to imagine the same thing but through a different parable.

- *“Like those grains of sand, they can tip the balance.”*

This last sentence is a continuation of the parable above which is the essence of the message to be conveyed.

7). Representational Function

And the last, In Representational Function there are five of sentence conclude, as follows:

- *“Christmas is a festival which brings us together in small groups, a family group if we are lucky.”*

This sentence is categorized as a representational function because it seems to inform the others that there are many people out

there who are unlucky, who cannot gather with their families in this Christmas celebration.

- *“Nowadays this is a precious experience.”*

This sentence is also a Representational because it informs us that it is a kind of precious experience.

- *“We are celebrating a birthday - the birthday of a child born nearly 2,000 years ago, who grew up and lived for only about 30 years.”*

This sentence is a parable of the message the queen wants to convey. Why this is a kind of Representational one, because it can be an information for the listening party.

- *“That one person, by his example and by his revelation of the good which is in us all, has made an enormous difference to the lives of people who have come to understand his teaching.”*

In this sentence, The Queen tries to relate a story about majesty which is related to the message to be conveyed, continuing the previous part.

- *“His simple message of love has been turning the world upside down ever since.”*

In this part, The Queen seems to want to convey a moral message from the previous story, which is related to the main message The Queen wants to convey in her speech.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of Language Function in The Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas Message In 1975, it can be concluded that according to Michael Halliday's theory, Queen Elizabeth II used some language functions in his speech, such as: (1) Instrumental Function; (2) Regulatory Function; (3) Interactional Function; (4) Personal Function; (5) Heuristic Function; (6) Imaginative Function; and (7) Representational Function.

The most used of language function in The Queen Elizabeth II's Speech is Personal Function, which used eight times. Then, there is Interactional Function, which used seven times, Regulatory Function used six times, Imaginative and Representational Function used five times, and the least usage is Heuristic and Instrumental, which only used once each type. So, in this case we can assume that

Personal Function is mostly dominate in this speech, which perhaps functioning as the approach from The Queen Elizabeth II itself as a Head of Commonwealth to bring messages (especially Christmas messages) that are deep and can reach all circles.

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