

An Analysis of Phatic Communication Employed of The Character of Will and Louise in Movie Entitle Me Before You

Sahlan Tampubolon¹, Kammer Sipayung², Ulan Susi Manullang³

^{1,2,3} English Department, Nommensen HKBP University Medan

e-mail: ulan.manullang22@student.uhn.ac.id

Abstract

This research was conducted to describe the forms and the roles of phatic communion employed by characters in the movie entitled Me Before You. This research used the pragmatic approach. This research was a descriptive qualitative research. The dialogs containing the phatic communion were taken as data. The result of the analysis can be seen as follows: First, there are four forms of phatic communion employed by the characters in the movie entitled Me Before You, namely ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat and meaningless word or misunderstood words. The total number of forms of phatic communion are; Ritual words that are exchanged when people meet 3 utterances = 9.00%, Standard Topic of Conversation 11 utterances = 34.37%, Supportive Chat 14 utterances = 43.75%, Meaningless words or even misunderstood words 4 utterances = 12.88%. Second, there are three roles of phatic communion, namely opening phase, middle phase, closing phase. The total number of roles of phatic communion are; Opening phase 3 utterances = 60.00%, Middle phase 1 utterances = 20.00, and Closing phase 11 utterances = 20.00%. Phatic communion occurs both in formal or informal situation and the relationship between the participants can be intimate or distant. It can happen in both higher and lower status. The atmosphere is commonly good but if the atmosphere is bad, phatic communion utterances will help to turn into the good one. The attitude of the participants while uttering phatic communion utterances is usually sympathetic. It can be seen from the low tone. At last, phatic communion functions to establish and maintain social relationship between people in society.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Phatic Communion, Me Before You movie.

INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in human life because languages enable people to communicate and interact with other people. The language plays the important role to express thoughts, feelings, or ideas in order to communicate with others. In communication, people need to pay attention a lot to speaker or listener, message, code, and signal. In addition, they need to see others proficiency in creating a successful communication, especially for face-to-face communication. In such communication, people need to use language properly to give proper utterances based on contexts. This kind of communication is a verbal communication viewed as one of the ways to communicate between speakers and listeners directly. In a verbal communication, people might not employ utterances for sharing information, yet they want to show a willingness to talk to another in order to open or to keep open a channel of communication (Wardhaugh, 2006:285). Besides giving and asking for information, people also try to maintain and establish their communication, but sometimes they create a discomfort or silence in such communication. According to Trudgill (1974: 13) language is not simply as a means of communicating information, it is also very important means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. Phatic is derived the ancient Greek word 'phatos' and become 'phatic' in English literature. Sentf (2007:9) interprets the use of the word communion as a means of emphasizing the intensity of the type of the speech. Phatic communion is generally used refer to utterances that are said to have exclusively

social, bonding functions like establishing and maintaining a friendly and harmonious atmosphere in interpersonal relations, especially during the opening and closing stages of social verbal encounters. In addition, phatic communion can also be described as “communication between people who are not intended to seek or convey information but has the social function of establishing or maintaining social contact” (Richards and Schmidt, 2010:432). It means that people use language to communicate and to create a good social relationship with others.

Pragmatics

The field study of pragmatics is concerned on how utterance is uttered by the speaker. Yule (1996:4) states that pragmatics is the study of the relationships between linguistics form and the users of those forms. Yule defined there are four areas that Pragmatics is concerned with.

Communication

To describes the notion of communication as an exploration of meaning. It indicates that communication constructs any meanings or interpretations when transforming information. To get the meaning as wanted, Cruse (2000:5) in line with Lyons (1997:34) gives a simple model of communication which shows the way of communication people do in their daily life. In addition, Lyons (1997:34) has two points having to do with the notion of communication. The first point is the distinction between actual and intended receivers of a signal. It is stated that it is common to have more than one receiver linked to senders by a channel of communication and for the senders to be communicating with only one of these receivers. In this point, the senders give the signal identifying the intended receivers or addressees and invite them to pay attention to, or respond to the signal. In other words, the way people start or end the conversation, respond a message, give attention, take the turn, and listen carefully become important as well (Jumanto, 2011:24). In brief, people need to know how to make a successful communication with others, including with unknown people. Communication happens many times in our society but not all of communication employs utterances for sharing information. In this case people mightalso show their willingness to talk in order to open and keep the channel of communication. (Wardhaugh, 2006:285). The conversation which is not inform anything is called phatic. More information about phatic is explained below.

Language Function

People communicate each other by language. To deliver information to other people it uses language. Trudgill (1995:1) states that language is not simply a means of communicating information about the weather or any other subject. It is also a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationships with other people. Language is bad at handling spatial information whether for tying knots, following routes or learning about the circulation of blood. Language is also poor at conveying information about sensation or emotion. However, language is particularly good in social roles at maintaining social ties and influencing other. Language function is the main function of communication (Ba'dulu and Muis,2003:5). Language function means an element of the language role occur in communication within the wider of language system. So, language function means the role of language system of communication. Talking about language function, Leech in Ba'dulu and Muis (2003:4) divide the kinds of language functions into five categories, namely (1) informational function; (2) expressive function; (3) directive function; (4) aesthetic function; and (5) phatic function.

Phatic Communication

Phatic Communion, it is firstly coined by Malinowski. He argues that the false conception of language as a means of transfusing ideas from the head of the speaker to that of the listener. He stresses the social importance of talking for the sake of talking which he calls Phatic Communion. Phatic Communion is very important in our daily life like what Trudgill (1995:1) conveys that language is not only a means of communicating information about the weather or any other subject. It is also a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. Phatic communication does not convey information, but it will be call as action view that appeared several decades later (Austin: 1962). Which means that phatic communication has a social function such as, to start conversation, greet someone. To break the silence someone should start a conversation. Talking about some neutral topics like the weather is possible to strike up a

relationship with them without having to say very much. It doesn't contain many information but keep the conversation continuously.

The Form of Phatic Communication

Phatic communion in his book entitled "the seeds of speech". He classifies phatic into four types there are ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat, and meaningless words or misunderstood words, Aitchison (1996:22) will be described below:

- 1) Ritual Words That Are Exchange When People Meet
- 2) Standard Topics of Conversation
- 3) Supportive Chat
- 4) Meaningless Words or Misunderstood Words

The Roles of Phatic Communication

Laver (1975:219-220) mentions that the instrument of phatic function can be marked through the eye contact, gestures, body movement, etc. Nevertheless, phatic function does not only lie on those marks. There are three roles of phatic function, based on Laver's theory they are:

- 1) Opening phase: Phatic function in opening phase is committed to captivate the attention of interlocutor especially in the silence situation.
- 2) Medial phase: In the medial phase, phatic function is applied to enter the main business or to maintain the conversation.
- 3) Closing phase: The situation where participants (speaker and listener) intend to finish the conversation is the main case in the closing phase.

Synopsis of the Movie

Me Before You begins with its protagonist, Louisa Clark, losing her steady job at a cafe. Since her family's financial situation is increasingly worrisome, she takes the best available job in her small town: care worker for a quadriplegic man. The man is Will Traynor, a former London businessman who has been seriously injured in an accident. Will is bitter when Lou first meets him, and subjects her to cruelty and ironic asides. However, the two eventually begin to connect, sharing jokes and treating one another with straightforward honesty. Will encourages Lou to explore interests outside of her comfort zone, while Lou gives Will practical assistance and helps him to feel less depressed. After several weeks on the job, Lou overhears a conversation between Will's mother and sister. She learns that Will has attempted suicide once and is still determined to commit physician-assisted suicide. He has agreed with his mother that he will wait six months before going to Switzerland to take his own life. Lou, who has grown fond of Will, is so upset that she nearly quits her job. She returns on the condition that she be allowed to take Will on a series of "adventures" in the hopes of brightening his outlook and convincing him to stay alive. Lou, accompanied by Will's nurse Nathan, takes her charge on a series of outings with moderate success. They attend horse races, concerts, and art gallery shows, all while becoming closer with one another. Louisa eventually reveals to Will one of the reasons for her cautious personality. As a teenager, she endured a traumatic sexual assault on the grounds of the town's medieval castle. Afraid of taking risks that might put her in a similar situation, Lou stays close to home and avoids new opportunities. Will comforts her and helps her to overcome this event in her past so that she can live more adventurously. While the two main characters are growing closer and learning from one another, Lou's life outside of work begins to fall apart. Her father loses his job, and her sister decides to return to university, putting the family in more financial distress. Various logistical conflicts result in Lou having no place to sleep in her family's busy house. She moves in with her boyfriend, Patrick, but their relationship is increasingly distant and unsatisfying. This is largely due to Patrick's obsession with triathlons and fitness. Lou and Patrick break up after Patrick accuses Lou of being in love with Will. Knowing she needs a place to stay on weekends, Will invites Lou to spend the night in his family's house.

METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data in order to understand the phatic communication phenomenon in a movie entitled *Me Before You*. Qualitative research methods provide more emphasis on interpretation and providing consumers with complete views, looking at contexts, environmental immersions and a depth of understanding of concepts (Tewksbury 2009:39). Then clearly the writer used qualitative research method because the writer is concerned to analyze the dialogues which contain the forms and the roles of phatic communication employed by Will and Louise from the movie. In addition, Moleong (1998: 3) states that qualitative descriptive research is the research result the descriptive data in written form, which has been observed by people. As stated by Creswell (1998:15), Qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. The writer builds a complex holistic picture, analyzes words, report detailed views of informants, and conducts the study in a natural setting. The data source in this research was taken from a movie entitled "Me Before You" movie which directed by Thea Sharrock which published in August 2016. The movie consists of 18 casts. In this research the writer focused on the dialogues employed by the main characters, they are Will Traynor and Louise Clark. As the main characters, those characters are believed performing a lot of phatic communion. The writer analyzed the utterances of phatic communication from the movie of "Me Before You" In short steps of analyzing the data are presented from the description as below:

1. Drawing the data analysis by coding the movie transcription;
2. Determining the utterances of Will and Louise that indicates as forms and roles of phatic communication'
3. Identifying the sentences which categorized as form of phatic word;
4. Classifying the categorized sentence into each roles of phatic;
5. Presenting the data obtained in the form of table and description. The data which displayed are the forms and the roles of phatic communication to make it easier, the writer used color as a code to divide and differ the founded data for research question number one and number two.
6. Making data verification by consulting and checking the revisiting data
7. Counting and finding the dominant forms and the roles of phatic communication performed by Will and Louise by using the formula below:

$$x = \frac{f}{N} \times 100 \%$$

Where : x = The percentage of the items

f = Frequency

N = Total number of the items.

Concluding the data analysis to obtain the answer of the statement problem.

RESULT/S AND DISCUSSION

The use of phatic communion was found in the movie entitled *Me Before You* which employed by the character of Louise Clark and Will Traynor. The finding of this research is answering the problem of study of this research. Therefore, the research finding of this research can be seen from the followings below:

No.	Forms of Phatic Communion	Amount	Percentage (%)
1.	Ritual words that are exchanged when people meet	3	9.00 %
2.	Standard Topic of Conversation	11	34.37 %
3.	Supportive Chat	14	43.75 %
4.	Meaningless words or even misunderstood words	4	12.88%
Total		32	100 %

No.	Roles of Phatic Communion	Amount	Percentage (%)
1.	Opening Phase	3	60.00 %
2.	Middle Phase	1	20.00 %
3.	Closing Phase	1	20.00 %
Total		32	100

CONCLUSION

This subchapter is a discussion toward the findings obtained from the data analysis. These findings are based on the problem statements of the research covering the forms and the roles of phatic communion. These findings also describe why the characters employ phatic communion based on its function. The following discussion discusses the findings drawn from the data analyzed. 1. The forms of phatic communion in the movie entitled *Me Before You*. There are four forms of phatic communion employed by the characters in the movie, namely ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat, and meaningless words or misunderstood words. There are 34 dialogues containing phatic communion. They are divided into 3 data of ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, 11 data of standard topic of conversation, 14 data of supportive chat, and 4 data of meaningless words or misunderstood words. The characters employ forms of phatic communion because of some reasons. The speakers usually employ form of ritual words that are exchanged when people meet because they just want greet one and another. It is closely related to politeness values in society. It doesn't only occur between people who have intimate relationship but also between people who have distant relationship. The form of standard topic of conversation is a topic of conversation that is too standard and not specific. The speakers employ this form because they want to strike up a relationship. If the conversation occurs between unacquainted people usually the topic of conversation is about the weather, offering drink or something. The other topic is about the health of the relatives usually for people who already acquainted. The speakers employ form of supportive chat because this conversation doesn't deliver any new information but it is full of empathy and solidarity. The conversation often supplies a minimum information but a maximum supportive chat. Usually it can be in the form of compliments, empathy and repetitions, both self-repetition and other repetition. The speakers employ form meaningless words or misunderstood words because they want to maintain and keep the conversation going. The second problem question of this study is to find out the roles of phatic communion used by the character of Louise and William from the movie. As it's seen in the findings above there are three roles, they are: opening, middle, and closing phase. There are 3 data (datum 11, 15, and 37) categorized as opening phase. For example, as stated by **Louise**: *You know what yesterday. It was awful! It's his girlfriend and his bestfriend!* That utterance shows how Louise open her conversation with William. While in the middle phase which used to maintain a conversation, there are two data (datum 19 and 33) categorized as middle phase. And the last closing phase which used to end our conversation, there is one data (datum 23) categorized as closing phase as stated by William: *bye!* Shows how he end the conversation with Louise. Phatic communion functions to

establish and maintain social relationship between people in society. It occurs not only in formal situation but also in informal situation. The relationship between the participants can be intimate or distant. It usually happens between friends, a father and a daughter, etc. Phatic communion is uttered in a low tone because it tries to establish and maintain social relationship between people. The atmosphere is commonly good but if the atmosphere is bad, phatic communion utterances will help to turn into the good one. The attitude of the participants while uttering phatic communion utterances is usually sympathetic. It can be seen from the low tone. From all data containing phatic communion, the end of conversation is good. The relationship between participants is good. The instrumentality, the way message travels from one to another, uses the spoken language. This study will increase students' insight about phatic communion which they will use in their daily conversation. It can guide the students to explore how to use the phatic communion. The more practice the more enjoyable the students will speak in English.

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