



LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS USED BY FRANK ABAGNALE JR. IN CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan dan mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis fungsi fungsi bahasa yang digunakan oleh tokoh utama, Frank Abagnale Jr. dalam *Catch Me If You Can*. Metode penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif, karena melibatkan ujaran-ujaran tokoh utama dalam film yang perlu dideskripsikan. Objek penelitian ini adalah 576 ucapan dari karakter utama. Beberapa langkah yang dilakukan dalam proses pengumpulan data, seperti mengunduh dan mengekstrak subtitle, menonton film, mengonversi, mencetak dan membaca subtitle, menemukan dan menandai jenis fungsi bahasa, jenis dominan dan implikasinya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa fungsi referensial ditemukan pada 79 ujaran yang diucapkan oleh Abagnale dalam film, 6 untuk fungsi puitis, 36 untuk fungsi ekspresif musuh, 45 untuk fungsi konatif, 53 untuk fungsi fatis, dan 30 untuk fungsi metalingual.

Kata kunci: *Jenis Fungsi Bahasa, Frank Abagnale Jr., Catch Me If You Can.*

Abstract

This study aimed at finding and identifying the types of functions of language functions used by the main character, Frank Abagnale Jr. in *Catch Me If You Can*. The method of this study was descriptive qualitative, since it involved the utterances of the main character on the film that needs to be described. The object of this study was the 576 utterances of the main character. Some steps were taken in the process of collecting the data, such as downloading and extracting the subtitles, watching the movie, converting, printing and reading the subtitles, finding and marking the type of language functions, the dominant type and its implication. The results showed that referential function was found in 79 utterances spoken by Abagnale in the movie, 6 for poetic function, 36 for expressive function, 45 for conative function, 53 for phatic function, and 30 for metalingual function.

Keywords: *Types of Language Functions, Frank Abagnale Jr., Catch Me If You Can.*

INTRODUCTION

In language study, one of the literary works that can be analyzed is movie. A movie can provide longer conversation, thus it will be very useful in identifying the language functions. The main character usually talks more compared to other characters. For example, Frank Abagnale who is played by Leonardo Dicaprio in *Catch Me If You Can*. This movie is about him who acts as a con-artist who deceives people by performing his various great occupations at the age of 18. The writer was interested to do this research because there are language functions used by the main character in order to achieve the purpose of his speech in the movie. It was also interesting to investigate what functions of language the main character used when he delivers messages in his conversation with other characters to persuade what he was talking so that the other person trusts him. Moreover, this movie is also based on Abagnale's true story that was why the writer was interested to use it as the object of the study. The writer felt challenged to analyze the types of language functions that are used in Abagnale's utterances.

This study was conducted to develop the understanding towards language functions in verbal communication, especially uttered by main character in the movie. It was also useful to know the meaning of each type of language functions which were used in this study. The result of this study could be used by other students to know the types of language functions and comprehend the meaning of each type. The writer also hopes that this study will give a contribution for the next writer as one of the references as well as expanding the analysis deeper by using different literary works or objects and method.

Keraf (1997, p. 1) states that language is a means of communication between members of the community in the form of a symbol of sound produced by the speech organ. It can also be said that there is an objection by saying that the language is not the only tool for communication. He also provides the two language understanding. The first notion of language as stated means of communication between members of the public in the form of a symbol of the sound produced by means of said human. Second, language is a communication system that uses symbols vocal (speech sound) which are arbitrary.

One of the well-known models of the functions of language used in verbal communication was introduced by the Russian-American linguist, Roman Jakobson (1960, pp. 350-377). Jakobson divided functions of language into 6 types, based on which an effective act of verbal communication can be described. Jakobson's model of the functions of language distinguishes six factors of communication which are really necessary to occur in a conversation. They are (1) context, (2) addresser (sender), (3) addressee (receiver), (4) contact, (5) common code and (6) message. Each of the factor is the main point of a relation, or function, that operates between the message and the factor. The addressee will get the message from the addresser. A context is needed in the texts which refers to the referent to be operative. A text should be full of codes or at least moderately codes between the addresser and the addressee of the message. And a contact which means a psychological connection between the addresser

and the addressee must connect both of them and keep the conversation run well.

Based on the factors, the language functions are categorized into, (1) the referential function which is oriented toward the context (the most important function in a message like 'Water boils at 100 degrees'). This function affirms or denies propositions, as in science or the statement of fact. These sentences have a truth value, that is, the sentences are either true or false (recognizing, of course, that we might not know what Referential function means provide information; (2) the emotive function is oriented toward the addresser (as in the interjections 'Watch out!' and 'Oh my God!') 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 he is speaking about. It tends to produce an impression of a certain emotion whether it is true or feigned. It means that the addresser's own towards the content of the message is emphasized. Relates to the addresser (sender) and is best exemplified by interjections and other sound changes that do not alter the denotative meaning of an utterance but do add information about the addresser's (speaker's) internal state. Whether a person is experiencing feelings of happiness, sadness, grief or otherwise. they use this function to express themselves.; (3) the conative function is oriented toward the addressee (imperatives 'Buy me pizza' and 'Close the door'). It occurs earliest in the child's language acquisition. This function is influencing behavior or in other words, through this function, the speaker is trying to get someone as the receiver to do something related to his or her utterances. In this conative function, we focus on the speaker's utterance. This function finds its purest grammatical expression in evocative and imperative sentences, and it helps us to make people do something and it includes orders and prayers. ; (4) the phatic function serves to confirm whether the contact is still there, is language for the sake of interaction and is therefore associated with the contact or channel factor. (as in 'Are you still with me?', "Hello?". "Ok?", "Hummm". "Bye"); (5) the metalingual function is used to establish mutual agreement on the code (for example, a definition, 'Do you mean butler?'). 'Code' shows the metalingual function which is used whenever the addresser and the addressee need to confirm whether they use the same code and when the language is used to speak about language.; (6) the poetic function which the focus on the message for its own sake (for example, 'Horrible me'). And means to 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. They always contain a creative 'touch' of our own. These additions have no purpose other than to make the messages 'nicer'. 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.

METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method. According to Cresswell (2009), qualitative research is as an approach or search in order to explore and understand a central phenomenon. The final results of a qualitative research were described or stated in a form of a written report. Descriptive qualitative

method meant that the writer explained, analyzed and classified the data of the study by doing observation. The writer observed and interpreted the result of the interpretation by herself. This Study focused on analyzing the types of language function and which one was the dominant one in the movie *Catch Me If You Can*. It is a 2002 American pseudobiographical crime movie directed by Steven Spielberg. The movie is based on true story of the main character and it lasts for 2 hours and 21 minutes. The writer only analyzed the language functions used by the main character, Frank Abagnale Jr. acted by Leonardo Dicaprio. The language function used in this study was based on the theory of Jakobson with his 6 types of language function applied in verbal communication.

In this research, the writer collected the data through documentation from visual materials in the form of videotapes and sound. That was why the writer collected the data by several steps as followed:

1. The writer watched the movie *Catch Me If You Can* for several times on Netflix.
2. The writer found the subtitle transcription on internet, from subscene.com.
3. The writer listened to the main character utterances in the movie, checked the transcription and highlighted the utterances uttered by Abagnale.

The writer typed the utterances to a table and start to identify the types of language function used.

After collecting the data, the writer would analyze the data by doing several steps, as followed:

1. The writer started with identifying the types of language functions used by the main character's utterances.
2. The writer classified the types of language function in each utterance and identified the meaning based on the context of the conversation of the main character in the movie.

The writer counted the frequency of each language function appeared in the utterances to identify the dominant one and concluded why the language function used most frequently in the utterances of the main character in the movie.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There were six types of language functions used in the utterances of the main character in the movie. There were 555 utterances spoken by Frank Abagnale Jr. in *Catch Me If You Can*. These six types of language functions were based on the theory of Jakobson.

Table 1. Total used of Tyeeps of Language

No	Types of Language Function	Total Used in Utterances
1.	Referential	206
2.	Poetic	12
3.	Expressive	59
4.	Conative	69

5.	Phatic	163
6.	Metalingual	46

Based on the first finding, it can be concluded that the dominant type of language functions used in the utterances of main character is referential. Referential function was found to be the most dominant language functions used by the main character that was used by Abagnale to state truth above himself to other his family and other people. It was also used by him to cover his lies or his actions as con-artist in order to make other people believed or trusted him above his job and he could get much money from it.

The language functions used by the main character in the movie are discussed in this section, as well as the dominant type used and its implication.

1. Referential Fuction

The referential functions found in the utterances are listed below:

(1) "We know the story, Daddy."

The utterance above has referential function which means the speaker wants to say the fact that he has already known the story so that the father does not need to tell him again the whole story.

(2) "I overslept again."

The utterance above is conveying information that the speaker was not aware of the whether, that it was already snowing. He states that he overslept again to his father without even realizing the change of season has already begun.

(3) "She said something about to look for a job."

The speaker is trying to convey the message that his friend has left first by taking his car to find job somewhere. He says a fact about his friend.

(4) "My name is Mr. Abagnale Jr.! That's Abagnale Jr., not Abagnolee, Not Abagnelee, but Abagnale Jr."

Abagnale Jr. in this utterance is giving information to his students in college (as he acted as a young lecturer) about his name and the spelling, asking them not to mispronounce or misspell it and remember his name. Though he became con-artist he still uses his real name, Abagnale Jr.

(5) "I asked her out today"

In this utterance, Abagnale Jr. was talking to his mother and he said that he was having a date with his old friend when he was in high school. Her name was Joanna. The referential function in this utterance is only about giving that information.

2. Poetic Function

The poetic functions found in the utterances are listed below:

1) "Blond bombshell."

The Utterance above is use to express how awesome and pretty Abagnale Jr. mother's is in the past when she met his father.

2) "Two little mice fell into a bucket cream."

The purpose of this utterance is to express the struggle of someone to achieve something in life. This utterance used by Abagnale Jr. in Dinner pray with Brenda's Family as a Lutheran.

- 3) "Yes, Grumpy old Hollingasworth, right?"

This Utterance context's is about Abagnale Jr. was answering Brenda's father question about Mr. Hollingasworth and the utterance used to describe how closed Abagnale Jr. with Mr. Hollingasworth by saying he is old and grumpy.

- 4) "Your honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, this is irrefutable evidence defendant is, in fact lying."

The Utterance above happened in a court when Abagnale Jr. had a lawyer trial and he tried to show to people in the court which is the judge how was the evidence of his case.

- 5) "I came to see you."

Abagnale Jr. in this Utterance talked to his father and tried to hazily his father by saying this which means Abagnale Jr. really prepare himself for this meeting.

3. Expressive Function

The Expressive Function found in the utterances are listed below:

- 1) "Thanks, Dad."

This utterance above is convey a grateful. Abagnale Jr. thank his father so much because he gave Abagnale Jr. a checking account as birthday present.

- 2) "It's okay, I've stayed in worse."

The Utterance above convey the condition of Abagnale Jr. The context is he talked to Carl, FBI Agent and asked for another room hotel but Carl wont. So Abagnale Jr. tried to agree and saying if whatever the room is he stay worsh.

- 3) "Thank you."

The purpose of this Utterance is to show thank to someone in phone who already connected him to uniform field in Pan Am Airline.

- 4) "So I'm trying my best not to be afraid"

This Utterance shows the optimistic of Abagnale Jr. who tried to doesn't afraid of anything like his father told to him.

- 5) "I'm sorry I ran away, but you don't have to worry,

The context of this Utterance is stil in letter of Abagnale Jr. to his father. Abagnale Jr. feel sorry to his father because ran away when his parent get divorce and want his father to don't worry of anything.

4. Conative Function

The Conative function found in the utterances are listed below:

- 1) "Help me. Help me."

The utterance above actually had a purpose to made Carl as the listener to do what Abagnale Jr. want, to help him.

- 2) "Let's go home"

The utterance happened in French prison, Abagnale Jr. asked Carl to take him out and go home.

- 3) "Quiet down, people!"

The context of this utterance was in Abagnale Jr.'s new school and he pretended to be a French teacher and ordered the student to be settle and silent.

4) "Now, somebody please tell me where you left off in your textbooks."
Still in Abagnale Jr.'s new school, in this utterance he wanted to know the latest lesson of their book of the study.

5) "Take your seats!"
In this utterance, Abagnale Jr. want a student to sit down.

5. Phatic Function

The Phatic found in the utterances are listed below:

1) "Okay, Carl."

The utterance above conveyed if Abagnale Jr. was talking to Carl and agree with his idea.

2) "Oh, Mom."

In this utterance, Abagnale Jr. respond on his mother has done. She spill out the wine into the carpet

3) "Yeah"

This utterance was a respond to his mother order. She want Abagnale Jr. to took a towel.

4) "Hey, Dad."

Abagnale Jr. in this utterance was about to call his father and make sure he was listening.

5) "Excuse me."

The utterance above used to be a greeting to someone we don't know before and Abagnale Jr. tried to started a conversation with her and asked for her attention.

6. Metalingual Function

found in the utterances are listed below:

1) "Hear that, Daddy? "

This utterance was an irony toward Frank Sr. because his mother said Abagnale Jr. had better dance rather than his father.

2) "Holding their breath for you? Hear that?"

The purpose of this utterance was to emphasize the praise to his mother about how other guys thought his mother is perfectly beautiful.

3) "Remember that girl Joanna I was telling you about?"

The utterance above was a direct conversation between Abagnale Jr. and his mother about Joanna, Abagnale Jr.'s friend. He tried to tell about Joanna again to his mother.

4) "Is this yours?"

In this utterance, Abagnale Jr. talked to Mr. Jack Barnes about a pin that he probably missing.

5) "Is it okay if I write you a check?"

Abagnale Jr. in this conversation talked to Ticket seller and wanted to pay him with a check.

Language functions can be analyzed in many types of literary works, such as novel, poem, and movie. Unlike novels or poems, the language used in the movie is in oral form which makes the utterances from movie is more natural or

just like what happened in daily conversation. Therefore, the language functions can be analyzed or seen well in the utterances uttered by the characters, especially the main character in the movie analyzed, Frank Abagnale Jr.

There were 576 utterances uttered by Abagnale in *Catch Me If You Can*. From the 576 utterances, there six types of language functions found. The referential function was found in 79 utterances, the poetic function in 6 utterances, the expressive function in 36 utterances, the conative function in 45 utterances, the phatic function in 53 utterances, and the metalingual function in 30 utterances.

From the results above, it can be concluded that there most dominant language function out of the six ones was referential function. The examples of the utterances are My name is Mr. Abagnale! That's Abagnale, not Abagnolee, Not Abagnelee, but Abagnale and It's my grandmother's birthday next week. And I want to get her something extra special. These two examples are stating about facts or statement that he wanted to convey to the one he was talking to. The first sentence was uttered to say the correct spelling of his name to the students that he was teaching. The second sentence was to tell the truth that it was his grandmother's birthday so he wanted to prepare something special.

The referential function used dominantly by the main character could imply that Frank wanted to persuade his family or other people about himself so that those people can trust him. He also needed to state facts or a statement that looked like real to other people in order for them to trust him and believed in his job so that he could earn much money after being con-artist.

CONCLUSION

There are some conclusions that can be concluded from the results and interpretation above. First, the six kinds of language functions are found in the utterances spoken by the main character of *Catch Me If You Can*, Frank Abagnale Jr. The six language functions are referential, poetic, expressive, conative, phatic, and metalingual. Second, the most dominant language function found in the main character's utterances is referential. Referential is found in most utterances since the main character conveyed information or truth that others have to trust him. Third, referential function was found to be the most dominant language functions used by the main character that was used by Abagnale to state truth about himself to other his family and other people. It was also used by him to cover his lies or his actions as con-artist in order to make other people believed or trusted him about his job and he could get much money from it.

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