# Expression in Social Media: True or Fake?

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## ABSTRACT

Speech function is an utterance that serves a function such as statement, question, offer, and command. As people carry out a casual conversation to exchange goods-and-services and information, they perform speech functions at the same time. This study is to elaborate the negotiation pattern/speech by the user and what extends are the lexicon-grammatical realization. The research is descriptive. The unit of analysis is move. Move is part of the turn, which expresses speech functions. Move, itself, is expressed in language through clause. Clause encodes meanings. One of those meanings is interpersonal meaning. Interpersonal meaning is realized through selections from the system of mood. The high proportion of these propositions that surpasses the frequency of proposals, i.e., the linguistic function in the exchange of goods, occurs because the communicators are strangers, they have never met before; therefore, they try to learn as much as they can from their interlocutors. Pedagogically it implied that language competence is important for people in communication. The language competence for a person can perform how respond to such questions and statements appropriately.

**Keywords:** *Speech Function; Register; WhatsApp Chatting*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Every living creature in this world needs to communicate with other members of its group because they cannot live by themselves. In order to fulfil the need of communication, people started to create languages. Not only for communicating each other's, but also we use language for different purposes, thinking [1] giving self-expression [2], [3], influencing others and so on [4]. directly or indirectly, in formal or informal circumstances, with people from different countries.

In Indonesia, many higher student find difficulties in learning this language since there is limited possibility to practise and use it in their daily life [5], [6]. It is about how to request, persuade, ask, or demand. The interaction is like doing interaction by using telephone; the difference is that they have to type what they want to say. The 'utterances' can be clearly seen as they are performed on the computer screen. In front of the computer screen, they can interact, or the more popular item is 'chat' about any topics, with different people from all over the world [7], [8].

Misunderstandings in communication commonly happen, especially in spoken form [9], [10]. Although this interaction via the internet uses 'written utterances', misunderstandings still cannot be avoided. In our assumption, maybe because the people involved in such interaction have different cultural and linguistic backgrounds [11]; [12], [13] therefore the researchers are interested in making an analysis of this subject. Some people, especially on what kind of negotiation patterns underlying such interaction and how the interlocutors manage and/or choose appropriate utterances to keep the interaction going on, are needed [14]. Hopefully, this analysis can be useful to encourage people to to communicate by using media in improving their capability [15]–[17].

This study is carried out in order to make an analysis on the use of Speech Functions (negotiation patterns) and their lexico-grammatical realization in the live group of WhatsApp among the participants; younger (Ys) and older (Os). The purpose of this study is analysing the speech functions which are employed in each interaction. And then a further analysis of lexico-grammar is done to find out the similarities and differences on the interactions between Ys and Os. It is assumed that their

experiences in learning digital tool like a Gadget. And most Os are more than 34 years old, mature, and less experience in learning digital tools. In analysing each interaction, Halliday's table of speech function pairs is used [18]. This study also tries to find out the similarities and differences of the lexico-grammatical realization in the interactions among the users.

The previous study about lexical grammatical was about morphological aspect [19], [20] in a discourse, the modern era it combined with technology; social media [21], conversational in audio [15], [24]. In this study, it focuses on one context in democracy, continuing the analysis of meaning expression in the context of political issue [23].

The study assumed that interactions with people from different countries will have different Speech Function patterns and lexico-grammatical realization patterns. Consequently, my second reason in choosing this topic is to compare interactions that happen between Indonesian users and their interlocutors from different places of origin.

The study involves the native speaker which is a teacher in senior high school in France. Therefore, the researchers would confirm whether the expression is correct or not.

In short, the statements of the problem in this study are expressed of what extend are the lexico-grammatical realization of the speech function different among the users?

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1. Subjects

Every chatter in the internet can interact with more than one interlocutor; this also happens in the data being analysed. Although I have mentioned before that each interaction happened between one Ys and Os; in seven interactions used as the data.

Chatters in the internet do not usually use their real names, they make their own nick names instead. Therefore, their nick names are used in this study. Educational background is not used as one of considerations in the data analysis

### 2.2. The Procedures of Obtaining the Data

Although the interactions were written on the computer screen, they were not controlled so that the obtained data would be very close to natural interactions. This is in fact the method of generating data suggested by Nunan as the methodological implication developed from the interactional view of conversation analysis. Therefore, it will no particular conditions were set up in order to control the process of the interactions [25]. The

topic of the interactions was not determined or decided before, so the topic of each interaction was different from one another [26]. The only purpose of the interactions was establishing relationship with his/her interlocutor. Under such circumstances people would normally 'talk' to each other in order to avoid silence which is likely to happen[27].

### 2.3. Data Analysis

The transcript of the interactions is included in Appendix A. The analysis of the Speech Function is presented in Appendix B, while the analyses of lexico-grammar are presented in Appendix C and D. The analyses of lexico-grammar cover the Mood analysis, the Transitivity analysis and the Theme analysis.

According to McMillan and Schumacher said qualitative analysis is a systematic process how to select, categorize, compare, synthesize, and interpreted things to describe a single phenomenon of interest [28]." Further they add that although it is said to be a systematic process, the analysis of qualitative study may not fulfil the standard procedures as mentioned in the definition above. For example, the procedure of comparing can come before the selecting process, etc. The selecting step of the analysis was done by dividing the sentences in the interactions into smaller units, i.e. turns, moves, and clauses.

Results and discussion can be made as a whole that contains research findings and explanations. This section contains answers to the questions "what have you found". Therefore, only representative results from the research are presented. What is meant by "representative results" are results that represent the research findings, which lead to the discussion. Generally, research results are presented in figures or tables, but can also be in the form of descriptions for certain cases.

Although, good figures and tables are interesting and easy to understand, but the most important thing is that the results / data presented in the figure or table are honest. If an image can only be understood with the support of research data which may require half or a full page of paper, then the data should be included as an appendix. Do not hide important data that raises reader questions or leads to mistrust of the reader.

The results section is written following the chronological order as presented in the method section. The important thing in presenting results is that the author must not include references in this section. This section is the "findings" of the author himself. However, if the results of the study are presented in a figure or table that directly compares with the findings of another person, the part of the figure or table must include the findings of that other person, without the need to discuss it in this section.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. The Interpretation of Speech Function Analysis

There are some reasons for the unavailable Answers of some questions, such as the interlocutors do not focus only on one interaction, the interlocutors do not want to answer certain questions, or perhaps the interlocutors need more explanation first before answering certain questions. Corpus 5 shows one of the examples.

Corpus 1. Unanswered Question in interaction B

S   no wonder they will fly like a bee

    when they see ur nick (**Statement**)

H   that's is exactly what is happening (**Acknowledgement**)

    do asian girls like american men? (**Question**)

S   give me ur email to write to u (**Command**)

From the corpus above, we can see that in move 44/b speaker tries to ask a confirmation from hearer. Instead of giving an Answer, hearer demands speaker to give her his email address. It seems that hearer gets annoyed as speaker does not focus on their interaction. This kind of unanswered situations can also be found in some other interactions, although with different reasons.

The interlocutors use Disclaimers when they want to confront information demanded in the Question. The example of Disclaimer can be seen in the following corpus.

Corpus 2. Disclaimer in interaction C

S   what topic do u like to chat? (**Question**)

H   here nothing much I just feeling like nothing is need to be discussed (**Disclaimer**)

This corpus above we can see that the question in move 29/b is disclaimed when speaker tries to ask hearer to give any topic to be discussed, he disclaims the question again by responding that he does not have any topics to discuss. I find an interesting thing in analysing disclaimer, i.e. whenever there are a lot of Disclaimers in an interaction, there are a lot of argumentation between the interlocutors. This kind of situation can be seen in interaction A and interaction C.

Corpus 3. Giving information Statement in interaction B

h   his, busy??? (**Question**)

s   getting there (**Answer**)

    the Asian girls are getting online

    now and I'm getting slammed (**Statement**)

h   what do u mean, going to leave me? (**Question**)

The corpus above shows that hearer tries to get attention form speaker as he does not give any response in a certain time. Then speaker, in move 36/b, implicitly tries to give factual information to hearer that at that time he is having more than one interaction. Hopefully, she can be more patient in waiting for his responses. Such situation also happens in some other interactions because having more than one interaction at the same time is a common thing among internet users.

Command, which is used to demand goods and services, occurs 18 times. In the interaction being analysed, some interlocutors use Command to ask their partner to give or to do something. The example of Command can be seen in the following corpuss.

Corpus 4. Command to demand service in interaction B

h   tell me about u (**Command**)

s   what's to tell? (**Request for clar**)

h   describe urself (**Response**) to clar.

s   www.facelink.com/jesse_duset  (**Compliance**)

    go see (**Command**)

In corpus 4 we can see that hearer asks speaker to give information about himself. Then speaker gives his website address and asks hearer to open the website if she wants to know about him. A website usually consists of someone's personal data and/or his picture. The discourse purpose of both commands above is to demand services, the first one is the service of describing oneself and the second one is the service of opening a website.

Most of the Commands in the data analysis are used to demand services. Only some of them are used to demand goods. The example of the command to demand goods can be seen in the following corpus.

Corpus 5. Command to demand goods in interaction F

h   ic, send me ur pic by email (**Command**)

s   who know I'd take u to be me

    son in law: P (**Statement**)

In the corpus 5 we can see that hearer, in move 31/b, asks hearer to send her a picture of him by email. A picture is a kind of goods; therefore, this Command is to demand goods. However, the goods being asked here cannot be touched physically because the picture will be only sent by email. It is still possible to send the picture by airmail/postal service, but it will take longer time.

There are two other speech function which do not belong to the traditional Halliday's speech function, i.e. the moves of request for clarification and the moves of response to clarification. These moves may delay the completion of the exchange structure. From table 10, we can see that the occurrence of these two moves is quite

high with 46 times of request for clarification and 36 times of Response to clarification. The purpose of these moves is to ask for and to give clarification or further explanation about prior question, statement, or command.

## 4. CONCLUSION

After presenting and discussing the results of the data analyses, the conclusions can be drawn as follows:

The Speech Function choice/negotiation pattern which is most frequently used by the users of the internet chatting is Question-Answer. Both of these choices are used to exchange the commodity of information. The Question is the choice to demand information, while the Answer is the choice to give information demanded. The high proportion of these propositions which exceeds the frequency of proposals, i.e. the semantic function in the exchange of goods and services, occurs as the interlocutors are strangers, they have never met each other before; therefore, they try to find out as much information as possible from their interlocutors. Moreover, these interactions are not face-to-face interaction, consequently the exchange of goods and services is difficult to do, although it is not impossible to take place.

### 4.1 Differences in the Lexicon-grammatical Realization Among the Users

The differences found at lexicon-grammatical level are:

1. Speakers tend to produce more clauses than their interlocutors. This shows that they have more dominant power as opposed to hearers or Hearers, although in some interactions the total number of clauses is only slightly different.
2. Speakers produce interrogatives more frequently than their interlocutors; therefore, they tend to be initiators/questioners; whereas Hearers tend to be responders.
3. Speakers often leave out the Mood elements (either Finite element only, or both Subject and Finite elements) in realizing their interrogatives, whereas hearers only occasionally leave out the mood elements in their clauses.
4. In their interrogatives, speakers also frequently use wrong Finite element, especially in the use of Finite element *to be* instead of Finite element *do*. Whereas Hearers tend to put the Finite element after the Subject element in their interrogatives.
5. Speaker occasionally use more than one verbal elements to realize the Finite elements in one clause, either in their interrogatives or declaratives.
6. In realizing declarative clauses, Speaker tend to use wrong elements, such as in the elements of complement, attributive complement, or Adjunct.

7. In using modality, Speaker tend to realize their attitudes/judgements less frequent through the use of only finite modal operators or only Mood Adjuncts; whereas hearers use different kinds of modality more frequently. They realize their attitudes/judgements through the choice of either finite modal operators, or Mood Adjuncts, or both together.
8. Both Speakers and Hearers tend to use mental processes more often as opposed to their interlocutors. This indicates that they frequently carry out the actions and events of conscious cognition, affection, and perception.
9. Hearers tend to use verbal processes in a quite high proportion. This indicates that they try to realize the actions and events by using the expressions of verbal process, for example 'say, tell, describe.'
10. Hearers tend to use high frequency of location and manner circumstances, therefore they deal with where, when, and how behaviours occur. The high proportion of location circumstances used by speaker indicates that they concentrate on situating events in time and space, noting where, when, and for how long they took place.

### 4.2 The Favourite Patterns of Lexicon-grammatical Realization

Basically, the general patterns of mood which are favoured by the users in each interaction are elliptical declaratives and interrogatives, modality, and circumstantial Adjuncts. With a further analysis, the favourite patterns of LG realization which are used by either speakers and hearers can be assessed in detail. The most frequent Mood type, which is used by speaker and hearers, is elliptical declaratives. The use of this clause type shows that the users do not only tend to use the casual type of language but also try to maintain the informality of tenor. Whereas the proportion of full declaratives and elliptical declaratives used by Hearers is relatively equal. This indicates that they tend to be more careful and planned in doing the interactions. The favourite type of Adjuncts used by both speaker and hearers is textual Adjuncts. The use of this type of Adjunct realizes the intention of the users to persuade their interlocutors about the information given. On the other hand, Hearers tend to use interpersonal Adjuncts more often than the other users. This shows that Hearers try to express their intention to temper the 'advice' information given. All of the users, either Speaker, Hearers, or Hearers tend to use modality of capability more often than other types of modality.

The favourite patterns of Transitivity used by speakers and hearers are material processes and mental processes in location circumstances. Whereas Hearers tend to produce material and verbal processes in location and manner circumstances. The thematic choice which is favoured by the users is unmarked Theme, which realizes the priority of the interlocutors to be the commodity

informed in the interactions. However, Hearers occasionally also use marked Themes in their clauses.

Recently, it is possible for someone expressing the deep-heart in virtual. We can do many things, like giving compliment, positive or negative feedback, giving vote for something bad and so on [29], [30]. Therefore, the social media is the representative of human being in the future.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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