



## **Types and Motives of Using Euphemism by Minangkabau Teenagers and Adults in Pariaman**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research aimed at finding the types and motives of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. The type of this research was descriptive-qualitative research. The data were euphemism utterances used by the informants. The informants of this research were Minangkabau native speakers. The data were collected by using the observation. The researcher found there were four types and two motives of euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers in Pariaman. Types of euphemisms were part of body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situation while the motives of euphemisms were to be polite the speech and hide something. Meanwhile, there were seven types and three motives of euphemisms used by Minangkabau adults. Types of euphemisms were part of body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situation, occupation, disease, and activity euphemism. The motives included to polite the speech, hide something and refuse hazard.

**Keywords:** Euphemisms, types and motives of euphemisms, Minangkabau language

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Social relationships depend on how people communicate. In order for what people communicate in interaction is meaningful, they must pay attention to various factors of social status. These factors involve the status of the participants based on the social values that bind them, such as age and power by using politeness. Politeness is very considered. One of the way people express their politeness in verbal communication is by using euphemism. Euphemisms are softening expressions that usually replace words that feel uncomfortable. Arif (2015) says euphemism is a word or phrase to switch

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disagreeable term which appears as sense of humanity. It is used in sensitive area or place which should not be talked to avoid negative impact of the utterance or try to offend someone's hurt feeling. Moreover, Rahardjo (2002) says that euphemism is the exchange of taboo language and people try to elude that.

Relationship of euphemism and society can be seen in one of social variables, that is age. Euphemism uses are different due to different age which is between children, teenagers and adults. The reasons to this case, children, teenagers and adults as the products of age have their own way of speaking and word choice. Every age has label which becomes the characteristics of them. According to Sunarso (1997), speakers' age determines language use, not only the tone, but also vocabularies and grammar. There are suitable words for teenagers and it will be disappeared when they are adults. For teenagers, they are competent speakers of their language and they tend to be bluntly. Meanwhile adults usually use figuration in some situations and they pay more attention to social and cultural aspects than teenagers.

One of euphemism phenomenon can be seen in conversation of Minangkabau people in Pariaman. Pariaman is one particularly area in West Sumatra Province, which is called *kota tabuik*. There are various euphemisms produced by people when they are speaking. According to Sutarman (2013), euphemism is divided based on the referents. There are seven types of euphemisms; thing and animal euphemism, part of body, occupation, disease, activity, events, and characteristic and situation euphemism.

Studies about euphemisms were conducted in some areas such as Minangkabau language, movie, novel, translation, talk show, etc. In Minangkabau language, there were several studies finished. The first study was written by Rosa (2012) conducted research about types of euphemism in Minangkabau folklore written by A.A. Navis. Second, there was a study conducted by Rosadi, Rosa, and Tiarina (2013) entitled Differences in Euphemisms Used by Male and Female in Minangkabau people. Third, euphemism study related to Minangkabau language was conducted by Fauzi, Husein and Sumarsih (2019) which was about the euphemism in "Sambah Manyambah" tradition of Minangkabau people wedding ceremony.

Research about the types and motives of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman is important to do as the way to maintain the local language. As the largest language used by the society in Indonesia, Minangkabau language is still lack of written language. It needs to be studied further so that the next generation can conserve their local language.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research used the descriptive-qualitative method because there was no statistic calculation provided in this research. The data were euphemism utterances in the forms of word, phrase and sentence uttered by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. Researcher used accidental sampling in choosing the informants. Therefore, the informants were categorized into two. The first was teenagers. The ages of teenagers were around 13-18 years old.

The second was adults. The ages of adults were around above 18 years old. Researcher used observation method in collecting the data. There were three steps in this research to collect the data through observation, they are preparing several tools to collect the data, then the researcher joined the people to observe the interactions among people in social situation. The last step was the researcher used note-taking technique and recorded the conversation.

## C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Research Finding

#### 1.1 Teenagers' euphemism

A: “*ko Sumagheh di belakang lah Nampak lo aaa*” “The ass looks”

B: “*Tulah, payah na mandi di aie ko*”

“It is so hard taking a bath in this river”

The word *sumagheh* are kind of food in Pariaman. This word means part which refers to part of body. Some body parts because of their function related to sexual activity are not free to be discussed openly. They should be avoided direct mention. In this case, the speaker and interlocutor interacted in the riverside. People say *sumagheh* as substitution for *pangue* because of their appearance, rounded. Between the speaker and interlocutor have close relation. The motives of this word is to polite the speech.

#### 1.2 Adults' euphemism

A: “*Pareman ko baonda ndak tau aturan doh*”

“That hoodlum don't know the precept when driving the motorcycle”

B: “*ndak talok disabuik an gai doh, tu si Anto lah bakapeh iduang eaa*”

“Can't afford to be advised anymore, Anto has passed away”

In datum above, *lah bakapeh iduang* is grouped into death euphemism. Actually, this phrase has close relation to word die. However, speaker euphemize that word becomes softer by using those phrases. *Mati* is only used for animals, not for human. By using soft language, it means that the speaker give respect to the person and his or her family. In this case, the motives of euphemisms is to polite the speech.

Table 1.1 The similarities and differences types of euphemism used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman

Teenagers		Adults
No	Types of euphemism	Types of euphemism
1	Part of body	Part of body
2	Thing and animal	Thing and animal
3	Event	Event
4	Characteristics and situation	Characteristics and situation
5	-	Occupation
6	-	Disease
7	-	Activity

From the table above, it can be seen that teenagers and adults have the similarity and difference types in using euphemisms. There are the same types of euphemisms produced by teenagers and adults. The similarities between teenagers and adults in using euphemism are they produced part of the body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situations. Meanwhile, there are also some types that are not produced by teenagers. The differences between both of them are if adults have 7 types of euphemism, teenagers only have 4 types. Occupation, disease, and activity are types of euphemisms that are not spoken by teenagers.

Table 1.2 The similarities and differences motives of euphemism used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman

Teenagers		Adults
No	Motives of euphemism	Types of euphemism
1	Polite the speech	Polite the speech
2	Hide something	Hide something
3	-	Refuse hazard

From the table above, it can be seen that teenagers and adults have the similarity and difference motives in using euphemisms. There are the same motives of euphemisms produced by teenagers and adults. The similarities between teenagers and adults in using euphemism are to polite the speech and hide something. Meanwhile, there is also motive that is not produced by teenagers, that is to refuse hazard.



## 2. Discussion

The finding shows that there are four types of euphemisms. The type of euphemisms mostly used by teenagers is characteristic euphemisms. According to Sutarman (2013), characteristic euphemism is used to traits that are considered rude or can hurt the others' feeling. The dominant use of characteristic euphemism indicates that teenagers tend to use these languages to show their respect for the objects spoken. Even though the people have close relation each other, they still keep their language. This statement can be proven through the conversation. It can be seen that the closeness of someone does not make she or he speaks abusively in certain situation.

At least, there are two motives why teenagers produced these euphemisms. First, to polite the speech is one of the motives why teenagers use euphemisms. According to Rahmawati (2013) people who have a close relationship, they have high solidarity. Therefore, because of high solidarity they use soft language to express their mind. Second, hide something disgusting makes people substitute the language. In some situation, Disgusting thing make other people feel uncomfortable. Some topics just deserve to be studied at the right place and time.

Meanwhile, there are seven types of euphemism used by Minangkabau adults in Pariaman, they are part of body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situation, occupation, disease, and activity euphemism. The type of euphemisms mostly used by adults is thing and animal euphemisms. Moreover, the dominant motives used by adults indicates that people tend to use euphemism to hide something disgusting. Moreover, the next motive is to polite the speech. Taboo language cannot be talked in front of the public, so euphemisms are needed to substitute them. The third motive is to refuse hazard. Some people in this time still believe something related to the mystic thing, so there is word used by people to avoid disaster or disturbance of supernatural beings.

From the explanation above, there are similarities between Minangkabau teenagers and adults in using euphemisms. Teenagers and adults produce euphemism in their daily conversation. The similar types of euphemisms are part of the body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situations. Meanwhile teenagers do not use three types of euphemisms that used by adults, they are occupation, disease and activity. Adults have more various types of euphemisms than teenagers. As stated by Sunarso (2007), adults have more various and complex language than children and teenagers. Adults have more vocabularies to euphemize language than teenagers. For teenagers, they do not use occupation, disease and activity euphemisms. In this case, it means that teenagers seldom talk about job, malady and taboo activity. Furthermore, the similar motives of euphemisms are to polite the speech and hide something disgusting. Mostly the reason why teenagers and adults use euphemisms is to hide something. The difference is teenagers donot use refuse hazard as the motive of euphemisms.

There are some similarities and differences between this research and

the previous studies. This study is same like study that was conducted by Rosa (2014) about the types of Minangkabau euphemism. However, there is the difference. The difference is his study analysed the types and forms of euphemisms found in Palanta column, which is a special article of a local newspaper in West Sumatra. Rosa found two types of euphemisms; positive and negative euphemisms. In terms of its form, euphemism in Minangkabau language consists of four devices; phonetic device, lexical device, rhetorical device, and grammatical device. Meanwhile this study analysed the types and motives of euphemism used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. In this study, researcher found euphemisms based on its referents, they are part of body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situation, occupation, disease, and activity euphemisms.

The second study was conducted by Rosa (2012). The similarity with this study is about analysing euphemism in Minangkabau language. Rosa(2012) analysed euphemism in Minangkabau folklore written by A. A. Nafis. The research focused on the types of euphemism found in 19 stories. The finding shows that euphemism is influenced by culture and sometimes euphemism in one area is not applicable in other area because they have different mindset in using language. However, this study analysed the euphemism used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The research was conducted to find out the types and motives of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. The results of the euphemisms analysis used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults lead to a number of conclusions. First, regarding to the research, it can be concluded that the finding on analysis of euphemisms used by teenagers in Pariaman shows there are four types of euphemisms; part of body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situation. The dominant type of euphemisms produced by teenagers is characteristic euphemisms. The least types of euphemisms is terms of animal. Moreover, there are two motives used by Minangkabau teenagers, they are to polite the speech and hide something. The dominant motive of using euphemism is to hide something. Second, there are seven types of euphemisms used by Minangkabau adults in Pariaman; part of body, thing and animal, event, characteristics and situation, occupation, disease, and activity euphemism. The dominant type of euphemisms is thing and animal. For the motives of euphemisms, there are three motives used by Minangkabau adults, they are to polite the speech, hide something, and refuse hazards. The dominant motive is to hide something disgusting. There are the same motives produced by teenagers and adults. The similarities between teenagers and adults in using euphemism are to polite the speech and hide something. The mostly motive used both of teenagers and adults is to hide something disgusting. Meanwhile, there is also motive that is not produced by teenagers, that is to refuse hazard.

In this research, the researcher gives some information about euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. This study only focuses on the types and motives of using euphemisms by teenagers and adults.

Therefore, it is suggested to the further researcher to conduct the study related to this subject in different perspectives such as in Anthropological linguistics, Morphology, etc. It is also suggested to the next researcher in analysing euphemisms by using other social variables like types and function of euphemism in different education, job, etc.

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