



TYPES AND FUNCTIONS OF EUPHEMISMS IN MINANGKABAUNESE USED BY ADULTS IN ULAKAN TAPAKIS

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Abstract

This study focused on the euphemisms in Minangkabaunese used by adults in Ulakan Tapakis which analysts the types and functions. This research used the descriptive qualitative method, which describes the data that the researcher collected in the form of sentences with the exact meaning possible. The data were euphemism utterances in the form of word, phrase, and sentence uttered by Minangkabaunese adults in Ulakan Tapakis. The researcher found that from all seven types of euphemism, the Adults of Ulakan Tapakis society often euphemism with word or phrase dealing with harsh word or sensitive words, which directed at characters and circumstance euphemism, obituary/incident euphemism, bodily part, diseases of euphemism, activity, occupation, and also things and animals. The researcher also found from five functions of euphemism, the society often used euphemism with the word or phrase for polite function, hide something, also for refuse danger.

Key words: Euphemism, types and function of euphemism, Minangkabaunese

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool to express thoughts. People share and deliver messages in various ways with communications in verbal and non-verbal, or speaking, writing, and signing are only a few of the many various ways that language can be expressed. It is a fundamental human trait that promotes social contact, spreads culture and knowledge, and expresses both individual and group identities. In communication, people also have various ways. One of the many ways to communicate or convey an expression in language is by using euphemisms. Nusri and Mubarak (2022) state

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euphemism can be said as a style of language that becomes a better communication tool and avoids important actions or things that are sensitive.

Euphemism also can be defined as a word or phrase which replaces what is claimed as taboo, harsh, rude, offensive, or impolite. A good way to communicate with someone is to use polite language and refrain from rude or nasty terminology. To ensure that there is good communication between all parties, the communicator must utilize polite language. Every person should utilize euphemisms to avoid insulting or unpleasant language so that we can avoid using words that could damage one another, spark a disagreement, or even generate a debate. According to Eni (2018), euphemism is also an element of habituation in using language properly, making it a crucial component of culture.

This study can contribute to linguistics studies, especially in sociolinguistics and semantics. This study provides details on the kinds and purposes of adult use euphemisms in Ulakan Tapakis society. Theoretically, it gives information about the types and functions of euphemism in Minangkabau used by adults in Ulakan Tapakis. The researcher uses theory of Sutarman (2013) and Kurniawan (2019).

There are various kinds of studies related to euphemisms that occur in various domains. The first study was written by Ramadhani and Jufrizal (2022) conducted research about types and interpretative function of euphemism in Minangkabau language especially in Pariaman. The result is the most frequently of the data was in adults of euphemism in disgusting things and animals, and for the teenagers only found four types for characters of euphemism.

Second, there was a study conducted by Fauzy, Husein and Sumarsih (2019) which is about the euphemism in Sambah Manyambah tradition of Minangnese wedding ceremony. The result of this study was since the society existence is lack of appreciation today, the tradition undergoes significant changes; therefore, the model of the research will take the euphemism to the tradition has been created and is hopefully accepted by local communities.

The study of euphemism has been done in many different angles with different literary work objects, areas, and texts. It seemed essential to conduct research on types and function of euphemisms in Ulakan Tapakis because there are some differences between this research and the previous studies. Furthermore, this research of types and function of euphemism in adults is important because it is a form of how to maintain the local language that is widely used by the Ulakan Tapakis community.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used the descriptive qualitative method, which describes the data that the researcher collected in the form of sentences with the exact meaning possible. The research employed a descriptive qualitative approach to describe the phenomena in human life in detail and with the help of a native speaker and the data

will be entered and verbally described by the experts. Additionally, the information will be divided into different categories and explained in text form regarding the Minangkabauese euphemism used by adults in Ulakan Tapakis. The data on this study used accidental sampling and purposive in choosing the informants in the Ulakan Tapakis community. The source of data was that the informants are the adults around 18-80 years old in Ulakan Tapakis society. The researcher does some dialogue to get the data. The researcher also tried to confirm the data was right with the speaker's meanings.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

*Tini : galak-galak surang tu ha,lai ndak **kanai** nyo tu?*

“He’s laughing to himself, isn't he affected?”

Ita : lagi nelpon nyo ndak

“he's probably on the phone.”

The word *kanai* or "*kena*" means being crazy or insane. The word *kanai* was substitute for *gilo*. The speaker asked the person she was talking to because she saw someone laughing to himself, which is a characteristic of someone who has a mental disorder. In the word *kanai* this word is included circumstance euphemism types, because in the context of this conversation what is being discussed is a person who has a situation that is not like normal people. He sat on the side of the road and laughed to himself like someone who had someone to talk to. This euphemism word has function to hide something.

*Ipit : jatuah dari sepeda e ka aspal, kapalo e paniang muntah muntah dioperasi , tu ditungguan sampai tigo hari dulu kan , rupo e bisuak e **ndak do doh lai, lah taleweik.***

“Fell from the bicycle onto the asphalt, had a headache and vomited, then had surgery, waited three days first. Apparently tomorrow he **won't be there**, it's too late.”

The phrase *lah taleweik* or sudah terlewat is a linguistic euphemism for death. *Lah taleweik* is substitute for *maningga*. In the use of this phrase, it is included in the type of obituary category because of the euphemisms of obituary. In this conversation, the relationship between speaker and interlocutor is child and mother. The speaker told about the incident of one of her friends who fell while riding a bicycle and was rushed to hospital but was not saved. Death is a taboo subject if discussed openly, especially for young children. The expression *ndak do doh lai* has the same meaning as *lah taleweik* which means it has *meninggal* or passed away. This phrase has polite function.

Table 1.1 The frequent of euphemism types used by Minangkabaunese adult in Ulakan Tapakis

No	Types of Euphemism	Quantity	Percentage (%)
1.	Repulsive things and animals	1	3.3%
2.	Repulsive bodily part	3	10.0%
3.	Occupation euphemism	3	10.0%
4.	Disease euphemism	2	6.7%
5.	Activity euphemism	3	10.0%
6.	Obituary/Incident Euphemism	4	13.3%
7.	Characters and circumstance euphemism	14	46.7%
Total		30	100.0%

Table 2. Frequency of euphemism functions discovered:

No	Function of Euphemism	Quantity	Percentage (%)
1.	Polite	14	46.7%
2.	Hide something	15	50.0%
3.	Tool for Diplomacy	0	0.0%
4.	Refuse danger	1	3.3%
5.	Educate people	0	0.0%
Total		30	100.0%

Table 3 The frequent of euphemism functions used by Minangkabaunese adult in Ulakan Tapakis

No	Function of Euphemism	Quantity	Percentage (%)
1.	Polite	9	34.6%
2.	Hide something	16	61.6%
3.	Tool for Diplomacy	0	0.0%
4.	Refuse danger	1	3.8%
5.	Educate people	0	0.0%
Total		26	100.0%

2. Discussion

Based on findings about euphemisms in minangkabaunese language above, it can be seen that there are seven types of euphemisms that were found by researcher. The researcher uses theory of Sutarman (2013) and Kurniawan (2019). During the research, researchers found that euphemism language is language that is often used spontaneously or naturally when carrying out conversations. Euphemisms are used more often in adults because researchers found that euphemism language is more often used by groups of people who are talking about something rather than conveying it directly to that person.

In this study, researchers found 30 data in different types. Most of the data found is from the characteristics and circumstance of society. Characters and circumstances are one type of euphemism that is often mentioned when researchers search for data. For examples *malu e kughang* (less embarrassed), *galie* (not trustworthy), *barangin* (has no ethics), *ndak sabagha* (ugly look), *agak kughang* (not clever enough), etc.

According to Sutarman (2013), if the outstanding characteristics or circumstances are good, it does not cause problems or violations. On the other hand, if there is a bad trait or condition that stands out so that it offends other people, this needs to be expressed appropriately out of respect for them. Even though in the cases that were found by researcher they were closely relationship or of the same age, it does not rule out the possibility that the speakers used more polite language so as not to offend the person they were talking to.

In the euphemism function, there are three functions which are why it is used by the Ulakan Tapakis community. First, hide something, which is the

reason many adults use euphemisms. For example *galie* (not trustwothy), *putuih salai* (broke a piece), *sumando kacang miang* (bad attitude of son in law) Second, polite language is the reason many adults use euphemisms. As stated by Sulistyono (2016), Euphemisms are used to replace the words that are deemed offensive or suggest something that is not fun.

There are some similarities and differences between this research and the previous studies. This study is same like study that was conducted by Ramadhani (2022) about euphemism in Pariaman. However, there is differences. The differences are her study analysed the types and function that found in Pariaman city. The types and function from her study not completed. she analysed types and function in adults and teenagers. She only found four types of euphemism in teenagers, that are part of body, disgusting things and animal, obituary and character and situation. My study found all of the types of euphemism in Ulakan Tapakis.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This research investigates the types and the functions of euphemism in Minangkabaunese Adults in Ulakan Tapakis. From those findings above, the researcher can infer that from all seven types of euphemism, the Adults of Ulakan Tapakis society often euphemism with word or phrase dealing with hars word or sensitive words, which directed at characters and circumstance euphemism, obituary/incident euphemism, bodily part, diseases of euphemism, activity, occupation, and also things and animals. The researcher also can infer from five functions of euphemism, the society often used euphemism with the word or phrase for polite function, hide something, also for refuse danger.

The researcher can conclude that euphemism is mostly used to convey something negative using politer and smoother words so that listeners do not feel that the words or phrases spoken are harsh so that they do not offend anyone. In this research only focused on the types and function of euphemism in Minangkabaunese adults in Ulakan Tapakis.

In this research only focused on the types and function of euphemism in Minangkabaunese adults in Ulakan Tapakis. The researcher also aware that this research contains many lack. Therefore, it is suggested to further researchers to conduct research on euphemism in minang song because in minang song there are many euphemisms word or phrase that next study can research, also the researcher suggest to further research to continue this topic with another subject in minangkabau to make a better understanding about euphemism.

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