

## TYPES OF LANGUAGE FUNCTION FOUND IN THE PERFECT DATE MOVIE

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*Abstract*— This study is concerned with the types of language functions in *The Perfect Date Movie*. This study is aimed to answer the research problems, which are: (1) to find out the types of language functions used by the main character of *The Perfect Date* movie and (2) to analyse the types of languages style are found in utterances produced by the main character of *The Perfect Date* movie. It used a descriptive qualitative method to identify data. Types of language function and language style was described according to the theory proposed by Tillit and Bruder (1985). The result of this study was found 75 data. The 75 data were classified into eleven types of language function which found in the utterances produced by the main character and three types of language styles. The types of language function which found eleven types of language function proposed by Tillit and Bruder (1985) were twelve of openings, pre-openings, and closings type, four data of introduction and addressing system type, seven data of invitations type, eight data of thanking people and replying thanks type, three data of apologizing type, ten data of giving compliments and replying complements type, two data of getting people's attention and interrupting, two data of agreeing and disagreeing type, seven data of controlling the conversation type, and two data of getting information e language style which was found were ten data of formal expression, thirty nine data of informal expression and twenty six data of neutral expression. The most types of language function found in this study is getting information because the main character feel free and more comfortable expressing their emotional in a language.

*Keywords*— language function, expression, utterances

### 1. Introduction

Language is a medium used as communication and interaction tool with the others. It is a system of communication consisting of sound, words, and grammar or the system of communication used by people. Language can be considered as form of communication in which the thoughts and feeling can be symbolized in order to communicate. Language function is a part of language. Language function can be considered as the controller of the meaning or expression of the communication.

According to Tillit and Bruder (1985), language function are purpose for which people speak or write, they also explains that the language function has several parts and could be divided into eleven types, there are opening (greeting, pre-closing, closing), introduction and address system, invitations, thanking people and replying to thanks, apologizing, expressing anger and resolving conflict, giving compliments and replying compliment, getting people's attentions and interrupting, agreeing and disagreeing, controlling the conversation, and the last is getting information. Those function constitutes a way people to know or understand the meaning of other people language used. Besides language function, in interaction the expression of the language is very important. The way people speak every time, the expression of language is influences. It should be suitable to use expression of language in the different situation. According to Tillit and Bruder (1985) the language

style is the act of saying or showing the feeling by using the words or action both in speaking and writing. They also state there are three language styles to express the expressions of language, those are formal expression, informal expression and neutral expression.

The writer chose *The Perfect Date* movie, directed by Chris Nelson and published by Carolrohdha Lab in October 2017 because the movie contains conversation of language that can be analyse base on the types of language function. Furthermore, the data source taken only from the utterances that occurs when the main character interact with his peers. Through the main character of the movie, the researcher wanted to know the idea of the purpose of using language function in conversation.

## 2. Literature Review

The recent studies attempt to discover the types of language function by Putri, Safnil, and Kasmaini (2018) entitled “Language Function Used in *Now You See Me 2* Movie: Purpose Analysis of Literary Work”. The theory proposed by Jakobson (1987) was used to analyse the kinds of language function found in “*Now You See Me 2* Movie” and how is the distribution of language function frequency found in *Now You See Me 2* Movie. The researcher chooses the theory from Jakobson (1987), because this theory is very appropriate for literary work. The aim of this research was to find out the kinds of language function used and the distributions of frequency of language function by the main characters in *Now You See Me 2* Movie. This research was conducted by using mixed method research. The data were collected by the researcher and co-researcher through deep analysis of movie’s script. As a result, in this study they found live language functions found in the movie out of six language functions. They are referential function, phatic function, emotive function, conative function, and metalingual function.

Another study conducted by Puspita (2017) entitled “The Analysis of Language Function in Email Used by Sales Secretary at True Bali Experience”. The aims of her study were (1) to identify the types of language function that is used in email between sales secretary and the addressee, (2) to examine and analyse the context of situation in email that is written by sales secretary at True Bali Experience that supported the analysis of types of language function. In her study the theory that used is the theory proposed by Tillit and Bruder (1985) and supported by the theory proposed by Blundell (1982) in order to analyse the types of language function. Furthermore, the theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1985) was used to analyse the context of situation. The data collection was done through observation method. The first step was observing the data source and then she classifies the data by identifying the email that was sent by sales secretary to the addressee. The data analysed based on the theory applied in her study. In her study, she explained that the most frequent language function in email that used by the sales secretary at True Bali experience were opening, pre-closing and closing, introduction, thanking people, apologizing and giving the information.

Another thesis was written by Pratama (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Language Functions Used by The Main Character in *Interstellar* Movie”. The study analysed two problems, there are types of language function and context of situation of the main character’s utterances in talking with children. The problems were analysed base on the theory proposed by Blundell (1982) to analyse the types of language function and the theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1985) to analyse the context of situation. The aims of his study were to describe the types of language function used by the main character in talking with children in *Interstellar* movie, to examine and analyse the context of situation of the main character’s utterances in talking with children in *Interstellar* movie. In his study he found 40 data which classified into four types of language function, those are 32 data of main function, 4 data of social formulas, 2 data of making communication work, and 2 data of finding about language.

## 3. Methods

The method used in analyzing the data is qualitative method to find out the answer from the problems of the study. First the utterances produced by the main character of *The Perfect Date* movie were classified in the categories of types of language function that is regarding to the book entitled *Speaking Naturally* (Tillit and Bruder, 1985). Then the utterances produced by the main character of *The Perfect Date* movie were analyzed

in the categories of expression that is according to the book entitled *Speaking Naturally* (Tillit and Bruder, 1985). In this study, the data were taken from the movie entitled *The Perfect Date*. It is an American teen romantic comedy movie. This movie is directed by Chris Nelson and published by Carolrhoda Lab in October 2017 and was viewed by 48 million household in its first four weeks of realise. The movie itself has 90 minutes duration with the story is about a guy his name is Brooks Rattigan when he was in Senior High School.

This study used observation method. In collecting the data, there are several steps were done. The first, downloading and watching the movie for several times in order to get the perfect understanding about how the main character interact with his peers in *The Perfect Date* movie. Second, reading the script and then after getting deep understanding, the researcher compared the script with the movie dialogue in order to get the accurate script that same as the movie and make a note. Next, underlining the utterances of the main character. The last, classifying the data based on the types of language function and language style.

#### 4. Result and Discussion

There are 75 data of total occurances found in the utterances produced by the main character of *The Perfect Date* movie Related with the theory from Tillit and Bruder (1985), there are eleven types of language function, namely: openings, pre-closings, and closings, introductions and addresses systems, invitations, thanking people and replying to thanks, apologizing, expressing anger and resolving conflict, giving compliments and replying to compliments, getting people's attention and interrupting, agreeing and disagreeing, controlling the conversation, and getting information. Meanwhile, there are three language styles, namely: formal expression, informal expression, and neutral expression.

##### A. Analysis of Openings, Pre-closings, and Closings

When doing the conversation, people should know the correct way to open the conversation, pre-closing the conversation and closing the conversation. According to Tillit and Bruder (1985:1), opening a conversation and bringing a conversation to an end essential part of our everyday language, and pre-closing are phrases that signal end of a conversation and pre-closing often includes thanking a person for something, asking a question to ensure something before end the conversation, making excuse, or apology, while closing are the phrases that explicitly end the conversation, closing like greetings are commonly used exchanges with no literal meaning.

###### 1. Analysis of Opening

Data 1

(Conversation)

Brooks : **Good morning**  
Murph : Good morning. How are you Brooks?  
Brooks : I'm fine, you?  
Murph : Fine too, let's go to the class!  
Brooks : Alright.

Analysis:

The first data were taken from utterances by Brooks when greeting Murph at the school. The bolded expression spoken by Brooks, it is one of eleven types of language function based on theory from Tillit and Bruder (1985). The bolded words can be categorized as language function of opening the conversation. The expression "**Good morning**" was used by Brooks with a purpose to greet Murph in the morning in front of the class. Meanwhile, the expression used by Brooks in the conversation above is formal expression. This is because they are in school. In conversation Brooks was the first speaker who deliver greeting because he wanted to give a good impression to his friend. Moreover, as a responded Murph likewise saying "**Good morning**" to Brooks in order to offer a good impression as well as his friend.

###### 2. Analysis of Pre-closing

Data 2

(Conversation 1)

Brooks : There is something special for today?  
Celia : Yeah, our quality time. We will do massage, facial, body scrub, body mask and express facial.

Brooks : It sound good. **Anything else?**  
Celia : No. that's all bro.

Analysis:

The bolded sentence in conversation above is categorized as language function of pre-closing the conversation. It is taken from Brooks spoken when asking Celia for her activities. The expression "**Anything else?**" was used by Brooks to give a sign end the conversation after received Celia's answer and make sure if the order already completed before ending the conversation. According to Tillit and Bruder (1985) the expression of "**Anything else?**" is categorized as informal expression because it used in informal situation. Consider of whole conversation above, it shown there was a joke sentence utterance by Celia when Brooks gave a comment for her planning. Therefore, they are feel close with each other and used informal expression to give a sign of end the conversation.

### 3. Analysis of Closing

Data 3

(Conversation 29)

Brooks : Alright. Okay! So tomorrow is your daddy's birthday?  
Celia : Yes.  
Brooks : Okay I will go to your house tomorrow!  
Celia : Thank you.  
Brooks : **See you tomorrow!**

Analysis:

The expression "**See you tomorrow**" in the last conversation above can be categorized language function of closing the conversation. The data were taken from spoken by Brooks in ending the conversation. It was stated language function of closing the conversation because Celia was done in her story. Therefore, by delivering a statement "**See you tomorrow**", Brooks expected they can meet again on the next day. Besides that, the expression "**See you tomorrow**" was categorized as informal expression. It is because the previous conversation showed that they knew each other and Brooks wanted to give last impression to his friend in friendly by creating the situation informally.

### B. Analysis of Introduction and Addressing System

In introduction people need to know the formulas and rules for doing it. In introduction also need to know how to call the participants (Tillit and Bruder, 1985:12). People must sometimes should introduce themselves in the formal way, for example "Hello I'm (full name), I just moved here". Meanwhile in addresses systems most Americans have three names: a first name (sometimes called a given), a middle name (or an initial), and last name (called the family name, or surname). People who know each other well use first names in both informal and formal situations (Tillit and Bruder, 1985:15). When make an interaction, not a lot of people are introducing other people. They tend in addresses systems, most of them are usually introducing themselves.

Data 4

(Conversation 10)

Celia : Hello. Good morning.  
Brooks : Morning. How are you?  
Celia : I'm fine, how about you?  
Brooks : Fine too, **Brooks 1 hour for math!**  
Celia : Okay

Analysis:

Related with the conversation above, the data was taken from the spoken of Brooks who want to get private math in morning time. The expression "**Brooks**" in the statement "**Brooks 1 hour for math**" belong to the language function of addressing system. It clearly showed that Brooks was introduce his selves by saying his first name in order to remind Celia that he was booked for private study math was under his name. The expression of the data was considered as informal expression. It is because Brooks express it in informal way. Considering that Brooks been to the Celia for promise before, therefore, Brooks used the informal expression since he have been to the class.

### C. Analysis of Invitation

Tillit and Bruder (1985:26) stated that an invitations consists of requesting someone's presence, stating the specific event, setting the time and place. Invitation are usually made privately, in person or by phone. Spoken invitations are fine for most occasions, but for certain special event, such as wedding, baby shower, formal written invitations are traditionally sent. Meanwhile accepting invitations is very easy. You thank the person for the invitation or express pleasure at being invited and then get the details of place and time (Tillit and Bruder, 1985:27)

#### Data 5

Murph : Okay miss, this is the total, 350.  
Celia : Yep.  
Murph : **Please put your name and signature here!**  
Celia : Good job. Thank you.  
Murph : You are welcome. Have a lovely day!  
Celia : You too.

Analysis:

In this section, the expression "**Please put your name and signature here!**" that spoken by Murph categorized as language function of invitations. In this expression, Murph invite Celia to write her name, and her signature in the bill since the previous conversation Celia told Murph to transfer the payment on her room account, therefore Murph need her name, and her signature in the bill. Meanwhile the expression that was used by Murph is categorized neutral expression. Basically, formal expression is the expression which use complex sentence and the word "please" can be used in formal way. The expression '**Please put your name and signature here!**' was expressed without addressing system, therefore this expression conclude as neutral expression.

### D. Analysis of Thanking People and Replying to Thanks

According to Tillit and Bruder (1985:37), there are the most common situations that require thanks and replying to thanks, such as thank to someone for a gift, a favors, an offer of help, for compliment and a wish, when ask about their health, for an invitation, leaving party, or for the service such as being waited on in a store or another places.

#### Data 6

##### (Conversation 2)

Murph : This is the hot tea.  
Celia : Lovely  
Murph : And this is the cashew nut, dried mango and cookies.  
Celia : Oh, is it in here?  
Murph : Enjoy!  
Celia : **Thank you**  
Murph : You're welcome

Analysis:

In the end of the conversation above, the expression "**Thank you**" is language function of thanking people. It is expressed by Celia when finish the conversation. That expression considered as language function of thanking people since those words purposed to thanking Murph for over her some snack and tea as well for greet her after finish the activities. While the expression that exposed was neutral expression, since Tillit and Bruder (1985) state that expression "**Thank you**" can be occurred in informal and formal situations and that expression is standing in the middle level of formality. Therefore the expression "**Thank you**" in conversation above belonged to neutral expression.

### E. Analysis of Apologizing

Based on Tillit and Bruder (1985:49), apologizing used when everyone make mistakes. While function of the apology is to show regret for the wrong doing and to offer an explanation or a remedy. In community apologizing are happened equal between made by people.

#### Data 7

##### (Conversation 17)

- Brooks : So we would rebook later, when we know the schedule  
Celia : The schedule?  
Brooks : Yes, is that okay?  
Celia : Yes  
Brooks : **Sorry about that**  
Celia : That's is fine, so both of you cancel?  
Murph : Yes because we should to go to another place.

##### Analysis:

Centered on whole conversation above, clearly showed there was a mistake and it made by Brooks. By considered on expression of "**Sorry about that**" which spoken by Brooks, it considered as language function of apologizing. Seeing that Brooks said "**Sorry about that**" it means Brooks was sorry about his mistake that cancel the appointment with Celia. In supporting why he have to cancel the booking, there are also some reason why he must cancel it. The expression which was used by Brooks is informal expression, because the conversation happened in informal situation. The main character was known each other when they made booking process. Therefore Celia also responded by informal expression by saying "That's fine".

#### F. Analysis of Giving Compliments and Replying to Compliment

In *The Perfect Date* movie, the main characters are usually respect to each other by giving compliments. Related with Tillit and Bruder, (1985:68), there are three ways to give compliment, which are by saying something nice about the object, by asking how the person made it or when it was bought, and by asking form another look or another serving if it is good and there are two basic ways of replying to compliments which are accepting them and rejecting them.

#### Data 8

##### (Conversation 21)

- Murph : Hello, how was your feeling?  
Brooks : **It was absolutely beautiful. Thank you**  
Murph : Do you mind to fill the feedback?  
Brooks : Yes, sure

##### Analysis:

From the conversation above, the data were taken Brooks' utterance when finishing the massage. The expression "**It was absolutely beautiful. Thank you**" was concluded as language function of giving compliment. It is because that expression is deliver in order to give compliment of the massage that was Brooks enjoyed. By expressed that expression Brooks wanted to show that he was happy with the massage which deliver by Murph. Meanwhile the expression was categorized in neutral expression. Because normally the expression "**It was absolutely beautiful. Thank you**" is complete sentence that can be used in formal situation, however in the conversation above Brooks used that expression in informal situation since the conversation happened after Brooks enjoyed the massage, it means Brooks and Murph have met before. Therefore it conclude as neutral expression, because Brooks used formal expression in informal situation.

#### G. Analysis of Getting People's Attention and Interrupting

Tillit and Bruder (1985:77) state, in most situations it is the best to wait until the other person is looking in our direction and then try to "catch his eye".

#### Data 9

##### (Conversation 6)

- Murph : **Excuse me, how was your dating Miss. Celia?**  
Celia : Very good, thank you  
Murph : Is good?  
Celia : Yep

##### Analysis:

The first expression above which spoken by Murph when approaching Celia who have finished the dating with Brooks was taken as the data of this research. The expression **“Excuse me. How was your dating Miss Celia?”** which spoken by Murph when getting Celia attention was concluded as part language function of getting people’s attention. It is because Murph want to say something to Celia who have done dating with his friend. Meanwhile the expression categorized as formal expression. Consider that Murph used expression **“Excuse me”** and adding the addressing system in the end of expression which that expression belonged to complete sentence. Therefore it expression categorized as formal expression, because Murph used complete sentence when expressed his expression.

## H. Analysis of Agreeing and Disagreeing

A person who always agrees with someone else and never has an individual opinion is not respected. If the employee always agrees with the boss, the employees called a “yes-man”. The employee can disagree with superiors, as long as it done in an acceptable way (Tillit and Bruder, 1985-88).

### Data 10

#### (Conversation 2)

Murph : Hello, how was your feeling?  
Brooks : It was absolutely beautiful. Thank you  
Murph : Do you mind to fill the feedback?  
Brooks : **Sure**

Analysis:

The expression **“Sure”** in the conversation above can be concluded as language function of agreeing. This expression was used by Brooks when answering Murph’s invitation to fill the feedback form. It is concluded as agreeing expression because Brooks showed that he agree with Murph’s invitation to fill the feedback form. While for the expression was used is completely informal expression. Brooks and Murph was known each other and already have another conversation before, and also Brooks answered Murph’s question in short expression which that expression usually used in informal expression. Therefore it categorized as informal expression, because the expression was happened in informal situation with short expression.

## I. Analysis of Controlling the Conversation

Controlling the conversation is very important to now both by the main characters. In getting someone attention, expression such as “yes” or “mm-hmm” indicated to the other person that you are listening and that you want the speaker to continue to explain his or her ideas or opinions and this is a signal that you are paying attention. Meanwhile expression such as “really?”, “no kidding” or “what?” indicated surprise, although they may also be used to show doubt or to disagree mildly with the other person. It is normal for a person to misunderstand or not to hear the other person sometimes, so we should have no fear of asking someone to repeat or slow down (Tillit and Bruder, 1985:97).

### Data 11

#### (Conversation 14)

Celia : I easy get a foul in feet  
Brooks : (laugh)  
Celia : I bruise very easily  
Brooks : **Oh, really?**

Analysis:

Consider from the bolded expression which spoken by Brooks in conversation above, it concluded as part of language function of controlling the conversation of showing surprise. This data was taken from the conversation between Brooks and Celia during foot massage. The expression of **“Oh, really?”** belonged to language function of controlling the conversation of showing surprise, because Brooks want to showed his surprise feeling of Celia statement that said she was easy get bruise on her legs. Brooks used that expression in order to make sure if his

pressure was the right one since Celia get easy bruise on her legs. For the expression of “**Oh, really?**” can be categorized as neutral expression. According to Tillit and Bruder (1985), the expression “**really?**” belong to formal expression. By combined the expression “**really?**” with expression “**oh**”, which the expression “oh” can be used in informal and formal situation , it makes the expression “**Oh, really?**” belonged to neutral expression. Because Books mix the formal expressions and neutral expression.

#### J. Analysis of Getting Information

People can ask to someone directly when they need information. However, there are some topic considered personal private that Americans are hesitant to discuss. These include salary, age, weight, or religious beliefs. On the other hands many people are quite free with information about their children, their health, their friends, and neighbors (Tillit and Bruder, 1985:106).

##### Data 12

##### (Conversation 14)

Brook : Be careful! What’s your step  
Celia : Thank you  
Brook : Please have a seat here!  
Celia : Yep  
Brook : **Do you feel comfortable Miss Celia?**  
Celia : Yes, thank you

Analysis:

The bolded statement in conversation above was categorized as language function of getting information. From the conversation the data was taken from spoken by Brooks. The expression “**Do you feel comfortable Miss Celia?**” showed that Brooks wanted to get the information about Celia’s convenience. Formal expression was used in the data taken above. It is because Brooks used complete sentence when asking Celia’s convenience, moreover the statement also complete with addressing system in the end of the statement.

## 5 Conclusion

Related with the first objective of the study in this research, to find out the types of language function found in the utterances produced by the main character of The Perfect Date movie, there were found ten kinds from eleven types of language function based on the theory from Tillit and Bruder (1985) with 75 data finding. There are 12 data of openings, pre-openings, and closings type, 4 data of introduction and addressing system type, 7 data of invitations type, 8 data of thanking people and replying thanks type, 3 data of apologizing type, 10 data of giving compliments and replying compliments type, 2 data of getting people’s attention and interrupting type, 2 data of agreeing and disagreeing type, 7 data of controlling the conversation type, and 20 data of getting information type. There is no language function of expressing anger and resolving conflict found in the utterances produced by the main character of The Perfect Date movie, The most widely language function obtained was language function of getting information with percentage 26.60%. Besides language function, the second adjectives of the study was analyze about the types of language style are used by the main character of The Perfect Date movie in their utterances. There are three types of language style found in the utterances produced by the main character of The Perfect Date movie, there are 10 data of formal expression, 39 data of informal expression and 26 data of neutral expression. The most language style was occurred in the utterances produced by the main character of The Perfect Date movie was informal expression with data percentage 52.00%.

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