

THE ANALYSIS OF INTERJECTIONS USED IN CHRIS MCCOY'S COMIC SAFELY ENDANGERED AND ITS APPLICATION IN TEACHING SPEAKING FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstract

This thesis is a study of interjection analysis of utterances by the character in *Safely Endangered* comic. This study aims to identify the types and functions of interjection used by the character in *Safely Endangered* comic and to describe the application of the type and function of interjection found in *Safely Endangered* comic in teaching speaking at the eighth grade of Junior High School. This is a descriptive qualitative research. The data of this study is *Safely Endangered* comic. The instrument of the study is the researcher. In collecting data, the researcher used document analysis. The researcher used inductive type to analyse the data. The result of this study shows there are 381 interjections used by the character in *Safely Endangered* comic classified into two types of interjection and five functions of interjection. For types of interjection, there are primary interjection (164 utterances or 43%), and secondary interjection (217 utterances or 57%). Then the function of interjections, are emotive (127 interjections or 33%), conative (95 interjections 25%), phatic (42 interjections or 11%), referential (91 interjections or 24%), and metalinguistic (26 interjections or 7%). Those interjections are used to express certain feelings and emotions of a person that cannot be easily expressed in common sentences because interjections are used to give different meanings to different situations. Based on the result, the types and functions of interjection used by the character in *Safely Endangered* comic can be applied in teaching speaking at the eighth grade of Junior High School.

Keywords: Interjection, *Safely Endangered* Comic, Teaching Speaking

1 INTRODUCTION

These days, people, or in this case pupils simply understand interjections as a common exclamation. Many of them claimed that exclamation marks at the ends of words, phrases, or sentences indicate that an interjection is being used, making interjections the simplest part of speech. However, people were unaware that interjection is more complicated than they initially believed. Interjections come in different types, classifications, functions, forms, meanings, etc. Therefore, when speaking English, we need to be careful when using interjections.

Interjections according to [1] is typically defined as a lexical form that conventionally constitutes a nonelliptical utterance by itself, does not enter into construction with other word classes, does not take inflectional or derivational affixes, and its monomorphemic. In many languages this includes words that are used to express emotions such as disgust and its related feelings. [2] stated that first, Interjections come in many forms. They may be a single word or consist of more than one word, and some content words can be converted into interjections as well. Second, Interjections are emotive words with no referential content. They are highly context-dependent. Third, Interjections in most cases appear alone at the head of a sentence. They function independently without any grammatical relations to any other syntactical components. Interjection can be divided into several types. According to [3] there are two categories of interjection typology: primary interjection and secondary interjection. While, for the functions of interjection [4] said six language functions are related to the constituent factors of verbal communication. They are referential, emotive, conative, phatic, metalinguistic, and poetic.

In daily life, interjection is often used in informal language both in the form of spoken and written language. In the case of written language, the comic becomes one of the very good and interesting media to learn interjection. If defined comics are pictures and other symbols that are juxtaposed in a certain order, aiming to provide information and or to achieve an aesthetic response from the reader.

In a comic, every word in a sentence is related to another word to convey a particular meaning. According to [5] comics are divided into three types based on their physical form, namely comic book, comic online, and comic strip.

Without an interjection, a comic is unable to successfully convey the reader's emotions and message. A comic has components all relate to one another in some way to help the reader in understanding the storyline. There must be word or non-word interjections to give the reader a clear understanding of the situation because sentences cannot be understood without an image of the comic. In addition, the researcher is motivated by this idea to examine interjections in a comic, particularly their types and functions. In conversations, it is common to include exchanges of views. The conversation in the comic can be a good example of interjection, for it is an extremely complex case. Therefore, there will be many interjections that can be found to learn.

One aspect of language instruction that may be facilitated by the use of interjections is teaching speaking. According to [6] speaking is one of the language skills that focus on verbal interactions; it can produce, send or receive information accurately and smoothly. While [7] says that speaking activities are designed to provoke speaking-as-skill, where there is a task to complete and speaking is the way to complete it. As affirmed by [8] that in speaking class, teachers are required to create communicative and interactive activities by giving students many opportunities to practice the target language. As one of them is learning by reading comics that they can learn the kinds of interjections and then practice dialogue as found in comics. The researcher uses a comic entitled *Safely Endangered* as the source of the research.

Generally, students are often embarrassed when they have to talk in class. Because they are afraid to make mistakes due to a lack of vocabulary. As stated by [9] students are worried about making mistakes fearful of criticism, or simply shy. Following the brief explanation provided above, the researcher finds the issue in learning interjections that can be influenced by some factors. The first is the issue which derives from the students themselves that they have low knowledge in learning about interjection in school. They did not really understand what interjection itself is. Second, when the students are faced to speak English, sometimes they will stop learning it because they feel it is difficult and they are afraid that they will make mistakes. This makes them have no motivation to learn more. So in speaking English, we have to pay attention to using interjections. On the other hand, learning interjection not only enables individuals to understand the function of communication but also the primary purpose of communication, which is to convey a message.

The researcher decides to analyze the interjections in the comic because it is a pleasure and interesting to be taught to students about the variety of parts of speech as interjections study. Studying the interjections will help make good interaction between humans in daily conversation life, especially for students to be able to speak English well. This research is aim to explain the types and the functions of interjections used in the comic *Safely Endangered* and to describe the application of interjection used in the comic *Safely Endangered* to teach speaking.

2 METHOD

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research that takes content analysis as one of the types of qualitative to support the study. Qualitative research is a means of exploring and understanding the meaning that individuals and groups attach to a social or human problem with a few characteristics. [10] states that qualitative research has characteristics as follows: (1) Qualitative research has the natural setting as the direct source of data and the researcher is the key instrument. (2) qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected is in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. (3) qualitative research is concerned with process rather than simply with outcomes or products. Fourth, qualitative research tends to analyze data inductively and the last is a qualitative approach has "Meaning" as an essential.

The researcher focused on the interjections in the utterances spoken by the characters in comics. In taking the data, the researcher needs sources to get where the data can be obtained. [11] argue that two kinds of data sources are needed to get the data. Those are primary source and secondary source. For the primary source of this research is the *Safely Endangered* comic which is taken from episode 1 until episode 872 and the secondary source of this research is the certain journals, relevant books, and the internet.

[12] there are three options for acquiring an instrument to use: you can develop one yourself, locate one and modify it, or locate one and it in its entirety. In qualitative research, the instrument is the researcher. Hence, the researcher should be validated by themselves about their ability in conducting research. Thus, the instrument of this research is the researcher herself for collecting the data. Based on [13] there are some basic types of qualitative data collection, those are observations, interviews, documents, and audio-visual materials. For this research, the researcher uses the documents analysis because the data were taken from comic as the media that to be analysed by using interjection analysis to find out the types and the functions that are used in the comic. Moreover, the researcher also uses the data that taken from journals, relevant books, etc. as the sources of this research. To get the data, the researcher can use various techniques. The technique of collecting data is based on the kind of data that will be collected [14]. In this research, the researcher reads the comic *Safely Endangered* to find the interjections that exist. After the interjections are found, the interjections are collected and classified based on their type and function in a table.

After collecting data, the researcher analyzes the data and it needs quite a lot of time for analyzing data. In this qualitative research, the researcher enables to analyze the utterances that contain interjections that used the inductive type as the model of data analysis. Inductive data analysis proceeds from data to theory or interpretation, as the inquirer reduces and reconstructs the data through the processes of coding and categorization, then interpreting the phenomena being observed. Analyzing data involves organizing and reducing the data, looking for significant patterns, and discovering what is important. The researcher used some techniques in data analysis which is used in this research as noted: organizing and familiarizing, coding and reducing, and interpreting and representing.

3 FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Research Findings

In this section, the researcher presents the finding of types and functions of interjection used by the character in the comic *Safely Endangered* into the table. The researcher finds a total of 381 interjections uttered by the characters in the comic. The researcher summarizes the result of the data analysis before analyzing the data in detail. The researcher determines the percentage and the number of each type and function of interjection to make this research finding clearer. The detailed distribution of the data can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.1 The Types of interjection used by the character in *Safely Endangered* comic

No.	Types of Interjections	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Primary Interjection	164	43%
2.	Secondary Interjection	217	57%
	Total	381	100%

The table 4.1 shows that there is the number of interjections type used by the character in the *Safely Endangered* comic. There are two types of interjections; first is primary interjection which has 164 interjections (43%), for example, "Urgh!". Second is secondary interjection, there are 217 interjections (57%), for example, "Shut up!".

Table 4.2 The Functions of interjection used by the character in *Safely Endangered* comic

No	Functions of Interjection	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Emotive	127	33%
2.	Conative	95	25%
3.	Phatic	42	11%

4.	Referential	91	24%
5.	Metalinguistic	26	7%
6.	Poetic	0	0%
	Total	381	100%

The table 4.2 above shows that there is the number of interjections function used by the character in the Safely Endangered comic. There are six interjection functions; first is the emotive function, which has 127 interjections (33%) for example, "OMG!". Second is the conative function, which has 95 interjections (25%) for example, "Shhh...". Third is the phatic function, which has 42 interjections (11%) for example, "What's up!". Fourth is the referential function, which has 91 interjections (24%) for example, "Uh, Yeah..". Fifth is the Metalinguistic function, which has 26 interjections (7%) for example, "Hahaha!". The last is the poetic function which has no interjections. A detailed explanation of the types and functions of interjection by the character in the Safely Endangered comic will be presented in the next section.

3.2 Discussion

In this section, the researcher will interpret or present the discussion about the types and functions of interjection used by the character in the Safely Endangered comic. There are 381 interjections that were found and they will be analyzed into the types and functions of interjection. In presenting the data, the researcher gives the coding data that contain the number of data, the each types and functions of interjection, and the episode of data that appeared. The researcher also explains the context of situation to make the explanation clearer. Here, the researcher also describes how the application of interjection in teaching speaking.

1. The Types of Interjection Used by the Characters in Safely Endangered

According to [15] interjection can be divided into two types. Those are primary interjection and secondary interjection.

a. Primary Interjection

Primary interjections are little words or non-words which can stand on their own and do not normally include in other word classes such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc. Based on the research findings, there are 164 interjections used by the characters and the percentage is 43% which has primary interjections as follows:

1) 35/PI/EF/38



Mountain 1: *Achooo!*

Mountain 2: *Urgh, gross dude*

a) Context of situation

There are three mountains that are relaxing, Mount 1, 2, 3 but things get annoying when one of the mountains (mountain 1) sneezes and hits another mountain (mountain 2).

b) Data analysis

The interjection above belongs to primary interjection because the word "*Urgh*" is not included in the word classes and this interjection expresses Mountain's 2 feelings that he was feeling annoyed and disgusted because he was hit by a sneeze from Mountain 1.

b. Secondary Interjection

Secondary interjections are words that can be used as conventional speech to express a mental feeling or state but have independent semantic values. An example of secondary interjection is distress calls and attention seekers, swearing and taboo words, and other emotively used words. Based on the research findings, there are 217 Interjections used by the characters and the percentage is 57% which has secondary interjections as follows:

1) 18/SI//CF/23



A restaurant visitor: **Excuse me, waiter**

a) Context of situation

This situation occurred when a man wanted to complain about the food he had ordered.

b) Data analysis

The interjection "**Excuse me**" above belongs to the secondary interjection type because that words included in the word classes show a call to summon someone to get the attention or response of the person in question.

2. The Functions of Interjection Used by the Characters in Safely Endangered

According to Jakobson as cited in Andi (2020), interjection can be divided into six functions of interjection. Those are the referential function, emotive function, conative function, phatic function, metalinguistic function, and poetic function.

a. Referential Function

Referential functions are language functions that relate to the context of speech, that is the language used to refer to anything other than speech. Jakobson explained that this function is a denotative function that places the message reference as the most important element. Referential functions include: understanding an incident, pain, hesitation in speaking, displeasure, belittling something, agreeing or rejecting something, and asking for help. Based on the research findings, there are 91 Interjections used by the characters and the percentage is 24% which has referential function as follows:

1) 50/PI/RF/56



The orange man: *Wow, you must be really popular!*

The purple man: **Uh, yeah...** 'popular'

a) Context of situation

The situation occurred when someone praises a man's popularity because his cell phone keeps ringing, without knowing that the ringing sound comes from a spam notification.

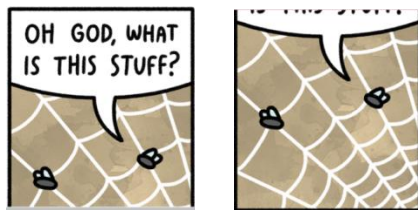
b) Data analysis

The interjection above has a referential function, because the word "**Uh, yeah...**" shows an expression of agreement but a little doubt about the words spoken by a man who says that he is popular, without knowing the real truth.

b. Emotive Function

The emotive Function expresses the speaker's state concerning the emotions and sensations they have at the same time. Emotive functions include disgust, disappointment or failure, confusion, surprise, relief, joy, awe, anger, and panic. Based on the research findings, there are 127 Interjections used by the characters and the percentage is 33% which has Emotive Functions as follows:

1) 67/SI/EF/86



Bee 2: **Oh God**, what is this stuff?

a) Context of situation

The situation happened when two bees unknowingly get caught in a spider's web.

b) Data analysis

The interjection "Oh God" uttered by one of the bees above has an emotive function, because it expresses a sense of surprise because they are unknowingly trapped in a spider's web.

c. Conative Function

Conative functions are aimed at getting someone's attention or they demand an action or response from someone of speaker want. Conative functions include warning of danger, praise, ridicule, commands to be silent, greeting, cursing, starting work, leaving or stopping, and congratulating. Based on the research findings, there are 95 Interjections used by the characters and the percentage is 25% which has Conative Functions as follows:

1) 4/SI/CF/6



The boy: **Fetch**, Boy!

a) Context of situation

The situation happened when the man was playing toss and catch with his dog.

b) Data analysis

The interjection "**Fetch**" above has a conative function because that word shows the dog owner's command for the dog to fetch the ball he has thrown.

d. Phatic Function

Phatic Function is used to build, continue, or break communication. In addition, language is also useful for knowing the functioning of the flow of communication and attracting the attention of the speaker. Based on the research findings, there are 42 Interjections used by the characters and the percentage is 11% which has phatic functions as follows:

1) 8/PI/PAF/13



Jupiter: **Hey**, who are you?

a) Context of situation

The situation happened when an alien planet suddenly appears in the middle of the gathering of planets, making the planets wonder.

b) Data analysis

The interjection above has a conative function because the word "**Hey**" pronounced by the planet Jupiter shows a greeting to start communication with an alien planet.

e. Metalinguistic Function

The metalinguistic function is centered on code, in this case, language. Language as the object of description or conversation. Metalinguistic functions include laughing and calling. Onomatopoeia enters into the form of metalinguistic functions, interjections in the form of words that show imitation of sounds uttered by characters to describe something. Based on the research findings, there are 26 interjections used by the characters and the percentage is 7% which has a metalinguistic function as follows:

1) 13/SI/PAF/16



Ship's crew: **Guys**, the captain has returned!

a) Context of situation

The situation occurred when one of the ship's crew called his entourage to welcome the captain who had arrived.

b) Data analysis

The interjection above belongs to the metalinguistic function because the word "Guys" that was said by one of the ship's crew was an interjection to make a call to someone so that the crew gathered to greet the captain.

f. Poetic Function

Poetic Function is a function that is used to emphasize the message delivered in communication. According to Jakobson in Palumian 2014 the function of poetic language is the function that makes messages into works of art. Based on the research findings, there are no interjections that have a poetic function.

3. The Application of Interjection by the Character in Safely Endangered Comic to Teaching Speaking

Teaching speaking is commonly considered a simple process. Learners just need to produce words. As time flies by, the method of teaching speaking has been highly varied. The teacher must know the technique and use interesting media to make the students enjoy learning English. Thus, it depends on the teacher's creativity to bring an interesting atmosphere for the students in learning English.

Interjection found in comics can be applied not only in the interaction between teacher and students but also in teaching English, especially in teaching speaking. More specific is secondary interjection with the function of conative, and phatic. In teaching-learning activities, the interesting way of teaching takes an important part. In this case, the researcher uses comics as the media to attract the students in learning English.

By reading comics, it can help the students to improve their speaking skills because they will to pronounce the word and then read the conversations spoken by characters in comics. Besides, the students may learn about culture in the comic and possible for students to get moral values found in the comic. Given the benefits of using comics in the language-learning classroom, it is not surprising that many teachers use comics in the language-learning syllabus.

After reading the comic, the teacher can ask the students to find the expressions of asking and giving attention then ask the students to understand the material, whether the expression and the response are relevant or not. When teaching the material, the teacher uses the role-play method. After that, the teacher gives students the task to make conversation in groups about expressing asking and giving attention with the response. The students are given a certain topic/issue, and they should discuss it with their friends. The students should present the result of the task in front of the class.

4. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the interjections found in the Safely Endangered comic, the researcher can draw conclusion which can be presented as follows:

There are two types of interjections and five functions of interjection found in the Safely Endangered comic. Two types of interjections are primary and secondary interjections, and the five functions of interjection are referential function, emotive function, conative function, metalinguistic function, and

phatic function. The discussion shows the total and percentage interjections in the Safely Endangered comic. There are 381 interjections uttered by the character in the Safely Endangered comic. For the type of interjection there are 164 utterances containing primary interjection with the percentage 43%, and 217 utterances containing secondary interjection with the percentage 57%, for the function of interjection there are 127 interjections containing emotive function with the percentage 33%, 95 interjections containing conative function with the percentage 25%, 42 interjections containing phatic function with the percentage 11%, 91 interjections containing referential function with the percentage 24%, and 26 interjections containing metalinguistic function with the percentage 7%. Those interjections are used to express certain feelings and emotions of a person in handling or expressing feelings that cannot be easily expressed in common sentences because interjections are used to give different meanings to different actions or situations. It is important because it can help people express their feelings clearly, like being amazed, surprised, happy, sad, or angry.

The result of interjection analysis in the Safely Endangered comic can be applied in teaching speaking especially in the material expression of asking and giving attention that is taught at the eighth grade of Junior High School.

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