

EUPHEMISM AND GENDER: THE EUPHEMISM USED BY MALE AND FEMALE IN *MINANGKABAU* SONGS

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the differences types of euphemism as an expression in deriving meaning used by the composer of male and female *Minangkabau* in their song lyrics. The subjects of this research are male and female *Minangkabau* composers. Data taken from this study were downloaded from youtube and transcribed. The procedure of collecting the data was taken from two of song lyrics by the composers Ipank and Ria Amelia "Rantau Den Pajauh" and "Harok di Rantau urang". The procedure of analyzing the data was descriptive qualitative method, by having the lyrics identified and underlined to get the types of euphemism that used in their lyrics. The result of analyzing the data indicated that there were three types of euphemism used by male and female composers. The female composer used euphemism more than the male composer. The female composer used three types of euphemism such as ; Circumlocution, Metaphor, understatement and Hyperbole while the male composer only used Hyperbole in the Lyrics.

Keywords: Euphemism, gender, ethnic

Introduction

Euphemism is something we can't predict with, because of the free speech. And because of the differential of someone's background was influenced their choices of word. Male will have a different choice of word than female, so on teenager will have different choices of word than kids. But above of all, gender is the easiest category to analyze this phenomenon. Gender which is mostly focused, concerns the psychological, social and cultural differences between males and females (Giddens in Coulmas: 1998). The differences can be looked as the following examples which tend to show the right differences between male and female in using euphemism in *Minangkabau* language. Take a look to when male wants to go to toilet, they will speak "malaporciekluk", or I go to report something, while female says "sakikparuika" or I get stomachache. The other example is euphemism for fat. Male prefers to say "semok, temok or agakbarisi" which means he or she is quite fat, in contrast, females often uses "chubby" borrowed from English which also means fat. These two examples have proved that at least male and female different in deciding euphemism and the first relationship between language and society which is social structure may either

influence or determine linguistic structure and/or behavior is answered (Rosadi, Rosa, Tiarina, 2013).

Some previous researchers about euphemism had been done such as Rosadi, Rosa, Tiarina (2013) that types and function which were mostly produced by male and female in *Minangkabau* quite similar. However, they were different in function even they are in same types. The function that was mostly used by male was to protect someone groups of people from feeling of shame and guilty or cover up function, while female rather had the function to mild, refine and keep the polite speech in order to change the word in expressing idea or positive function.

Sari, Refnaldi, Rosa (2013) found that not all of those types of euphemism found in language of politics in politic rubric. Politic rubric has a function to give information that happens in politic field. The use of euphemism in politic field is used to cover up the situation like political scandal, profession of "someone" and also can create good effects to the society because it is used for replacing a vulgar word and used for substituting a bad connotation become polite and good word.

Rabab'ah, Al-qarni (2012) found that the paucity of euphemism instances in Saudi Arabia EFL textbooks necessitates that syllabus designers integrate this significant pragmatic component. This will increase foreign/second language learners' awareness of the similarities and differences of euphemism usage in the respective cultures. Comparing and/or contrasting these euphemistic expressions and mastering them help learners understand the two cultures well, and use them appropriately in cross-cultural communication.

Alireza (2012) found the frequencies of different euphemisms used by the media organizations revealed that poverty and military-related euphemism figured prominently in the news bulletins, while euphemisms dealing with economy, disability, death and sex had lower frequencies of use.

Yunus (2016) found that the peculiarity of obituary text writing lies in the use of euphemism. The form of euphemism in the discourse of obituaries such as words, compounds, idioms, clauses and sentences. The use of euphemism in the obituary text has a function. The use of euphemism in the daily obituary discourse of Compass serves to choose a more polite word, not offend the family and certain parties, more prestige and respect the objects reported on services or works produced by the object being preached.

Based on the previous of study from Rosadi, Rosa, Tiarina (2013) that also suggest for further research to continue this topic or make it as a relevance research in order to develop better knowledge about euphemism in other resource. Because of that reason, here the researcher will investigate the types used by male and female. This research focused on male and female *Minangkabau*. The researchers take the data in their *Minangkabau* song. By giving answers to research question, which were carefully

formulated while research that was: 1) what is the types of euphemism used by the composer of male and female *Minangkabau* in their lyrics?

Literature review

Definition of Euphemism

Euphemism is a word or phrase that replaces a taboo word or serves to avoid frightening or unpleasant subjects. These euphemisms, as well as the difference between the accepted Latinate “genteel” terms and the “dirty” Anglo-Saxon terms, show that a word or phrase has not only a linguistic denotative meaning but also a connotative meaning that reflects attitudes, emotions, value judgments, and so on.

Types of Euphemis

According to Allan and Burridge in “Euphemism and Dysphemism” mentioned that many euphemisms that are figurative can be formed through several ways, such as:

- a. Metaphor used as means of comparing things that are essentially unlike, in metaphor the comparison is implied—that is, the figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term.
- b. Rhyming slang is a way of talking in which to use words or phrases that rhyme with the word you mean, instead of using that word.
- c. Remodelling is the way of replacing part of the word like sugar, shoot, and shucks for “shit”, tarnation for “damnation” darn, dang, and draft for “Damn”.
- d. Circumlocution is a roundabout way of thinking (often includes in metaphor or metonymy). It is common in the form of listen (compound or idiom) like little girl’s room for “toilet”.
- e. Clippings is the euphemisms starting off with a modifying word then the modifier is dropped as the phrase ceases to be euphemistic. For instance: Jeeze for “Jesus”, bra for “brassiere” (both end-clipped)
- f. Acronyms are written and pronounced as the words in their own right like or acronym are proper word created from the initial letter or two of the words in phrase, and they are pronounced like others word, for instance snafu for “situation formal, all fucked up” or commfu “complete monumental military fuck up”, etc.
- g. Abbreviations are written and pronounced as strings of letters like TS for “tough shit” etc.
- h. Omission fall into:
 1. Quasi-omission substitutes some no-lexical expression for the dispreferred term into dashes and asterisk like mmmm, er-mm, and soon.
 2. Full-omission seems less common than quasi-omissions found/need to go by omitting “to the lavatory”.
- i. One-for-one substitution is almost synonym and consists of two:
 1. Metonymy (general-for-specific): one name of change for another like the legal term person for “pennies” and region for “genitals”.
 2. Synecdoche (part-for-whole euphemism) means to take with something else demonstrated in spend a penny for “go to the lavatory” and I’ve got a cough may occasionally ignore the accompanying “stuffed up nose, postnasal drip, and running nose”.

- j. Hyperbole is simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service of truth, for example, flight to glory for “death”.
- k. Understatement is saying less than one means, like sleep for “die”, deed for “act of murder”. It is used to emphasis and to negate the opposite of what we wish to convey.
- l. Euphemism through borrowing the use of foreign language (Latin, France, etc) is considered to counteract taboo terms such as bodily effluvia, sex, and the associated acts and bodily organs. The used of perspire instead of “sweat” expectorate instead of “spit” defecate and feces instead of “shit”, genitals instead of “sex organs”, vagina instead of “cunt”

Research Method

This research was a descriptive research. This method was chosen because it was intended to described and considered to the truth or the fact of the types euphemism used by male and female. Selinger et al (1989:124) defines that a descriptive research involves a collection of techniques used to specify, delineate or descriptive naturally occurring phenomena without experimental manipulation. This research was analyzed and described the types of euphemism as an expression used by male compesers and female compesers in *Minangkabau*.

The data of this research were downloaded from youtube and transcribed. The procedure of collecting the data is taken from two lyrics from the compesers Ipank and Ria Amelia “Rantau Den Pajauh” and “Harok di Rantau urang”. The procedure of analyzing data, lyrics are identified and underlined to get the types of euphemism that used in their lyrics.

Results and Findings

Is there any the differences types of euphemism used by the composer of male and female *Minangkabau* in their lyrics?

Based on the type of euphemism, the writer found that there are no Rhming Slang, Remodelling, Clippings, Acronyms, Abbreviations, ommision and euphemis trough borrowing describe as following table:

Table 1. The lirics of “Rantau den pajauh” by the female compeser

Lirics	Types of Euphemism
<i>Uda kandung duranteu urang</i> (<i>pulanglah abang dari perantauan</i>) Please, comeback home brother from the overseas	Circumlocution
<i>Rindo lah lamo ndak basuo, apo ka dayo</i> (<i>sudah rindu, lama tidak berjumpa, apalah daya</i>) I miss you, long time no see	Understatement
<i>Sumpah jo janji maso sapayuang kito baduo</i> (<i>bersumpahlah dalam janji satu payung kita berdua</i>) You promise me to straight in any condition	Metaphor
<i>Ondeh Uda sibiran tulang</i> (<i>oh abangku sayang</i>) Oh my love	Metaphor

<i>Kinilah lupu (kinilah lupu) jo gadih minang</i> (lupa dengan ku) Don't you remember me	Circumlocution
<i>Malangnyo badan cinto digantuang indak batali</i> (malangnya diri ini cinta digantung tak bertali) How pity I am without any promises	Metaphor

Table 2. The lyrics of “*Harok di Rantau urang*” by the male compeser

Lyrics	Types of Euphemism
<i>Jari manari galaupun pai</i> (jari menari galaupun pergi) I am very happy	Hyperbole
<i>Den timbang cinto jo raso sayang</i> (saya timbang cinta dengan rasa sayang) I believe in love with my heart	Hyperbole
<i>Rasaki alun juo takambang</i> (rezeki belum juga terkebang) We don't have anything	Hyperbole
<i>Yo sansai..yo lenyai..marasai</i> (ya teraniaya...ya letih..merana) I am tired with my soul	Hyperbole

Based on the table above showed that there are the types of euphemism used by male and female compesers. The female compeser more of used euphemism than the male compeser. The female compeser used three types of euphemism such as ; *Circumlocution, Metaphor, understatement and Hyperbole* while the male compeser only used *Hyperbole* in his Lyrics.

Conclusions

The female composer used euphemism more than the male composer. Just like the previous research was also found that male and female have a different taste deciding euphemism. Whether this is something to do with language and society which leads us to the answered. That someone's background influenced and determined the choices of the word. Above of all the used of euphemism in the lyrics of “*Harok di Rantau urang*” and “*Rantau den pajauh*” songs intended to show their feeling.

In conclusion, the data has proved that female *Minangkabaunese* composer had a various type of euphemism in their song lyrics. Metaphor was used several times while Circumlocution and Understatement were rarely used. The male minangkabaunese composer was used only one type of euphemism which is hyperbole. It was because female had so many ways in expressing what their feeling rather than the male.

This research was conducted in order to know the differences types of euphemism as an expression in deriving meaning used by the composer of male and female *Minangkabau* in their song lyrics. Many topics that can be used about euphemism. In other words, the researcher suggests to further researcher to continue this topic or make it as a relevance to make a better understanding about euphemism.

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