
LANGUAGE FUNCTION USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN “BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER” MOVIE

Mabella Lola Kris Mulyo Ningrum¹, Endar Rachmawaty Linuwih², Eka Fadilah³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Widya Kartika

Email: ¹belaword.mn@gmail.com, ³ekafadilah@widyakartika.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study was mainly aimed to analyze language function found in the main character in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever Movie. The objectives of the study were to find what kind of language function used by the main character in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever movie and its social dimension. This study used descriptive qualitative approach. The writer used theory of language function by Holmes to analyze the kinds of language function and Holmes's theory to find its social dimension. The data was collected from “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” movie. The result of this study showed there were eight types of language function used by the main character. They were referential, expressive, directive, heuristic, commissive, phatic, metalinguistic, and poetic function of language. The writer also found there were social distance scale which were intimate, distant, high solidarity, and low solidarity, and two functional scale which were high information content in the main character's utterances.

Keywords: language function; main character; black panther:wakanda forever.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is one important thing for human. People are able to satiate their need to survive by both receiving and sending messages in their native language (Xiao, 2018). Although language is primarily transmitted verbally, it can also be transmitted in other ways, such as through writing. Additionally, it makes it simpler for people to exchange information as well as to express their ideas and emotions. When individuals pay close attention to what is being communicated by others and use language to do so, they are better able to comprehend the meaning and purposes of what is being said by others.

When it comes to communication, some people might not be aware that sentences, whether spoken or written, also carry a function (Noermanzah, 2019). However, if people speak without having a purpose in mind, the listener may become confused. It means that the function of language guides the listeners to achieve the goal that the speaker was going for with their words. Language is used for a variety of purposes, including conveying information and messages, expressing feelings and opinions, influencing others, providing entertainment, and spreading one's point of view.

One of the many forms of visual art that humans have devised in order to provide amusement for other people in this world is the movie. Movie is a distinct form of artistic expression that possesses both its own language and aesthetic, as stated by Darmawan, et al. (2020). A movie is a form of visual storytelling that tells stories through the use of moving images. It is the result of the collaboration of a wide variety of artistic practices and technical specializations. A movie is both a source of entertainment and learning for its audience, making it an essential part of the art world (Mudjiono, 2020).

It is possible to explain that movie is a form of mass media because they have the qualities of being seen and heard (audio-visual) and because they are capable of reaching a large audience. Movie is a cultural and artistic production that is a part of the mass communication media and is based on cinematography principles. Movie also can be viewed as a form of communication in and of itself, one that makes use of various media channels to bring together communicators and communicants in large numbers (Suriyana, 2017).

Movies are made to attract audiences by offering a variety of information or entertainment in a format designed to do so. Up until this point, the movie has been developing into an intriguing show.

The researcher chooses *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* (2022) movie because even though you could say this film have many plot lines, the plot tends to be neat and easy to understand. The audience will also be spoiled with beautiful visuals, especially when depicting portraits of Wakanda and Talokan under the sea. Apart from the cinematographic aspect, the composition of this film has also succeeded in making the audience feel even more immersed in the emotions that are built up.

According to Devianty (2017) language is one of the most powerful emblems of social behavior. Language is used in the normal transfer of information because people also use it to send vital social messages about who they are, where they come from, and who they associate with. These messages can be passed on to other people. It is often shocking to realize how extensively people are able to judge a person's history, character, and intentions based solely upon the person's language, dialect, or, in some cases, even the selection of a single word. This is especially true when people consider how little information they actually have to go on. Language has the ability to give an insight into a person's personality. They employ various forms of language in order to accomplish these various goals. Each use of language is referred to as a linguistic function. Halliday (1992) stated a functional approach to language means investigating how language is used: trying to find out what purposes that language serves for us, and how people are able to achieve these purposes through speaking and listening, reading and writing.

To review this research, the researcher chose language function propose by Holmes (2013) where there are eight categories of language function and each of those function has its own characteristics and purposes. They are referential, expressive, directive, phatic, metalinguistic, poetic, heuristic and commissive functions.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to do research titled "Language Function Used by The Main Character in *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* (2022)" movie. Despite there were several previous studies done in the field of language function in movies, there has not been a lot of attention given to its social dimension. The reason why the researcher choose social dimension is because its possibility to influence one's language choice as stated by Holmes (1992). Therefore, in this study, the researcher will not only find the types of language function used by the main character in the movie but also to describe the social dimension.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used qualitative research design. According to Creswell (2021), qualitative research collected data based on words from a small number of individuals so that the participants' views are gained. Abutebenjeh & Jaradat (2018) added that qualitative research is descriptive. It meant that the data that was collected in a form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The interpretation and description of specific information about the categories of language function and the context of language function employed by the main character of *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* was served to provide the data analysis.

The major source of the information used by the researcher was the movie *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*'s main character utterances. The reason primary data was used by the researcher was because its relation to first-hand information that was gathered directly from the units being surveyed. The researcher collected the data from the main character of the movie. Then, she underlined the utterances that the main character used to communicate to other people.

The writer employed note-taking and the observational approach to gather informations. In order to make this research more focused, the author employed the observation technique since she chose not to participate in it herself and instead only listened to and watched the dialogue in the movie. In this study, the writer carried out various phases in the data gathering process. First, downloaded the movie. The writer downloaded the movie from Disney+ Hotstar in order to upload it to its offline site. The writer then frequently and several times watched it without the need to worry about internet connection. Second, repetition of movie viewing. In a period of two weeks, the writer watched the movie three times while also reading the subtitles. Last, the writer took notes when the major character's utterances utilize any kind of language function based on Holmes's theory and underlined it to indicate which words were used in the movie.

Following the methods listed below, the researcher examined the data after obtaining and gathering it from the data source:

1. The utterances of Shuri (the main character) categorized based on the types of language function by Holmes (2013)
2. After the data were categorized, the writer described the data based on Holmes (1992) to describe the social dimension that influence the use of language delivered by Shuri.
3. The researcher then interpreted the result of the analysis to make conclusion.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

FINDING

In this chapter, the writer explained the findings about the analysis of language function found on Shuri while doing communication with other people in the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever movie. The researcher found many utterances contained the language function used by Shuri as the main character in the movie. First, the writer divided the type of language function found in Shuri's utterance on the table below:

Table 1.
Language function appear in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever's movie.

Data	Time Stamp	Utterances	Code	Type of Language Function
1	00.00.00-00.02.00	SHURI: (WHISPERING) (1.1) <u>Bast...time is running out. Please allow me to heal my brother from this illness, and I will never question your existence again.</u>	(1.1)	C
2	00.04.42-00.05.06	SHURI: (SOBBING) (2.1) <u>I'm sorry. I'm sorry.</u>	(2.1)	E

This table above used for analysis of language function of the main character in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever's movie. The code given for the type of language functions based on the abbreviation: Referential (R), Expressive (E), Directive (D), Phatic (Ph), Metalinguistic (M), Poetic (P), Heuristic (H), and Commissive (C).

Second, the writer sum the frequency of the types of language function found in Shuri's utterance on the table below:

Table 2.

Frequencies of language function that found in the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever Movie

No	Type of Language Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Referential	62	37%
2	Expressive	43	25%
3	Directive	22	13%
4	Heuristic	16	9%
5	Commissive	11	7%
6	Phatic	7	4%
7	Metalinguistic	6	4%
8	Poetic	2	1%
	Total	169	100%

Based on Holmes' theory, the findings of this study showed that the language function present in the main character's statements in the movie Black Panther: Wakanda Forever were referential, expressive, directive, heuristic, commissive, phatic, metalinguistic, and poetic. Referential function was the kind of language function that predominates in the movie's main character, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever totaling sixty two. Shuri, the main character, used referential functions in her utterances to transmit knowledge, information, or news to the listener as well as details about specific numerical data. As cited by Holmes (2013) referential function referred to utterances attempt to provide information. On Shuri's dialogues with other characters, she used referential function to provide and convey factual information regarding important matters such as King T'Challa's condition, political unsteadiness with Talokan Kingdom, and also invention of new technologies to defeat the enemies. Therefore, it was very important for Shuri to deliver a good verbal communication with referential function, noted that she is the princess of Wakanda and the only person carried the royal blood, she gave the hearer understanding about the related condition through her information, update and fact that she has given.

Shuri also used expressive function frequently on her utterances. It appeared fourty three times in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever movie. Expressive emphasized Shuri's personal emotions, thoughts, and opinions. Through this function, Shuri expressed her inner feelings, motivations, and reactions, provided a deeper understanding of her individual journeys, conflicts, and growth throughout the story. At the beginning of the story, Shuri showed deep sorrow and guilt regarding her loss of her brother and her inability to save her brother from his illness. Throughout the story, Shuri also lost her mother, Queen Ramonda. She showed despair on her loss of two members of her family which led her to thrive all alone by herself as her father has also been gone long ago. There were so many emotions depicted by Shuri in this movie, such as, vengeance towards Namor as he killed her mother, and, happiness as she found out that her brother actually have a child with Nakia. Therefore, it was used frequently.

Furthermore. Shuri also used directive function of language in the movie, totaling 13% . Directive function played a significant role in guiding actions. Shuri used directive language to get someone to do something. She delivered utterances which influenced other people. Shuri used this function to give commands, requests, or instructions, demonstrating leadership, decision-making, and the establishment of goals or objectives within the Wakandan society. Given the fact that she was The Princess of Wakanda, it only normal that this function is used quite frequently. Shuri used directive language to give command to her AI, GRIOT, to do something for her. She also used this function to former Dora Milaje's leader Okoye and the Jabariland's leader M'Baku to join her force to defeat Talokan Kingdom.

Shuri employed the heuristic function sixteen times, demonstrating her active quest for knowledge, exploration, and problem-solving. Through questions, inquiries, and seeking information, Shuri aimed to uncover truths, understand challenges, and developed strategies to navigate the complex situations they encounter. Shuri used this function to discover Namor's history and background. It depicted when she asks Namor about Talokan people's history on why they all blue.

Commissive function occurred eleven times totaling 7% of Shuri's utterances. The commissive function indicated a commitment or promise made by a character. This function reflects a sense of responsibility and dedication to fulfilling certain actions or obligations, adding a layer of accountability to the narrative. Shuri tried to make compromise with Namor regarding Riri Williams' safety. Riri Williams was a student who built the vibranium detector which endangered Namor's kingdom, Talokan. Namor stated that he will kill the scientist as he thought that Riri's innovation will only bring harm to Talokan. Shuri promised to Namor that Riri will be taken to Wakanda and will remain there so that she will not be a threat to Talokan. But, Namor hesitated about the compromises so Shuri further her words by stating that both Wakanda and Talokan need to find middle ground and solution of this situation without losing someone else's life. Shuri used commissive function as a way to find peace as she believes that it is her responsibility as princess of Wakanda.

There were also phatic and metalinguistic function found in Shuri's utterances both totaling 4%. She rarely used these types of language function. According to Holmes (2013) phatic utterances expressed solidarity and empathy with others while metalinguistic revealed the condition in which the speaker wanted to clarify or correct the use of language itself. Though occurring less frequently, phatic emphasized the characters' efforts to establish and maintain social bonds through greetings, small talk, and polite expressions. This function highlighted the importance of social harmony within their interactions. Shuri used this function to create friendly bond with Talokan's people when she said hello to a young girl during her explore in Talokan's capital city. Meanwhile, Shuri used metalinguistic to clarify her utterances. She clarified it in order to get the hearer to understand what she really implied.

In addition, Shuri also rarely used poetic function which occurred only two times of all of her utterances. Poetic function showcased the aesthetic and artistic use of language. It added a touch of creativity, employing figurative language, imagery, or evocative expressions to convey deeper meanings, evoke emotions, or emphasize significant moments within the narrative. She used poetic function to describe her sorrow and guilt towards her brother's death when she stated that she could burn the entire world just by thinking of her brother for too long.

DISCUSSION

The use of language function might be affected by some factors including social dimension. According to Holmes (1992) social dimension consisted of social distance scale, status scale, formality scale, and two functional scale. Social distance scale consisted of intimate, distant, high solidarity, and low solidarity. Status scale divided into four types which were superior, high status, inferior, and low status. There were four types of formality status which were formal, informal, high formality, and low formality. Two functional scale divided into two categories which were referential and affective.

Shuri used intimate language when speaking to her mother, Riri, and Nakia as she had close relationship with those people. As intimate language can be seen when someone uses casual and nonstandard language and calling others with their first name or other specific calling, such as mother, dear, etc. She produced utterances "I'm fine, Mother. You don't have to worry about me. He's gone, but I'm moving forward." Shuri engaged in an intimate language towards her mother. She showed the closeness of their relationship by showing

deep emotional conversation with her. Here, Shuri reassured her mother to not worry about her.

High solidarity style conveyed a strong sense of closeness or loyalty between the speaker and the listener. Strong solidarity was closely correlated with intimate, therefore the tighter a person's social connection, the greater their sense of solidarity or care for the listener. Shuri produced utterances "I admire what you have built here. And how protected your people." Shuri used solidarity language to Namor, Leader of Talokan Kingdom. She admired Namor for building the Kingdom of Talokan so beautifully.

Shuri produced utterances "I'm nothing like you. You took it for yourself, then destroyed the rest. Unworthy king, afraid of being replaced. Just a coward." Shuri engaged low solidarity language to N'Jadaka. She showed how awful of a person N'Jadaka was and called him an unworthy king. She also referred N'Jadaka as a coward as he feared of others to dethrone him by destroying the Heart-Shaped Herb. Low solidarity was directly related to distant, meaning that the far more of a person's social connection, the lesser the listener's sense of solidarity, making this kind the opposite of high solidarity.

Referential language noted that the purpose of the talk is to provide information. High information content indicated that conversations include vital or high information. Shuri produced utterances "But as Princess of Wakanda, I will not stand for you killing that young woman. My nation will not rest until I'm returned. I'm not leaving without her. We need to find a peaceful way to resolve this." Shuri showed referential language which implied to provide information. Shuri provided such an important information to Namor regarding his action of abducting her. Shuri warned Namor that as the princess of Wakanda, her people would not tolerate his action. It can also be seen as Shuri's attempt to conciliate with Namor as this situation could lead to war between Wakanda and Talokan. Hence, made this conversation classified as high information content.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of data findings, the researcher concluded that there were eight types of language function based on Holmes (2013) found in the main character's utterances of *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* movie. They were referential, expressive, directive, heuristic, commissive, phatic, metalinguistic, and poetic function of language. In addition, the researcher found that referential function was the most used type of language function by Shuri, the main character. The researcher also found factor that possibly influence the use of a language itself which was social dimension. According to Holmes (1992), the researcher found there were social distance scale which were intimate, distant, high solidarity, and low solidarity, and two functional scale which were high information content in the main character's utterances.

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