The Use of Euphemism in Acehnese Ethnic Language

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ABSTRACT

Language is very important in human society to communicate with another people in everyday life; the understanding of language in communication becomes very important according to the main purpose of language which can be associated as a medium for delivering a massage or information. There are several words or phrases of dysphemism or taboo word in the culture of a society which then allows the emergence term to smooth the language, it's called by euphemism. In each ethnic language has dysphemism and euphemism, such as Acehnese ethnic language. This article is to describe the use, the type and the function of euphemism in Acehnese ethnic language. The method used is descriptive qualitative. The data of this research were the words and phrases containing euphemism. The source of the data was taken from interviewees some Acehnese speaker by sending message and recording the dialog used by Acehnese speaker which use euphemism. From the data analyzed, the euphemism is mostly appeared as the function as tools for smooth speech. In this culture is only found some types of euphemism. They are jargon type used in pronoun and noun, second flippancy type used in adjective and verb and the last colloquial type used in phrase. In Acehnese language people tend to use of euphemism as consideration to adapt speech in different addressee and situation, and show respect and politeness each other.

Keywords: Euphemism, Acehnese ethnic language.

Bahasa sangat penting bagi masyarakat untuk berkomunikasi dengan orang lain dalam kehidupan sehari-hari; Pemahaman bahasa dalam berkomunikasi menjadi sangat penting sesuai dengan tujuan utama bahasa yang dapat diasosiasikan sebagai media penyampaian pesan atau informasi. Ada beberapa kata atau ungkapan disfemisme atau kata tabu dalam budaya suatu masyarakat yang kemudian memungkinkan munculnya istilah untuk memperlancar bahasa, yang disebut dengan eufemisme. Dalam setiap bahasa daerah mempunyai disfemisme dan eufemisme, seperti bahasa daerah Aceh. Artikel ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan penggunaan, jenis dan fungsi eufemisme dalam bahasa bahasa Aceh. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Data penelitian ini berupa kata dan frasa yang mengandung eufemisme. Sumber data diambil dari wawancara beberapa penutur bahasa Aceh dengan cara mengirimkan pesan dan merekam dialog yang digunakan penutur Aceh yang menggunakan eufemisme. Dari data yang dianalisis, eufemisme paling banyak muncul sebagai alat untuk memperlancar ucapan. Dalam budaya ini hanya ditemukan beberapa jenis eufemisme. Yaitu tipe jargon yang digunakan pada kata ganti dan kata benda, tipe kesembronoan kedua yang digunakan pada kata sifat dan kata kerja, dan tipe bahasa sehari-hari yang terakhir digunakan dalam frasa. Dalam bahasa Aceh masyarakat cenderung menggunakan eufemisme sebagai pertimbangan untuk menyesuaikan tuturan pada lawan bicara dan situasi yang berbeda, serta menunjukkan rasa hormat dan kesopanan satu sama lain.

Keywords: Euphemisme, Bahasa daerah Aceh.

A. Introduction

Language is very important in human society to communicate with another people in everyday life; the understanding of language in communication becomes very important according to the main purpose of language which can be associated as a medium for delivering a massage or information. Human can express their thought and feelings through the language. In Indonesia has many ethnic groups and ethnicity. Each tribe has its own language, which maintained by the speaker. Especially in Aceh has ethnic or tribal, namely Acehnese language. In the context of the use in each area, there is a possibility no appearance of the form and same word, but have different meanings. The difference meaning often gives rise to a difference between the perception and interpretation of the speaker with the listener. Here errors of perception and interpretation of the meaning of the word because the word against the possibility of having more than one meaning. Another cause is the use of euphemism, namely the use of the fine words as a subtitle for the words that are considered to have meaning.

Ronal. (2006) states euphemism is expression used as an alternative to a dispreferred expression, in order to avoid possible loss of face either one's own face or, through giving offense, that of the audience, or of some the third party. Euphemism is a linguistic device came from the Greek euphemisms, which means "speaking well". Euphemistic words and expressions allow us to talk about unpleasant things and disguise or neutralize the unpleasantness, e.g., the subjects of sickness, death and dying, unemployment, and criminality. They also allow us to give labels to unpleasant tasks and jobs in an attempt to make them sound almost attractive.

On the one hand Muna (2016) says euphemisms are long standing cultural phenomenon in most languages. As social tools, euphemistic expressions are widely used in every level of society to meet certain communicative needs, show respect,

humility, and politeness. These tools could make our speech more expressive and colorful since they adapt speech to different situations.

Allan and Burridge. (1991) states in his book entitled Euphemism & Dysphemism Language Used as Shield and Weapon classifying euphemism into sixteen forms (Prasetyo, Hendra (2016). As for other forms of euphemism by Allan and Burridge is as follows.

1. Figurative Expression, that is the symbolism, or metaphorically like something with another form. That is the shape of which deviates from referents euphemism.
   Example: Go to the happy hunting grounds - *die*
2. Metaphor, namely the implicit comparison between two different things.
   Example: The miraculous pitcher that holds water with the mouth downwards - vagina
3. Flippancy, which smooths a word, but the meaning of the word is generated outside the Statement
   Example: Kick the bucket – die.
4. Remodeling, namely the re-forming.
   Example: Basket – bastard
5. Circumlocutions, is smoothing a word by using some of the longer words and indirect.
   Example: Little girl's room – toilet
6. Clipping, namely cutting, making being short or brief.
   Example: Bra – brassiere
7. The acronym, namely shortening over several words into one.
   Example: Comm - complete monumental military fuck up
8. Abbreviation is the abbreviation of words into letters.
   Example: S.O.B. - son of bitch
9. Omission, which removes a small portion.
   Example: I need to go - I need to go to the lavatory
10. One for one substitution
    Example: Bottom – ass

11. General for specific, namely a general word for a specific word.
    Example: Go to bed – fuck

12. Part for whole euphemisms, is a specific word being said the general.
    Example: Stuffed up nose, postnasal drip running eyes - I've got a cough

13. Hyperbole, is expression exaggerating.
    Example: Flight to glory - death

14. Understatement, is one sense of the word regardless of the meaning of the word.
    Example: Genitals, bulge, etc – thing

15. Jargon, the word has the same meaning but different shapes.
    Example: Feces – shit

16. Colloquial, is a phrase that is used daily.
    Example: Period - menstruation

Euphemisms as a means to package forms taboo that enables language users to discuss aspects or unpleasant life events have a variety of functions in human life. Wijana and Rohmadi categorizes the functions of euphemism in linguistic phenomenon consisting of at least five kinds as tools for smooth speech, tools for keeping something, tools for diplomacy, education tools, tool danger repellent.

There are some studies that discuss about euphemism in different context by different researcher. Recent discussion on using euphemism;

Nuke Elok Avrianti.(2014). In *political issue news* just found that two motives used in the study; they are delicacy fall and propriety motive from six types of euphemisms base on theory used, they are understatement or litotes, metaphor, metonym, implication, reversal or irony, and compounding, this research used qualitative method.

Gede Suarya Dhika (2013).The Research of "Euphemism And Dysphemism In The Movie *Remember Me* "that using discourse analysis method found that the most of euphemism function that has been used in this movie are Euphemism as Taboo Prevention and Double Speaker, and the most dysphemism function used in this movie are Dysphemism as Insulting of Teasing the addressee, and Dysphemism as Cursing the addressee.

Alexander Ptashkin(2015) ."The Euphemisms as the Means of Inferiority Category Expression in the English Language " that using qualitative method found that the category of mental disorders is very productive, and culturally Marked in English language.

Muna (2016).In the same year, the study of "Influence of Socio cultural Differences in Translating Euphemistic Expressions from English into Arabic in "A Grain of Wheat" that using qualitative analysis method found that both translators employed omission and literal strategy frequently which may not express euphemistic words functionally. Additionally, both translators attempted to translate the euphemistic expressions semantically at the expense of rendering them adequately into the target culture.

The use of euphemism can also be found in the communication of Aceh language speakers. While some situations require the use of euphemistic expressions in some cultures, the others find using of them for such situations unnecessary.

In daily conversation, euphemism is also sometimes found especially in formal situations in Acehnese Language, like the use of the word:

- ***ulon tuan/dirokueh/ Lon*** *: (saya/I) instead of **Ike** (Aku / I)*

- ***Nikah*** *: (menikah) instead of* ***mekawen*** *(kawin)*

The reason for choosing the topic is base on several previous researches it potential to reveal expression of euphemism type used in daily conversation in Acehnese. The aim of this research is to analyze euphemism expressions in Acehnese Language. Another objective of this research are to know the types of the euphemism and the function of it. Therefore, this research is used on the use

of euphemism in Acehnese language based on context and function.

B.   Research Method

The design which is used on this research is descriptive qualitative design, the source of data are from some informants in Acehnese speaker to describe the data carefully in accordance with the actual circumstances on euphemism used by Acehnese people.

The data of this research were the words and phrases contain euphemism. The technical of this research are interviewing some Acehnese speakers by sending message and recording the dialog use by Acehnese speaker which use euphemism. The instruments of collecting data are interview sheet and recorder. In order to make the process of collecting data become easier, a table will be created to arrange the euphemism words.

The data identified based on the words and phrases which consist of euphemism by typing them into a note. After the data found, it analyzed based on the type and function.

C.   Result and Discussion

Base on my observation, and interview the data taken from the respondents show that euphemism used in Acehnese language divided in some categories such pronoun, adjective, verb, and noun. The use of euphemism in Acehnese language is not only for the words, but also in some phrases.

The following tables present the study's results.

Table 1. The use of euphemism in Pronoun

Dysphemism	Euphemism	Type	Funtion
Kèe (aku)(I)	*Ulôn tuan, ulôn, lôn (saya)(I)*	*Jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech

kah *(engkau/ kamu) (you)*	*Droeneuh (tuan/Anda), gata (saudara/ Anda) (you)*	*Jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech
jih (dia/ ia) (she/ he)	*Gobnyan (dia/beliau) (She/he)*	*Jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Awak Kamoe/kamoe (kami) (we)	*Geutanyoe (kita) (we)*	*Jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech
kah bandum (kamu semua/engkau semua)(you all)	*Droeneuh bandum (tuan/Anda semua), gata bandum (Anda/ saudara semua) (you all)*	*Jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Jih bandum (mereka), awak nyan (mereka), (they all)	*Gobnyan bandum (mereka), droeneuh nyan bandum (beliau semua), (they all)*	*Jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech

Table 2. The use of euphemism in Adjective

Dysphemism	Euphemism	Type	Function
Bateue(nakal) (naughty)	*Batat (nakal) (naughty)*	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Kh'ep/khi /khoh/khop (bau)(bad smell)	*Meubee (bau)(bad smell)*	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech

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singet (gila)(crazy)	*Pungo* (gila)(crazy)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Nget/ *Paneuk akai* (bodoh) (stupid)	Bangai (bodoh) (stupid)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Raya badan (gemuk) (fat)	*Teumbon/gulok* (gemuk) (fat)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Sok (sombong/ sok) (arogant)	*Hayeu'e* (sombong/sok) (arogant)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech

Table 3. The use of euphemism in Verb

Dysphemism	Euphemism	Type	Function
Mate (mati) (dead)	*Meninggai* (mati) (dead)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Saket hate (sakit hati) (broken heart)	*Wueh hate/ teupeh hate* (sakit hati) (broken heart)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Ngieng (lihat) (see)	*Kaloen/eu* (lihat) (see)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Meukawen (nikah)(marry)	*Meunikah* (nikah)(marry)	*Flippancy*	Tools for Smooth Speech

Table 4. The use of euphemism in Noun

Dysphemism	Euphemism	Type	Function
Awak (orang)(people)	*ureung* (orang)(people)	*jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Ngon (teman)(friend)	*Rakan* (teman)(friend)	*jargon*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Nyo (ya) (yes/ok)	*'o* (ya) (yes/ok)	*jargon*	

Table 5. The use of euphemism in Phrases

Dysphemism	Euphemism	Type	Function
Panyang aki/ kuat jak (suka berpergian)(traveler)	*Galak jak* (suka berpergian)(traveler)	*Colloquial*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Panyang ikue (suka mengikuti orang pergi) (like to follow someone)	*Galak siteut* (suka mengikuti orang pergi) (like to follow someone)	*Colloquial*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Brat that badan (keberatan badan/pemalas) (lazy)	*Beu'o* (malas)(lazy)	*Colloquial*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Ijak (dia sudah pergi)(she/he has gone)	*Ngeujak* (beliau sudah pergi)(she/he has gone)	*colloquial*	Tools for Smooth Speech
Ipreh/jipreh (dia menunggu)(she/he waits)	*Geupreh* (beliau menunggu) (she/he waits)	*colloquial*	Tools for Smooth Speech

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Keune'uk (dia akan) (she/he will)	*Geune'uk (beliau akan) (she/ he will)*	*coll oqui al*	**Tools for Smooth Speech**
Jeb (minum) (drink)	*Neujep (minum)* (drink)	*coll oqui al*	**Tools for Smooth Speech**
Keurija (kerja) (work)	*Ji keurija (kerja)* (work)	*coll oqui al*	**Tools for Smooth Speech**

In Acehnese language has different level of using euphemism. They are **geu, neu**, and **ji** which have function to soften the word. The use of them usually for respects the oldest and hearer. Example of euphemism expression in sentences;

1. *Droe peu ie (neu)jep?* (What do you want to drink?)
2. *Gob nyan ka buno ka (geu) wo.* (He went to home several minute ago)
3. *Gob nyan (ji) keurija bak toko buku.* (she works in the book shop)

Example of euphemism expression in conversation:

February 24th, 2024. The situation happens in my family house between aunt and her niece

Ani : *"ho neujak cek? Paken meukarat?"* (Where do you go? Why are you in a hurry?)

Cek Mi :*"lon neujak u rumoh sikula si cut "* (I will go to cut's school)

Ani : *"belehen-lehen bak jalan cek, be selamat"* (be careful on the way)

Cek Mi: " *nyo..nyo.. kajeut lon jak ile beh dek nong"* (ok..ok, I go first,dear)

February 25th 2024. The situation in my family house between mother and father

MM : *"peu neu jeb kupi?"* (Do you want coffee?)

MF :*"jeb hay.. boh neu pegoet aju, siat tek lon jak jeumpot cuco geutanyo"* (Yes, I do. Please make it first before I pickup our grandson)

MM : *"ka jeut, gata preh siat"* (ok, please wait for moment)

Based on the conversation above, the pronoun is used to respect the elder and the function of euphemism which are used as tool for smooth the speech. Prasetyo (2016) states function of euphemism:
1) Tools for Smooth Speech
2) Tools for Keeping Something
3) Tools for Diplomacy
4) Education Tools
5) Tool Danger Repellent
.

From the data analyzed above we can see that euphemism is mostly appeared as the function to smooth speech. In this culture is only found three types of euphemism. They are jargon type used in pronoun and noun, second flippancy type used in adjective and verb and the last colloquial type used in phrase.

D. Conclusions and Suggestion

From the result shows that, the use of euphemism in Acehnese language more dominant for using pronoun in daily conversation. In this culture only found the function of euphemism as to smooth speech with three types of euphemism. They are jargon type, flippancy type and colloquial type.

The word chosen also describe the speaker character and influence with whom we talk. While in this culture are highly ethical between attitude and speech. For example when we talk with oldest we should consider the euphemism word **droe neuh** or **gata** to respect them.

Muna (2016) stated, as social tools euphemistic expressions are widely used in every level of society to meet certain communicative needs, show respect, humility, and politeness. These tools could

make our speech more expressive and colorful since they adapt speech to different situations.

In Acehnese language people tend to use of euphemism as consideration to adapt speech in different addressee and situation, and show respect and politeness each other.

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