THE USE OF FILLERS IN THE CASUAL CONVERSATION

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ABSTRACT

Normally, fillers occur when a speaker pauses to consider what they wish to say without appearing to finish their speech. Fillers are not the main message; they just help to have meaning in sentences. This study was designed within the framework of descriptive qualitative design because it is intended to describe the analysis of spoken language features that are fillers found in casual conversation. The corpus for this study was derived from a transcript of a casual conversation conducted by a pair of women. So, the data of this study are in the form of naturally occurring data. There are a total of 129 turns to be analyzed to find the features of spoken language. After that, the researcher divided the turns into some clauses. There are a total of 178 clauses in the conversation. This study attempted to find out the types of fillers and their function of the filler. In this analysis, it found that both of them are found in this conversation, they are lexicalized filler and unlexicalized filler. The functions include holding turns, emphasizing, and interrupting. In the unlexicalized filler, there are forty-one fillers found in the conversation. The functions include holding turns, the mark of hesitation, emphasizing, and editing terms.
(205 Words)

INTRODUCTION

Language as its origin is divided into two: written and spoken. Written language deals with how people communicate, share meaning and interact in the written form. It can be realized via formal or informal written text such as letters or emails. On the other hand, spoken language deals with how people do communication orally. Day-to-day, spoken language is mostly used because it originates in speech. Similar to written language, spoken language can also be realized via a formal or informal form such as speech, sermon, or even daily conversation. There is an interactive process of making meaning in spoken. It means that when someone speaks, they will produce, receive and process the meaning. According to (Harmer, 2007). Speaking is the ability to process information and language because speaking is not only about presupposes in the knowledge of language features.

There are two types of spoken/ oral language; monologue and dialogue. In Bakhtinian terms (Bakhtin, 1981), the basis of dialogue is the language used in social interaction in line with other semiotic cultural symbols. Many truths and many voices imply in the dialogues; a collection of discourses in which many identities and realities through social interaction are constructed that previous encounters bear influences, and the histories and realities of every individual cannot be detached from. On the other hand, monologues, involve truth and homogeneous conceptualizations of realities. Conceptualizations of Bakhtin in dialogues and monologues, given the different positions of power and control of different discourses, may be seen as forces constantly challenging each other because one seeks unified views while the other celebrates diversity which is constantly changing based on the constant interplay of words and meanings. According to Brennan (2010), dialogue is a conversation done by two participants. In the dialogue, the speakers negotiated the meaning and shared their perceptions, their feelings about each other, and the phenomena. There is a basic people's activity which is a casual conversation conducted most of the time by people in their daily (Thornbury & Slade, 2006). In the conversation, the effective way to make the conversation run smoothly is by using fillers in their conversation.

Fillers are a moment when someone pauses their speaking to think. They want to say without giving the impression that they finish their speaking. In daily conversation, people often use *uh, hmm, er, ummm, ah, ehm*, well, I mean, you know, or similar expressions. These kinds of utterances are called fillers (Baalen in Navratilova, 2015). He also describes that the fillers are sounds or words or phrases that could appear anywhere and could be deleted from the utterance without a change in content. Fillers also serve a communication function, having a place in the speakers' vocabulary. Fillers are not the main message; they just help to have meaning in sentences. According to Rose in Navratilova (2015), there are two types of fillers, lexicalized and unlexicalized fillers. Unlexicalized fillers is fillers with contain lexical empty such as eee, erm, umm, err, ehm, eh, etc. Meanwhile lexicalized fillers which in contain phrases such as *I mean, you know, actually, kind of, sort of, etc*. Fillers also have their function. According to Strenstrom in Navratilova (2015), there are seven functions of fillers. They are

filling pauses, the mark of hesitating, holding turns, emphasizing, interrupting, mitigating, and editing terms. Based on the explanation above, the researcher wanted to find out the types of fillers, the function of the filler, and the dominant one in the conversation. Analysis of fillers has been done by some researchers (Aliyah & Hestrian, 2021; Amiridze et al., 2010; Erten, 2014; Fitriati et al., 2021; Indriyana et al., 2021; Lala et al., 2019; Mahendra & Bram, 2019; McGregor & Hadden, 2020; Navarretta, 2015; Navratilova, 2015; Nur et al., 2019; Pamolango, 2016; Pardede et al., 2020). The majority of them serve as analysis fillers in speeches and talks. In this analysis, the researcher analyzed the dialogue that was produced by students in the English Language Department. It was done by two people discussing their activities and by limiting the time to 10 minutes.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study was designed within the framework of descriptive qualitative design because it is intended to describe the analysis of spoken language features that are fillers found in casual conversation. As stated by Creswell (2012), the basic aim of the descriptive design is to collect, examine, analyze, describe and categorize textual data using interpretative analysis. The corpus forthis study was derived from a transcription of a casual conversation conducted by a pair of students. So, the data of this study were in the form of naturally occurring data. At first, the participants were asked to have a casual conversation for about 10 minutes and there was no specific topic for them to talk about. While they were having the conversation, they put a recorder to record their conversation. After getting the recording, they switched their recording with another group of pairs. And then, the researcher transcribed the conversation. The transcription was done by looking at the transcription guidance written by Eggins & Slade (1997). After all the transcription is done, the researcher counted the total turns in the conversation. There were a total of 129 turns to be analyzed to find the features of spoken language. After that, the researcher divided the turns into some clauses. There were a total of 178 clausesin the conversation. It was intended to make the researcher easier to analyze fillers in this conversation. After finishing the analysis, the researcher counted the data, put the result into tables, and tried to interpret the result. Finally, the overall conclusion of this study can be drawn.

FINDINGS

This paper discussed fillers analysis found in casual conversation. According to Rose in Navratilova (2015), there are two types of fillers; they are lexicalized filler and unlexicalized filler. In this analysis, it found that both of them are found in this conversation, they are lexicalized filler and unlexicalized filler. Each of the types has the function; there are seven functions of filler. They are filling pause, mark of hesitation, holding turn, interrupting, empathizing, mitigating, and editing term. The result can be seen in the following table:

Table 1 The Result of Fillers Analysis

Function of Filler	Types of Filler	
	Lexicalized	Unlexicalized
Holding Turn	3	17
Mark of Hesitation	-	15
Filling pause	-	-
Mitigating	-	-
Emphasizing	15	8
Interrupting	2	-
Editing Term	-	1
Total	**20**	**41**

Table 1 showed the types and function of the fillers found in the casual conversation. It showed that there were five functions that represented each type of the fillers. It found that there were 20 times in the lexicalized filers and 41 times in the unlexicalized fillers. In the lexicalized filler, there were 3 times in the holding turn function, for example:

Turn	Speaker	
80	S1	…………. **By the way**, what was your activity in the last weekend?
81	S2	I went to Pand's Collection.

There were found 15 times in the emphasizing function, for example:

Turn	Speaker	
90	S1	Near with Tembalang **right**?
91	S2	That's right. Emm.., by the way, I have to go now. Yaaa

There were found 2 times in the interrupting function, for example:

Turn	Speaker	
86	S1	Did you find it or get nothing? (laughing)
87	S2	**Yeah yeah**

The dominant function in the lexicalized fillers was in the emphasizing that were 15 times found in the conversation. It meant that the speakers made sure that the listener understood the speaker's meaning and could catch the meaning of what the speaker said. The examples of the lexicalized filler are "*by the way, I see, that's right!, exactly!,* etc".

In the unlexicalized filler, there are four functions found in theconversation. They were 17 times in the holding turn function, for example:

Turn	Speaker	
76	S1	**Emm** You look busy. Do you have a leisure time?
77	S2	Yes, I do. I have it in every weekend. **Umm**……..

It was found 15 times in the mark of hesitation function, for example

Turn	Speaker	
9	S1	**Hmmm** what did the doctor say to you?
10	S2	The doctor said that I have to take rest and drink much mineral water.

It was found 8 times in the emphasizing function, for example:

Turn	Speaker	
13	S1	I'm fine, but I have a problem that sometimes make me feel stress
14	S2	**Eheee**

It was also found one function in the editing term.

Turn	Speaker	
115	S1	It is in Banyumanik area. I forgot the name of the place actually. **Yaaa** forget.

The dominant function was holding a turn function. It means that in the conversation, the speakers tried to hold their turn to continue to talk, to continue the ideas that they would say. The examples of the unlexicalized filler are "*eheem,eee, aaa, hmmm, umm,* etc". Those were the findings of the fillers analysis in the casual conversation. It could be concluded that the speakers usually used unlexicalized fillers in their conversation. That was to hold their turn in speaking. This function is a category in the unlexicalized filler. The detail examples of filler found in this conversation could be seen in this table 2:

Table 2 The Example of Fillers Found in the Casual Conversation

No.	Unlexicalized Filler	Total	No.	Lexicalized Filler	Total
1.	Umm	6	1.	I see	4
2.	Hmmm	7	2.	By the way	5
3.	Emm	6	3.	Do you know	1
4.	Mmm	5	4.	That's right!	1
5.	Ahh	2	5.	Exactly!	1
6.	Eheee	2	6.	Yeah!	2
7.	Oh	3	7.	Right!	1
8.	Ehem	4	8.	Oh great!	1

9.	Aaa	2	9.	Ok	4
10.	Uuhh	1			
11.	Yaa	2			
12.	Uh huh	1			
Total		**41**	**Total**		**20**

Table 2 showed the fillers used by the speaker. It showed that the speaker mostly used unlexicalized filler in the conversation. The speaker used "*umm, hmmm, emm, mmm,* etc" with different functions of filler. There are found 12 kinds of fillers words in the unlexicalized filler and 9 fillers words in the lexicalized fillers.In the lexicalized fillers, the speaker usually used "*I see, By the way, Oke* and *Yeah*".

CONCLUSION

This study attempted to find out the types of fillers and their function of the fillers. In this analysis, both types of fillers were found. The functions of the fillers are different. It depends on the situation and the context while they speak. The types of filler are lexicalized and unlexicalized. It was 20 times in the lexicalized filers and 41 times in the unlexicalized. In the lexicalized fillers, there are twenty fillers found in the conversation. The functions of each filler aredifferent. The functions included holding turns, emphasizing, and interrupting. In the unlexicalized fillers, there were forty-one fillers found in the conversation.The functions included holding turns, the mark of hesitation, emphasizing, and editing terms. Even though the types of fillers are the same, they can have different functions. It is very useful to use filler in the conversation. The speaker used fillers to make the conversation run smoothly and gave them time to think about what they wanted to say.

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