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# **SPEECH FUNCTION IN FACEBOOK BY EFL LEARNERS HKBP NOMMENSEN UNIVERSITY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research deals with the speech function in facebook users which offers a social networking micro blog that allows users to send and read messages, called chirp (tweets). Facebook is a kind of social networking website that has been used widely by people around the world to interact with others. The purpose of the research is to find out what types of speech function are dominantly used in facebook users' status by EFL learners HKBP Nommensen University? To answer the problem of speech function in facebook users' status, the writer use the theory Sapir (1939), Elgin (1973), Halliday (1980), Sinar (2002), Wilkins (1975), Jeffries (2006), Martin (1997), Gee (1999), Jack (2002). This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. The status are taken in August 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 until August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10 the writer friends in FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar. They are 5 twitter users' and 5 facebook users', used as the sample to be analyzed. The data were collect by taking group of status. The result of this research showed that there were three types of speech function; statement, command, and question functions. Whereas offer functions, was not found. It was found out that 30 clauses (73.17%), used statement function, 7 clauses (17.07%) used question functions, and 4 clauses (9.75%) used command functions. This research deals with speech function in facebook users'. The writer concludes that there are only 3 types of speech function found in this research. Statement is the type of speech function which is dominantly used in twitter and facebook users'. Finally the writer suggest to the students of English Department and to other researchers to learn more about speech function in other they can develop their understanding on how speech function works in texts or online texts.

Key words: Speech function

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

According to sapir (1921:12), Speech and the language it carries, is also the vehicle for transporting our culture from generation to generation. Stories are passed from one generation to the next through speech. According to Halliday (1997:175), social skills and interpersonal skills go hand-in-hand. Establishing satisfying, long term relationships requires that people share themselves and their experiences. Communication is a critical aspect of any personal relationship, so the person with a communication difference starts at a disadvantage. One of the most common complaints from persons with normal communication skills involved in long term relationships is "we don't communicate like we used to". Language makes communication possible for individuals to live society. People can exchange information about everything that is going in their live by communication. The communication is used for works, worship, and play by everyone. The harmonious relationship can be created among people though language. According to Halliday (in Enggins and Slade, 1997:180), a communication is a process interact that involves into two variables. The first variable is a commodity that will be switched over, in this case gets as information and also as goods or service. The second variable is a part communication agent both as provider (giving) goods or service and also as damaging.

Speech is transitory and in the past there was no means of seizing it, of reliving speech events and of making them available to other (Wilkins, 1975:5). Interacting is a process of making meaning. It is known as performing interpersonal meaning which studies the clause that concerns the speaker's role in the speech function. Speech function is a way someone delivers idea in communication to make the listener understand the ideas well.

Speech function is the speaker's role of communicative exchange realized in interpersonal meaning which is related to systematic functional linguistics (Halliday, 1994:54). Whenever two or more people use language to interact, one of the things they are doing is establishing a relationship between them, the person is speaking know (speaker) and the person who will speak next (listener). This interaction forms a functional semantics perspective. To establish between them, they take turn at speaking on different speech role in the exchange. In spoken communication, someone interacts to other directly either by face to face or not which is done orally. In written communication, someone usually interacts to other indirectly which are done in written form. In Twitter and Facebook, the speech functions; statement, question, offer and command, are commonly used by the users to interact.

According to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook>, Facebook was founded by Mark Zuckerberg. Facebook is a kind of social networking website that has been used widely by people around the world to interact with others. Facebook has a number of features which people/users may interact. One of them is status. Status is one of Facebook features which allow users to inform their friends of their where about and actions. Status takes a great role in interacting with people/friends in facebook because it is the centre of the feature found on the top of the homepage whenever users update it. Friends can easily see the status in their homepage. Status is usually updated in textual form, but it can attach along with picture or video. Speech function is more oriented to functional interpretation. The speech function; statement, question, offer and command which are realized in mood; declarative, interrogative and imperative (Richard, 2002:176), will be studied in the in the status. So the research is intended to find out and to explain the types of speech function applied in the Twitter and Facebook users' status. Based on the background stated above, the writer summarizes the problem of this research as follows: What types of speech function are dominantly used in Twitter and facebook users' status by students of FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar? In line with the problems, the objectives of the study is to find out the most dominant type of speech function which are used in facebook users' status by students of FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar.

## **II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **2.1 Speech Function**

Speech is transitory and in the past there was no means of seizing it, of reliving speech events and of making them available to other (Wilkins, 1975:5). Interacting is a process of making meaning. It is known as performing interpersonal meaning which studies the clause that concerns the speaker's role in the speech function. Speech function is a way someone delivers idea in communication to make the listener understand the ideas well. Speech function is the speaker's role of communicative exchange realized in interpersonal meaning which is related to systematic functional linguistics (Halliday, 1994:54). Whenever two or more people use language to interact, one of the things they are doing is establishing a relationship between them, the person is speaking know (speaker) and the person who will speak next (listener). This interaction forms a functional semantics perspective. To establish between them, they take turn at speaking on different speech role in the exchange.

The most fundamental types of speech role which lie behind all the more specific types are just two; giving and demanding (Halliday, 1994:68). The speaker may be giving something to the addressee or demanding something of him. When the speaker takes on the role of giving and demanding, by the same token he assigns as complementary role to the listener. Giving means inviting to receive that implies receiving, and demanding means inviting to receive that implies receiving, and demanding means inviting to give that implies giving something in response. The “something” here, the commodity being traded, may be either information or goods and services. There are 4 (four) types of speech function namely; statement, question, offer, and command. These kinds of interaction give important roles in communication either spoken or written. Speakers may be giving something to listener or demanding something of him. Giving means inviting to receive and demanding means inviting to give. Realizing or not, people may be giving or demanding something in their interaction. Something here means commodity being exchanged; either information or goods and services. It can be seen in table as follows (Halliday, 1994:69);

**Table 1 Speech Role & Commodities in Interaction**

Role of Exchange	Commodity Exchanged	
	Good & Service	Information
Giving	Offer Would you like this chocolate Would you come to my birthday party?	Statement I gave him the chocolate I invite her to come to my birthday party
Demanding	Command Give me the chocolate!	Question What did he give you?

According to Halliday (in English and Slade, 1997:180), a communication is a process that involves two variables. The first variable is a commodity that will be switched over, in this case gets as information and also as goods or service. The second variable is a part communication agent both as provider (giving) goods or service and also as demanding. Egging and Slade (1997:194-208) explain the contextual aims (discourse purpose) of speech function as follows:

1. Statement :to give factual/evaluates information.
2. Question :to ask something.
3. Offer (offer) :to give goods and service.
4. Command (instructions) :to ask for goods and service.

**1. Statement**

Egging and Slade (1997:194) say that, statement is declarative or an assertive statement which is used to give information (either positive or negative) and usually ended with a period (.). subject is placed in front of a verb or auxiliary verb/modal (the formula:subject+verb/aux.v). Example: (1). My motorcycle has been repaired (2). My Mother promise to buy me a bag, (3). He was very smart (4). My friend was very joyful.

In the first sentence seems to be a statement. Because in the sentence, the speaker informing to the listener that his/her My motorcycle has been repaired. In the second sentence, by conversation seems to be both a promise and a statement. Furthermore, the fact that it is a promise seems to be derivable from conventional content of the word promise and the fact that My mother promise to buy me a bag, is an indicative statement. In the third sentence seems to be a statement. Because in this sentence the speaker informing to the listener/reader

that the boy was very smart. And in the last sentence sees as a statement too, because the speaker also informing to the listener/reader about her/his friend was very joyful. The examples above explain that in order to formulate a statement, a clause should be started by a subject which is placed in front of a verb auxiliary verb/modal.

## **2. Question**

Eggs and Slade (1997:198) say that, question is an interrogative statement used to seek confirmation or to demand for information or to ask for something by using question words and auxiliary verb and usually ended with question mark (?). The subject is placed after auxiliary verb or wh-question. And then followed by verb (the formula:aux.verb or wh-question+subject+verb). Example (5) Are you teaching in here? (6) Could you pass the sugar? (7) When did you go there?

In the first sentence, although it is grammatically structured as a question, it can be seen that the speaker asking for the listener if the listener are teaching in here. In the second sentence, although it is grammatically structured as a question, it can quite safely be inferred that the speaker is not inquiring as to whether the person they are addressing is physically capable of passing the sugar at the breakfast table or not. And in the last sentence, also it is grammatically structured as a question, it can be seen that in this sentence the speaker ask the listener/reader when did the listener went to the one place.

The example above explain that in order to formulate a question, a clause should be followed by an auxiliary verb or wh-question. The example above show how the formula is used in a clause or sentence.

## **3. Offer**

Eggs and Slade (1997:203) say that, offer s used to give goods and service to someone by using modal and always ended with a question mark (?). Being started by one of the modals, and then followed by a subject and verb “the formula:modal+subject+verb).

Example (8) Would you like this bag? (9) Can i help you? (10) May I borrow your money?

The examples are offer because the examples consist to the sentence that point out to give goods or service to someone. The example above explain that in order to formulate an offer, it is begun by modal, and than followed by a subject and verb in a basic form.

## **4. Command**

Eggs and Slade (1997:206) say that, command is an imperative statement used to demand goods and service or to make a request for something to someone. There is no subject in the imperative statement (command) but only the predicate expressed. The subject “you” is the understood subject. A command is usually ended with an explanative mark (!). the subject is omitted and the as form of the verb is used (the formula:verb+object).

Example (11) Sit down please! (12) Send me your email please! (13) Tell me about him! (14) Give me the reason! The example are command because in the sentences seems that the speaker give instruction to the listener for something for him/her. The example above explain that in order to formulate a command, a clause should be followed by a verb in a basic form and followed by an object. Based on the four types of speech function explain above, the speech function can also be realized in exchange system of Mood (level of lexicogrammar) which is an aspect of interpersonal meaning. The speech functions ae realized in the Mood as; declarative, interrogative, and imperative. The realizations of the speech function can be shown in the table as follows (Martin et al, 1997:58):

**Table 2 Speech Function Choices & Mood Realization**

	<b>Goods &amp; services</b>	<b>information</b>
Giving	Offer-(various)	Statement-declarative
Demanding	Command-imperative	Question-interrogative

(--- = realized by)

Semantics system can be expanded into four-speech function pair choice between initiating and responding moves. The speaker initiates an interaction he assigned to the listener to put into a role of responding. The speech functions pair can be matched between initiating and responding which carry out the positive and negative response;

Offer	————→	(+) accept	(-) reject
Statement		(+) acknowledge	(-) contradict
Command	————→	(+) undertake	(-) refuse
Question	————→	(+) answer	(-) disclaim

It can be seen clearly in the following table (Halliday, 1994:69):

**Table 3 Speech Function and responses**

	<b>Initiation</b>	<b>Expected response</b>	<b>Discretionary Alternative</b>
Give - goods & service	Offer	Acceptance	Rejection
Demand - goods & services	Command	Undertake	Refuse
Give - information	Statement	Acknowledgement	Contradiction
Demand – information	question	Answer	Disclaimer

Example (15) Statement: the concert start at 7 pm, (16) Acknowledgement : oh is it?  
 (17) Question :what time does the concert start? (18) Response statement to question: at 8 pm or i don't know? (19) Offer: can i bring your bag? (20) Acknowledgement offer: yes, thanks or no, i can't, (21) Command: sit down please! (22) Response offer to command:ok or no. From the example above, it can be concluded that speech functions recognize a correlation between the different structure of an initiating move and the structure of a responding move; positive and negative responding speech function.

#### **4. Mood**

At the level of lexicogrammar, interpersonal meaning is realized by mood. Mood plays a special role in carrying out the interpersonal meaning of the clause as exchange in english. Mood can be defined as the grammatical expression of the speaker intent toward what he is saying. The mood system of english grammar expresses declarative, interrogative and imperative. It can be formed in the diagram as follow (Richards, 2002:176):

**Table 4 A simple “System Networking” of Mood Types**

Mood	Speech function Typically realized	Example
<b>Declarative</b>	Statement	They put the books into the boxes
<b>Interrogative</b> <i>(yes-no type)</i>	Question	Did they put the books into the boxes?
<b>Intterogative</b> <i>(wh-type)</i>	Question	Where didi they put the books?
<b>Imperative</b>	Directive	Put the books into the boxes.
<b>Exclamative</b>	Exclamation	What a messt he books are in!

According to Thompson (1985:17), the exchange of information typically occurs through the grammatical system of an indicative mood type. Within this system, a statement is usually realized bu a non-exclamative declarative type but it could also be realized by an exclamative declarative typr; and a question is usually realized by an interrogative which may be of a polar (yes/no) type or content (wh-) type. The exchanged of goods and services typically occurs through the grammatical system of an imperative mood type. Whitin this system, an offer is usually realezed by some other mood type, for example; by a polar (yes/no) interrogative sub-type of the indicative mood and his hold true with command.

## 2.6 Facebook

### 2.6.1 facebook discovers



Name : Mark Elliot Zuckerberg  
 Place of birth : White Plains, New York  
 14 May 1984  
 Address : Palo Alto, California  
 Job : chief executive

According to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook>, Mark Zuckerberg wrote Facemash, the predecessor to Facebook, on October 28, 2003, while attending Harvard as a sophomore. According to The Harvard Crimson, the site was comparable to Hot or Not, and "used photos compiled from the online facebook of nine houses, placing two next to each other at a time and asking users to choose the 'hotter' person".



Mark Zuckerberg co-created Facebook in his Harvard dorm room. To accomplish this, Zuckerberg hacked into the protected areas of Harvard's computer network and copied the houses' private dormitory ID images. Harvard at that time did not have a student "facebook" (a directory with photos and basic information), though individual houses had been issuing their own paper facebooks since the mid-1980s. Facemash attracted 450 visitors and 22,000 photo-views in its first four hours online.

The site was quickly forwarded to several campus group list-servers, but was shut down a few days later by the Harvard administration. Zuckerberg was charged by the administration with breach of security, violating copyrights, and violating individual privacy, and faced expulsion. Ultimately, the charges were dropped. Zuckerberg expanded on this initial project that semester by creating a social study tool ahead of an art history final, by uploading 500 Augustan images to a website, with one image per page along with a comment section. He opened the site up to his classmates, and people started sharing their notes.

The following semester, Zuckerberg began writing code for a new website in January 2004. He was inspired, he said, by an editorial in The Harvard Crimson about the Facemash incident. On February 4, 2004, Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook", originally located at thefacebook.com.

Six days after the site launched, three Harvard seniors, Cameron Winklevoss, Tyler Winklevoss, and Divya Narendra, accused Zuckerberg of intentionally misleading them into believing he would help them build a social network called HarvardConnection.com, while he was instead using their ideas to build a competing product. The three complained to the Harvard Crimson, and the newspaper began an investigation. The three later filed a lawsuit against Zuckerberg, subsequently settling.

Membership was initially restricted to students of Harvard College, and within the first month, more than half the undergraduate population at Harvard was registered on the service. Eduardo Saverin (business aspects), Dustin Moskovitz (programmer), Andrew McCollum (graphic artist), and Chris Hughes soon joined Zuckerberg to help promote the website. In March 2004, Facebook expanded to Stanford, Columbia, and Yale. It soon opened to the other Ivy League schools, Boston University, New York University, MIT, and gradually most universities in Canada and the United States

Facebook was incorporated in mid-2004, and the entrepreneur Sean Parker, who had been informally advising Zuckerberg, became the company's president. In June 2004, Facebook moved its base of operations to Palo Alto, California. It received its first investment later that month from PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel. The company dropped The from its name after purchasing the domain name facebook.com in 2005 for \$200,000.

### **2.6.2 Facebook definition**

According to <http://charlenecroft.files.wordpress.com/2008/02a-brief-history-of-the-facebook.pdf>, Facebook is a social networking website launched on February 4, 2004 that is operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. Facebook was founded by former-Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg (while at Harvard) who ran it as one of his hobby projects with some financial help from Eduardo Saverin. Within months, Facebook and its core idea spread across the dorm rooms of Harvard where it was very well received. Soon enough, it was extended to Stanford and Yale where, like Harvard, it was widely endorsed. Users can

join networking organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. Users can also add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves.

Facebook has a number of features with which users may interact. They include; wall, photos, new feeds, notes, chat, pokes, status, etc. Wall is a space on every user's profile page that allows friends to post message for the user to see. Photo is the application where users can upload albums and photos. News feeds, which appears on every user's homepage and highlights information including profile changes, upcoming events, and birthdays of the user's friend. Note is a blogging feature that allowed tags embeddable images. Users can also tag label friends in the notes. Chat or instant messaging is the application which allows users to communicate with friends and is similar in functionality to desktop based instant messages. Poke, which allows users to send a virtual "poke" to each other (a notification that tells a users to send of their whereabouts and actions.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

This research was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative method. Aswita and Thamrin (2007:94) said that descriptive method is a method in describing the situation or characteristic of sample for every variable of study in one way, so the method has an intention to accumulate the basic data. Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2003:3) defined qualitative research as the research procedure that produces descriptive data in written or spoken words from the attitude that can be observed. By using qualitative research, the result of the research did not modify the interpretation, collection and presentation of the basic data of the objective study in analyzed the types of speech function found in Twitter and Facebook users' status. The subject in this research is facebook users' status. The status are taken in August 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 until August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10 the writer friends in FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar. They are facebook users', used as the sample to be analyzed. The object of this research is speech function in facebook users' status. The writer analyzes status based on speech function theory. The speech function theory used by Halliday. The writer choose one type of Halliday theory that is type of process. The data in this research were collected by applying documentary technique. There are some techniques in analyzing the data: (1) Identifying the types of speech function, (2) Classifying the types of speech function (3) Finding out the most dominant types of speech function in Twitter and Facebook users' status by applying the following formula:  $X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$   
X= the percentage of the items, F= Frequency, N= The total number of items, Explaining the finding.

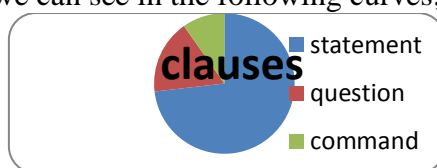
### **IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS**

This research studies about speech function in twitter and facebook users' status. It is aimed to find out how speech function work in the status.

1. Speech function is the speaker's role of communicative exchange realize in interpersonal meaning which is related to systematic functional linguistic. There 4 (four) types of speech function namely; statement, question, offer, and command.
2. Statement is the type of speech function which is more dominantly used in twitter and facebook users' status. They are 30 clauses of status used statement, 7 clauses of status used question, 4 clauses of status used command, and no clauses of status used offer.

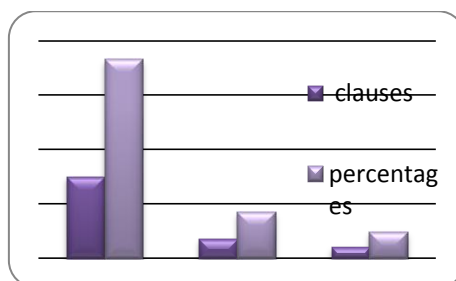
3. The percentage of the speech function number can be seen below:
  - 1) Statement :  $30/41 \times 100\% = 73.17\%$  → Giving information
  - 2) Question :  $7/41 \times 100\% = 17.07\%$  → Demanding Information
  - 3) Command :  $4/41 \times 100\% = 9.75\%$  → Demanding goods and service
4. The users of twitter and facebook preferred to use a type of speech function, statement, when they update their status. They tend to give information in their interaction through their status.
5. When the users of twitter and facebook used giving, they actually invited the viewers to receive something from them through their status, such as information of whereabouts, action, situation, condition or anything else. And when they used demanding, they actually invited the viewers to have, such as information, response or reaction and when the users gain it, they have reached the goal of the status written

The percentages of the data we can see in the following curves; **Curve I**



Speech Function	Clauses	Percentages
Statement	30	73.17%
Question	7	17.07%
Command	4	9.75%

**Curve II**



The curves show the percentage of the speech function in twitter number of statement, question, command and offer. There were only 3 types of speech function found in this study. There are statement (30 clauses), question (7 clauses) and command (4 clauses) while, 1 type of speech function, offer, was not found. Statement is the type of speech function which is more dominantly used in twitter and facebook users' status. There are 30 clauses (73.17%) used statement, 7 clauses (17.07%) used question and 4 clauses (9.75%) used command. It showed that the users of twitter and facebook tend to give the information in their update status. When the users of facebook used giving in their status, they actually invite the viewers to receive something from them, such as information of their whereabouts, action, situation, condition or something else. And when they used demanding, they actually invite the viewers to give something the viewers (other users) have, such as information, response or reaction.

## V.CONCLUSIONS

There were 56 clauses from 4 (four) groups of status used as sample. The analysis not this study shows that:

1. Of the suggested by Halliday, in twitter and facebook there were only 3 types of speech function found in this study. They are statement (30 clauses), command (4 clauses) and question (7 clauses). While, 1 type of speech function, offer, was not found.
2. Statement is the type of speech function which is more dominantly used in twitter and facebook users' status.
3. To be learn more about speech function the reader/listener can develop their understanding on how speech function work in texts or online text.

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