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## **NATURE AND FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

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The purpose of writing this article is to know the nature of language as a tool of social control. Previously we must first know the meaning of language it self. Language is a communication tool in the form of a sound symbol system produced by human utterances. Language consists of words or a collection of words, each of which has meaning, namely, the abstract relationship between words as symbols with objects or concepts represented by a collection of words or vocabulary by linguists arranged alphabetically, or in alphabetical order with, and an explanation of the meaning and then recorded into a dictionary. The language itself is utterance, so the nature of language is the utterance used by humans to express things both real and unreal, directly or indirectly, tangible and invisible, situations of past and present conditions. Language is used as a tool of social control, which means language functions as an influence on the attitudes and opinions of others. If this function applies properly, then all social activities will take place well too. With language one can develop personality and social values to a higher level of quality. language as a tool of social control functions to control communication so that people involved in communication can understand each other. As an example that illustrates the function of language as a tool of social control that is very easy for us to implement is as a means of reducing anger, another example of social control can be applied to self and society, such as textbooks, religious lectures, scientific speeches, discussions and service advertisements society.

**Keywords:** *Phonetics, Phonemics, Graphemics*



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## **Introduction**

Language shapes human ideas and distinguishes them from animals because one knows the words one speaks, unlike other animals despite having a sense of pronunciation. Rather, thoughts and language are one and the same, closely related. Language helps us know the intentions of our interlocutors and what they imply, even if they want to hide their identity.

Language is an essential part of human life as it serves as an important tool for communication, expression, and spreading culture from generation to generation. Language shows the way humans think, feel, and interact with the world around them in addition to conveying information. Therefore, language plays an important role in shaping the identity of each person and the community as a whole.

Languages are not only undergoing changes in structure and vocabulary, but also in the way people use them. These changes are the natural result of ever-changing technological, social, and cultural developments. Language is becoming a very important tool in an increasingly complex and diverse society. flexible to meet the changing needs of communication. For example, globalization has brought foreign languages into daily conversation, while technological advances have generated new terms.

Language is evolving rapidly due to the influence of digital technologies such as social media, the internet, and the internet. The need for fast communication that characterizes the modern era makes language simpler and more sensitive. While old terms are being abandoned, new words are emerging from local and international languages. This phenomenon shows that language is something that is always changing and evolving over time.

## **Research Methods**

This type of research is a qualitative method. Qualitative research method is an approach used to study objects in natural conditions, with the researcher as the main instrument. Unlike quantitative research, qualitative research begins with data collection, uses existing theory to help explain,

and ends with theory development. The approach used in this research is the library research method. This method is done by studying and theories from various sources related to the research topic.

## **Results And Discussion**

According to (Hornby, 2005) Language is basically spoken sound. This can be explained by remembering the fact that people or groups of people, or communities, have had the ability to communicate orally using a mutually agreed language for a long time. Written language only emerged after linguists created written symbols that were also agreed upon by the consensus of each group or community that used the language.

Language has its own structure. The sounds of spoken language are made by the group of people who use the language. For example, group A makes the phonemes /a/, /t/, /o/, and /s/ into [a t o s] with the meaning "hard", while group B makes the same phonemes into [a t o s] with the meaning "already". If these sounds were combined into [t s o a], each group would not know it and not understand the meaning. Therefore, the user community of a society shapes its language system.

Language serves as a social control tool to control communication so that the people involved can understand. Each pays attention to behavior, speech, and other symbols that indicate the way of communication. There are many forms of language that can be used as this control tool, such as articles of association, laws, and so on. As a means of social control, the media has the ability to influence a person's attitude, behavior, and personality. Words have the ability to change a person's personality or traits. Suppose your friend smokes somewhere and then they read a notice that smoking is prohibited in that place. If this happens, your friend might look for another place or even not smoke in that place (Oktavia, 2018).

Factors such as globalization, technological advancements, and social needs influence the language changes that are happening today. While this phenomenon demonstrates the flexibility of language, it is important to understand its impact on the preservation of local cultural identity. Local

language preservation, such as through education and cultural programs, should remain a priority to maintain cultural heritage while taking advantage of language flexibility in the modern era. Therefore, language not only functions as a tool for communication but also serves as a representation of the cultural wealth of a society (Rechika Amelia Eka Putri1, 2024).

In this world there are thousands of languages, and each language has its own grammar. There is grammar for Indonesian, grammar for English, grammar for Japanese, and so on.

In principle, humans communicate by using language, although communication activities can be carried out with tools other than language. In certain situations, animals can communicate with each other using animal language (Wiratno & Santosa, 2014). Language is a communication tool that allows people to communicate and work together. The desire to express oneself leads to communication. Language functions as a communication tool to make readers or listeners understand the intentions and feelings of the writer or speaker. In addition, the language used must be easy to understand so that others can understand what we say. In addition, language experiences bias in both writing and speaking (Kuntarto et al., 2014).

Systematic means that language can be decomposed into finite units with predictable rules. Language would be unsystematic, meaningless, and unlearnable. Systemic means that language consists of many subsystems that are interrelated and form a meaningful whole. The language system consists of three subsystems: phonology (language sounds), grammar (morphology, syntax, and discourse), and lexicon (vocabulary). The world of sound and meaning is shaped by these three subsystems (Yunus, 2018).

The Indonesian language system states that word form and word order are equally important, and both have equal value. Therefore, language is often called unique and universal. Unique means having characteristics or properties that are not shared by other languages, and universal means having characteristics or properties that are the same for all languages.

Each symbol of language symbolizes what is called meaning or concept, and the language system discussed above consists of speech sounds or language sounds.

The following are the characteristics regarding the nature of language, as will be explained in the following description: first, Language is systematic, systematic means regular or patterned-having a regular structure of sound and meaning. Biased sounds are often used as symbols of reference or reference in language. Second, language is arbitrary, arbitrary or arbiter appears without reason. In language, words-as symbols-can appear without a clear relationship to what they symbolize. Why is Garut food called dodol, not dedel or dudul? Why do we call worms those small, long slimy animals? Why is the small plant called grass while in Sundanese it is called jukut and in Javanese it is called suket? There is no good reason to answer these or similar questions. Language has a selective, arbitrary or random nature as shown by the evidence above. The convention or agreement of language users greatly influences the choice of sounds and words in this regard. One of the fruit names used by Sundanese people is cau. Third, Language is vocal, In this case, vocal means sound. Language consists of sounds. Although technological advances and human intelligence have produced written language, the written system cannot replace the sounds of language. The writing system is just a tool to convey information on paper or other types of hard media. Writing also protects human speech and culture. Since there are many lessons to learn from their culture, we can predict the culture of early humans and other older people. One of these takes the form of writing.

The fact that language is vocal drives the study of linguistics, which has subdisciplines known as phonetics and phonology. Fourth, Language is a symbol, Language and symbols are symbols. Every speck of water that falls from the sky has a symbol written in language that has a specific sound. When written down, that sound is rain. Rain is a biased word in linguistics that symbolizes a point of water falling from the sky.

While symbols can be sounds, they can also be ink strokes that resemble drawings on paper. Another type of symbol is a picture. Language is very beneficial to human life because it is able to symbolize many things. One cannot imagine how difficult it would be to remember and communicate with others if people did not have language. Fifth, language refers to itself, something is called language if it can be used to analyze language itself. Animals have their own sounds when they are with each other, but the sounds they use cannot be used to learn their own sounds. Unlike the sounds used by humans when communicating. The sounds that humans use can be used to analyze the sounds themselves.

In linguistic terms, such conditions are called metalanguage, which means that language can be used to talk about language itself. Linguistics uses language to examine language scientifically. Sixth, Language is humane, Language is a wealth that is exclusive to mankind, because it is humane. While plants and animals do not speak, humans do. Biologists have found that, based on evolutionary history, animal communication systems are different from human communication systems. The animal communication system does not recognize danger like the human communication system, and the animal communication system does not recognize meaning and sound.

Naming humans as homo loquens or language animals has finally become a reality. Human language is called homo grammaticus, or grammatical animal, because the sound system is patterned after human food. Seventh, Language is communication, Language functions as a tool to interact and communicate, which is the most important function of language. Language helps people interact with each other in their communities, from small communities like families to large communities like countries. Without language, there can be no harmonious interaction between people. Moreover, it is impossible to imagine what kind of social activities take place between people without language. Expressing and receiving messages is part of communication. This can be done by speaking, listening, writing, or reading. Communication is usually two-

way, or even unidirectional. Communication does not only happen between individuals living in one era; it can also happen between individuals living in different eras, in one direction of course. Although the Prophet Muhammad has passed away, his teachings can still be accepted by people today.

### **A. Properties of Language**

Language is a system that consists of subsystems or subordinate subsystems and is organized according to patterns. Based on the definition of language given by Kridalaksana and some other experts, there are some actual properties of language. The following are the properties and characteristics of language, among others: first, As a system, language consists of a number of components that are related to each other and form a meaningful and functional whole.

Second, that it functions as a symbol, meaning that language is conveyed or represented in the form of language sounds, not sounds produced by human speech. Third, Language consists of sounds, with "phones" in phonetics and "phonemes" in phonemics. Fourth, language is free, meaning that there is no mandatory relationship between the sound symbol and the concept or understanding in question. This means that language is arbitrary, dynamic, and unstable. Fifth, language is conventional, which means that people follow the norms contained in the ideas that represent them.

Sixth, When viewed from its function to convey messages, concepts, ideas, or thoughts, language is not a thing. Seventh, every language in the world has special characteristics that are not shared by other languages. Eighth, Language is productive because its elements can develop into an infinite variety of language units in accordance with the applicable system. Ninth, Language is universal, meaning that every language in the world has the same characteristics.

### **Conclusion**

Language is an important tool for communication, which distinguishes humans from other animals. Language shows the culture and identity of a society because it consists of sounds, words, sentences, and complex meanings. Language is the simplest means of communication between

humans because it is a system of symbols in the form of sounds used by speech communities to communicate, cooperate, and identify themselves. Therefore, language is formed by certain rules, rules, or patterns in the fields of sound system, words, and sentence system. If these rules, rules, or patterns are violated, communication can be disrupted.

Language performs various functions, such as communication, which means conveying information and messages; self-expression, which means expressing thoughts and feelings; social integration, which improves relationships within groups; thinking tools, which help in analysis and problem solving; social control, which influences behavior and maintains culture. Thus, language has an essential role in human life, both as a tool for interaction and as a means of maintaining the continuity of civilization.

## **LITERATURE**

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