

Revealing the Euphemism in the Original Trilogy in Star Wars Movies: Type, Context, and Meaning

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Abstrak

Eufemisme berfungsi untuk menyamarkan tema terlarang dengan cara yang lebih sopan. Perihal kesopanan, eufemisme tidak akan sulit ditemukan pada suatu karya. Star Wars adalah salah satu contoh karya bergenre fiksi-ilmiah yang mengadopsi eufemisme dalam filmnya karena menghadirkan kebiasaan yang dianggap tabu. Film Star Wars adalah karya yang pertama kali tayang pada era 70-an dan masih banyak diminati hingga saat ini. Hal ini terjadi karena ide kreatif sang pencipta. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui arti eufemisme yang digunakan oleh para karakter. Penelitian ini juga memeriksa makna dan dalam konteks apa mereka mengucapkan kata-kata tersebut. Metode kualitatif diterapkan dalam penelitian ini dengan cara dokumentasi untuk mengumpulkan data. Data yang dikumpulkan berupa kata-kata atau frase yang diambil dari percakapan karakter Star Wars. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan empat tipe eufemisme yang digunakan, yaitu Metafora, Pernyataan Berlebihan, Implikasi, dan Pernyataan Meremehkan. Dari segi konteks, eufemisme digunakan oleh karakter untuk mengekspresikan perasaan mereka seperti marah, kesal, kecewa, dan puas.

Kata Kunci: Eufemisme, Makna, Konteks, Star Wars.

Abstract

Euphemism is used to cover up taboo topics in a polite way. It will not be challenging to find euphemism expressions in works regarding politeness. Star Wars is one of the works in the science-fiction genre that adopted euphemism in its film due to presenting a habit considered taboo in their works. Star Wars movies are a work that first aired in the 70s era but is still victorious today. It happens because of the creative thinking of the creator, including language use. This research aims to discover the type of euphemism terms used by the characters. This research also examines the meaning and in what context they produce euphemism words. This research applied the qualitative method by utilizing documentation to collect the data. The collected data was in the form of words or phrases taken from utterances of Star Wars characters. The result shows that four types of taboos used by Star Wars characters: Metaphor, Overstatement, Implication, and Understatement. In terms of the context, the speakers used euphemisms to express feelings like anger, upset, disappointment, and satisfaction.

Keywords: Euphemism, Meaning, Context, Star Wars.

INTRODUCTION

Taboo subjects were a phenomenon that was avoided due to their harsh and offensive nature; however, people cannot be avoided entirely for various reasons. Due to the prohibition, people were not allowed to mention them, and gradually the social psychology of taboo language developed so that offensive language that sounded strong in the past was now less offensive. When the taboo term was abandoned, people tended to look for an alternative to fill the vacancy, which was how euphemisms were formed (Min, 2016). Euphemism was a cultural phenomenon as well as a linguistic conception that was useful for reducing offensive tendencies. The Encarta World English Dictionary classifies three stages of offensiveness: taboo, insulting, and offensive (Burridge, 2012). In the sense of politeness, people consciously have

a tendency to use inoffensive language. Therefore, people prefer to use euphemism as an alternative to express it rather than saying it directly. Apart from politeness, euphemism also concealed the true meaning of speech by making it fuzzy. Euphemism was said to be fuzzy because they use beautiful words even though they have unpleasant meanings. The approach of the fuzzy concept is advantageous for public needs where most media use it to cover sensitive issues.

The utilization of language can be seen in various media, including films. They were the most popular entertainment media and were liked by people of all ages. Therefore, in the process of making a film, it should contain moral messages in it. Thus, the choice of language was crucial. The language used was neither profane, rude, nor offensive. This way, euphemisms were applied and

used to avoid censorship by reducing offensive meaning or modifying the original words. This research examined the use of euphemisms in the genre of a science-fiction movie: Star Wars. Star Wars was a space opera that aired for the first time in 1977, and the story continues to this day. Most Star Wars movies hit the global box office; therefore, they have many fans all over the world. Star Wars was so popular because of the creative ideas that appear in the film, including language use. However, the content rating of Star Wars films was categorized as PG (Parental Guidance). Since the scenes in Star Wars movies contain violence, murder, and profanity, they may not be suitable for children.

Other researchers have done discussions about euphemism with similar focuses. Sitohang, Cahayati, and Mansur (2021) analyze taboo language and euphemisms by classifying the data according to its type, and the results displayed are in the form of numbers and percentages. Siska's (2010) study discusses the relation of semantic and euphemism terms by applying componential analysis. Apart from having the same topic on euphemism, the two previous studies have the same roots in Allan & Burridge's theory.

Another study was from Fujimoto-Adamson (2015), who analyzed spoken discourse. In *Bend It Like Beckham* movie, he analyzed two types of conversations among an Indian family. Moreover, he used SPEAKING Model by Hymes to analyze the context of the interaction within the family.

This research aimed to discover the type of euphemism words used by the characters. It also examines the meaning and in what context they utter those words. This research analyzed Star Wars movies because they show a habit of using taboo words. It was supported by actions considered taboo or unpleasant, as Allan & Burridge (2006) explained, such as death and killing, part of bodies, excretions, naming, and addressing. Since its first release, Star Wars has released twelve film series, and the series continues. Therefore, the discussion is limited to the original trilogy, which was the first trilogy of Star Wars movies, namely *Episode IV – A New Hope* (1977), *Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), and *Episode VI – Return of the Jedi* (1983).

Euphemism

The term euphemism particularly refers to politeness, which replaces unpleasant, harsh, or impolite expressions. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), euphemism is categorized as sweet-talking in colloquial language by delivering indirect (or figurative) expressions. Following Wardhaugh (2006), euphemistic language allows people to talk unpleasant topic because they have role to create them more polite, more appropriate, more

presentable for public, and sound attractive as well. Furthermore, Alwasilah (1999) and Wardaugh (2002) as cited by Trisnayanti et al. (2018) elaborates the function of euphemism, as follows: 1) to replace bad connotation; 2) to protect the addressee from feeling ashamed; 3) to express their ideas by replacing the words; 4) to disguised taboo words; 5) to eliminate ominous utterances; 6) to secure privacy; 7) to exaggerate or reinforce utterances.

In terms of formation, Warren developed a semantic innovation to find out euphemisms formed semantically. According to Warren (1992), there are eight types of semantic innovation, as follows: 1) Particularization refers to contextual references where words are used as clues to specific words. In understanding the terms, context is needed to make sense, e.g., 'satisfaction' in sexual activity can be interpreted as 'orgasm'. 2) Implication relates to the context and conventional references that have a reasonably close relationship among them, in this case, more or less of the possibility of antecedent-consequent connection, e.g., 'sleep (with)' stands for 'having sexual intercourse.' 3) Metonymy relates to the term used in the general form to replace the specific word, e.g., using the pronoun 'it' to refer to the sexual activity or genital organs. 4) Metaphor, a conventional reference where the concept of its creation comes from a comparison from the actual term, e.g., 'riding' refers to the position of sex, and 'red' refers to the colour of blood menstruation. 5) Reversal, also known as irony, has contradictory meanings from the actual word. Most of this type applied to insulting or sarcastic in a polite way. e.g., the term 'huge' depicts a big object; in fact, it is 'unusually small'. 6) Understatement, or litotes, is defined as an expression with a negative connotation that needs to be boosted into a positive term, e.g., 'plump' referring to 'fat'. 7) Overstatement, or hyperbole, is defined as an exaggerated expression in which the features of meaning used are attenuated, e.g., the phrase 'fight to glory' can be determined as 'died'.

SPEAKING Model

In conversation, most of the expressions uttered by speakers have a specific purpose aligned with the context of the situation. Therefore, Hymes set out a framework called the SPEAKING model. It has the function of avoiding misunderstandings during the conversation. It is a model or a paradigm of the socio-linguistic study formed mnemonically by Hymes (1977). He grouped into eight divisions of the sixteen components and coined the following acronym according to the initials, S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G. Those eight divisions completely revealed how interaction works in speech events. Moreover, each component helps the speaker or sender know who the interlocutor is, what the topic is, why the speaker

communicates, where interaction takes place, and when and how to deliver the information properly. It is explained as follows: 1) Setting refers to the place and time of a speech concerning the physical circumstances, whereas scene indicates the cultural definition (or the psychological setting) of an occasion as a certain type of scene; 2) Participants are the subject components of speech. There are four types of participants: speaker or sender, addressor, hearer or receiver or audience, and addressee; 3) Ends, specifically, are divided into two components; those are Purpose Outcomes refer to conventional recognition and expected outcomes of speech, and Purpose Goals is about intended purpose to achieve what is expected; 4) Act sequence is a component about the message of the speech, which is categorized into two types, message form and message content. These components are considered as communicative competence to understand the coherence of discourse between participants; 5) Key is a component that might help participants (addressor, hearer, or addressee) how to read the situation by sending a signal key, either verbal or non-verbal; 6) Instrumentalities are related to the choice of channel, which is used in communication suchlike oral, written, signal, telegraphic, or another medium to transmit the information; 7) Norm is divided into two; norm of interaction refers to the rules of speaking that relating to the particular occasion or particular context of the speech event and be linked with social structure and social relationships in a community. Norm of interpretation refers to the rules of particular acts in speech events; 8) Genre refers to a variety of communication to convey utterances. It helps distinguish formal and non-formal characteristics.

METHOD

This research led to the elaboration of conversation analysis, which stated by Sacks (1992), was one of the specific methods of analyzing qualitative data (Bloor & Wood, 2006). It required a qualitative approach since the data was in the form of words or phrases uttered by the characters in the Original Trilogy of Star Wars Movies, which has three series, as follows *Episode IV – A New Hope* (1977), *Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), and *Episode VI – Return of the Jedi* (1983). This research focused on the process and function of the euphemistic words used by the characters, which caused ambiguity in their use. Therefore, this research was in the form of descriptive because the analysis mainly described the type and meaning of euphemistic words used in the movies. The object of this research was the characters in the Star Wars movies, in which most of the data uttered by the main characters: Han Solo is a cynical loner who likes to say whatever is on his mind but has high loyalty to those closest to him; Luke Skywalker is a typical young

protagonist who faces a feeling of a dilemma between good and evil; Princess Leia is a strong female character who has great sense in teamwork, although head-harder, individualist, and self-righteous; Chewbacca is intelligent species which has cranky and rude personality and his way of communicating using growling and grunting; C-3PO is a protocol droid who has fussy and coward personality; R2-D2 is a droid who has high loyalty to its master and is a bit stubborn. In addition, there are additional characters, such as Jabba the Hutt, an evil gangster who is described as greedy, lustful, and likes to dominate. The other character Darth Vader represented as a wise but heartless one who only seeks power.

As an instrument, the researcher who collected and analyzed the data chose non-participants observation, which meant direct interaction with the participants was not required. The collection techniques applied in this research were documentation. The data obtained would analyze according to the type of euphemism and meaning based on the context taken from The Original Star Wars series. This technique was done through the process of observation and making field notes (Heigham & Croker, 2009).

The data that has been found from the process of data collection techniques were analyzed by the following research procedures: 1) selecting and listing the taboos from the transcriptions of Star Wars movies, 2) classifying the data according to the type of taboo, 3) analyzing the meaning and the context of the data obtained, 4) linking the taboos and the context of speech used by the characters to find out what context, they produce euphemistic words. In the process of revealing the meaning of the words or phrases, online dictionaries were also used: Merriam-Webster and Collins Dictionary.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

This passage presented the research findings and discussed the results that have been found. The collected data was presented in the form of utterances and words from the Star Wars movies. This research described how the characters use euphemism words. This section consisted of the result about the types of euphemisms and an explanation of the meaning about in what context they produce euphemism words used by the characters of the Star Wars movies. The writer found 10 data about euphemism words uttered by the characters of Star Wars movies, specifically the main characters. The collected data has been sorted by type of euphemism and presented in the following table.

Table 1. Type of Euphemism (Warren, 1992)

No.	Type of Euphemism	Number of Words	Conversation	Source of the Data
1	Metaphor	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Carpet • Flea-bitten furball • Mophead • Furball • Worm-ridden filth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope • Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back • Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi
2	Implication	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet your destiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi
3	Overstatement	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bantha fodder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi
4	Understatement, Metaphor, and Overstatement	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laser brain • Fuzzball • Scruffy looking Nerf herder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back

Metaphor

According to Warren (1992), metaphor is a conventional reference where the concept of its creation comes from a comparison from the actual term.

Conversation (1)

- Han Solo : If we can just avoid any more female advice, we ought to be able to get outta here
- Luke Skywalker : Well, let's get moving.
- Chewbacca : Grrr! (running)
- Han Solo : Where are you going? (talk to Chewbacca)
- Ah... (shooting the gun)
- Princess Leia : No, wait! They'll hear!
- Han Solo : Come here, you big coward. Chewie, come here.
- Princess Leia : Listen... I don't know who you are or where you came from, but from now on, you do as I tell you, ok?
- Han Solo : Look, Your Worshipfulness, Let's get one thing straight. I take orders from just one person, me.
- Princess Leia : So, it's a wonder you are still alive. Will somebody get this big **walking carpet** out of my way?
- Han Solo : No reward is worth this.
(01:25:46 – 01:26:23)

The context of the conversation (1) was about Han Solo, Princess Leia, Luke, and Chewbacca hiding after coming out from garbage mashers to escape from the Troops of Darth Vader. However, Han Solo made noise by shooting his gun because Chewbacca left without Han Solo's command.



Figure 1. Chewbacca

The euphemism words uttered by Princess Leia in the conversation was "**walking carpet**", referring to Han Solo's fellow, Chewbacca. Based on Warren's theory, The reference used in forming the phrase "**walking carpet**" come from a comparison that referred to his appearance (Warren, 1992). The formation of "**walking carpet**" was a combination of two words 'walking' and 'carpet'. The reference to form the phrase comes from Chewbacca's appearance. To Princess Leia, Chewbacca's appearance looked like a rug covered in fur, which corresponds to Figure 1.

As seen in conversation (1), using the SPEAKING model under Hymes (1977), the setting took place in a room in the space station where they hide. The dominant participant in the conversation was the main characters, Han Solo and Princess Leia, who argued with each other. Princess Leia wanted Han Solo to obey her orders by suggesting staying quiet. Princess Leia's tone was high since she conveyed her words by shouting at Han Solo. The conversations they used were oral and face-to-face. Princess Leia also used gestures where she used eye expression when she talked about the "**walking carpet**" which referred to Chewbacca, Han Solo's fellow. According to interactional norms, Princess Leia and Han Solo confront each other directly while conversing. The type of communication they used was arguing conversation.

Conversation (2)

- C-3PO : Oh, my Princess Leia! (Leia covers C-3PO's mouth)
I'm afraid our furry companion has gone and done something rather rash.
- Chewbacca : (moans)
- Princess Leia : Oh no!
- Han Solo : (sigh) There goes our surprise attack.

(Starts engine)

- Troops : Look, over there! Stop him!
(Darth Vader's troops chasing Ewok)
- Han Solo : Not bad for a little **furball**.
There's only one left. You stay here. We'll take care of this.
- C-3PO : I have decided that we shall stay here.

(01:28:24 – 01:29:12)

Conversation (2) happened when C-3PO, Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Princess Leia hid to attack Darth Vader's troops. C-3PO was talking to Princess Leia about worrying his Ewok companion will ruin their plan.

Han Solo called the Ewok a "**furball**" due to the comparison of Ewok's furry appearance. Under Warren's theory, the creation of the term comes from a comparison of the actual object (Warren, 1992). The metaphor for "**furball**" was a combination of two words, interpreted through Collin dictionary, fur referred to thick hair that grows on the body of mammals (Collins English Dictionary, n.d.), and ball referred to an object with a round shape (Collins English Dictionary, n.d.). Figure 2 showed the equivalence with Collins's dictionary description, although the Ewok's body was not perfectly round.



Figure 2. Ewok

Based on the SPEAKING model theory by Hymes (1977), the setting in conversation (2) was near a shelter where Darth Vader's troops were guarding. The participant was Han Solo and his fellows. Han Solo used a euphemistic word for praising Ewok. The act sequence that Han Solo showed to convey his thanks jokingly to Ewok even if it sounded harsh. The tone he used was satisfactory since Ewok's plan worked. Han Solo conveyed it orally and face-to-face to his fellows, and he also signaled by showing his happy face. Although the communication genre was joking, the way Han Solo was conveyed sounded rude.

Conversation (3)

- C-3PO : Oh, yes, that's very good. I like that.
(Circuit crackles)
- C-3PO : Oh! Something's not right because I can't see.
- Chewbacca : (Moans)
- C-3PO : Oh, oh oh that's much better.
Wait! Wait! Oh, my! What have you done? I'm backwards, you **flea-bitten furball**!
- Chewbacca : (Chuckles)
- C-3PO : Only an overgrown **mophead** like you would be stupid enough—

(01:31:35 – 01:31:57)



Figure 3. C-3PO gets destroyed

Conversation (3) happened when C-3PO was shattered due to being shot, seen in Figure 5, by someone entering the room without permission. As C-3PO's body was scattered all over, Chewbacca tried to fix C-3PO.

The word "**flea-bitten furball**" was a derogatory term, referring to the hairy ball bit by some insects. The term used was suitable for Chewbacca's appearance, which refers to the actual object (Warren, 1992). Based on Merriam-Webster, the word "**mophead**" meant the material at the end of a mop (Merriam-Webster, n.d.) where these words have the same basis, which was to insult Chewbacca's furry appearance.



Figure 4. Chewbacca trying to fix C-3PO

By Hymes' (1977) theory, the conversation above occurred somewhere in a small room. Only two characters appear in dialogue (3), Chewbacca and C-3PO. Figure 4 indicated that Chewbacca was trying to fix C-3PO, where he hoped Chewbacca could fix him properly and get back to normal. On the other hand, C-3PO constantly complained to the point of mocking him due to Chewbacca's incompetence in fixing him. C-3PO showed an impolite manner by using a mocking tone towards Chewbacca. The situation depicted that C-3PO behaved impolitely toward the person helping him. The conversation was categorized as a small talk delivered orally and face-to-face.

Conversation (4)

Jabba the Hutt	:	(Speaking Huttese)
C-3PO	:	Victims of the almighty Srlacc, His Excellency hopes

that you will die honorably.
But should any of you wish to
beg for mercy, the great Jabba
the Hutt will now listen to
your pleas.

R2-D2	:	(Beeping)
Jabba the Hutt	:	Tibi Jedi.
Han Solo	:	C-3PO, you tell that slimy piece of worm-ridden filth he'll get no such pleasure from us! Right?
Chewbacca	:	(Barks)
R2-D2	:	(Beeping)
Luke Skywalker	:	Jabba, this is your last chance. Free us or die.
Jabba's followers	:	(All laughing)
Jabba the Hutt	:	(In Huttese) Move him into position.

(00:31:29 – 00:32:12)

The conversation (4) showed that C-3PO, on behalf of Jabba the Hutt, wanted to throw Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, and Chewbacca to a monster called Carkoon.



Figure 5. Jabba the Hutt

The "**worm-ridden filth**" was an insulting word uttered by Han Solo. He said it to express his hatred by replacing the phrase (Trisnayanti et al., 2018) to reduce his utterances' rudeness. 'Worm-ridden' allude to Jabba's disgusting slug-like appearance, depicted in Figure 5, which points to decomposer organisms that may attach to him. According to Merriam-Webster, 'filth' meant any dirt with a disgusting substance (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). The interpretation of Han Solo's swearing was disgusting excretion because of the body's shape and the color that resembles excrement. It fits Warren's theory that "**worm-ridden filth**" was a phrase for the actual object (Warren, 1992), referring to Jabba the Hutt's appearance.



Figure 6. The location of Han Solo and his fellows will be thrown

As seen in conversation (4) by applying the SPEAKING paradigm by Hymes (1977), the setting was located at the Dune Sea, seen in Figure 6, where Han Solo and his comrades will be thrown. The euphemistic word was used by Han Solo while talking to C-3PO. The goal of the conversation was for Han Solo, Luke, and Chewbacca to get forgiveness from Jabba the Hutt. The act sequence in the conversation referred to Han Solo's intention to ridicule Jabba because he did not want to beg for forgiveness anymore. Moreover, by rejecting C-3PO's suggestion, Han Solo showed a discourteous manner by mocking Jabba's appearance. The conversation was made orally by transmitting Han Solo's message through C-3PO to Jabba the Hutt. In that situation, Han Solo acted rudely to the person who would kill him. The genre was a conversation about negotiating to save their lives.

Implication

Under Warren (1992), Implication relates to the context and conventional references that have a reasonably close relationship among them, in this case, more or less of the possibility of antecedent-consequent connection.

Conversation (5)

Luke Skywalker : I will not fight you, Father.
Darth Vader : You are unwise to lower your defenses.

(Fight again)

Luke Skywalker : Your thoughts betray you, Father. I feel the good in you, the conflict.

Darth Vader : There is no conflict.

Luke Skywalker : You couldn't bring yourself to kill me before, and I don't believe you'll destroy me now.

Darth Vader : You underestimate the power of the dark side. If you will not fight, then you will **meet your destiny**.

(Darth Vader throws his sword at Luke)

(01:49:58 – 01:50:24)

Conversation (5) showed that Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader were fighting to kill each other. It was done to determine who would take the throne over Darth Vader.

The phrase "**meet your destiny**" was a euphemistic word that implied death. In every fight scene, "**meet your destiny**" was used to end a fight where the loser would end in tragedy. In this case, the relationship of antecedent-consequent applied. When the speaker conveyed the intent of their utterances, the addressee was logically preceded by the message's meaning. Thus, the conventional referent has a reasonably close relationship with the context (Warren, 1992). Most people consider conversations related to death to be taboo topics that are not worth discussing; therefore, it would be appropriate to replace them. Thus, in Conversation (5), "**meet your destiny**" is used to disguise taboo topics (Trisnayanti et al., 2018). The uttered phrase happened during a duel between Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader. Moreover, it can also be used directly to the opponents or refer to someone killed or lost in a duel.

Per Hymes' (1977) theory in conversation (5), Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader were the characters in the conversation who were fighting against each other. The setting was taken place in a spaceship. The conversation aimed to make Luke accept his throne as the next Darth Vader by killing the current Darth Vader, which meant killing his own biological father. The act sequence in the conversation referred to Luke's fate. If he did not want to fight him, he would die by his hands. He said it in a figurative phrase "**meet your destiny**". The tone of the conversation was serious because Darth Vader challenges Luke. Moreover, it was done orally and face-to-face. Luke also used eye expressions when he delivered his words to Darth Vader. Since the situation between them was not good, Darth Vader conveyed it verbally by shouting and physically as well. The genre used in conversation was arguing.

Overstatement

Overstatement, or hyperbole, is defined as an exaggerated expression in which the features of meaning used are attenuated (Warren, 1992).

Conversation (6)

Han Solo : (Grunts)
Jabba the Hutt : (Laughing)
Han Solo : What's that?
(Laughter continues)
Han Solo : I know that laugh.
Jabba the Hutt : (Speaking Hutttese)
Han Solo : Hey, Jabba... look, Jabba. I was just on my way to pay

- you back, and I got a little sidetracked. It's not my fault.
- Jabba the Hutt : (In Huttese) It's too late for that, Solo. You may have been a good smuggler, but now you're **Bantha fodder**.
- Jabba's followers : (All laughing)
- Han Solo : Look.
- Jabba the Hutt : (In Huttese) Take him away.
- Han Solo : Jabba, I'll pay you triple. You're throwing away a fortune here! Don't be a fool!

(00:20:06 – 00:20:53)



Figure 7. Jabba says "Bantha fodder"

In the dialogue in conversation (6), Jabba the Hutt arrested Han Solo due to unpaid debts. Han Solo was taken and detained in an unconscious state at the Jabba residence. When he regained consciousness, Han Solo realized Jabba had captured him.

"**Bantha fodder**" was a Huttese phrase categorized as an offensive term. Jabba the Hutt wanted to exaggerate his disappointment by degrading Han Solo, as seen in Figure 7. The phrase "**Bantha fodder**" was an exaggerated expression, and some features of the meaning applied are attenuated (Warren, 1992). The word '**Bantha**' referred to the large hairy animal, shown in Figure 8, that looked like Yak or hairy cattle with spiraling horns in *Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi* (1983). According to Merriam-Webster, '**fodder**' means something eaten by domestic animals, especially coarse food for a horse, cattle, or sheep (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Conforming with Star Wars Fandom, "**Bantha fodder**" was a type of food that smelled extremely rotten eaten by Banthas (Star Wars Fandom, n.d.). It concluded that Han Solo was compared to disgusting animal food. Jabba's words cannot be justified because he considered Bantha and its food as something lowly.



Figure 8. Bantha

Under Hymes' (1977) theory of the SPEAKING model, the setting of the conversation at the Jabba residence. The foremost participant in the conversation was Han Solo and Jabba the Hutt. The purpose of the conversation was for Han Solo got compassion from Jabba the Hutt by asking for forgiveness for his behaviors. Unfortunately, Jabba the Hutt rejected his offer and insulted Han Solo as "**Bantha fodder**". Han Solo also made a gesture of apology accompanied by a low tone he used. The conversation happened orally and faced to face between Han Solo and Jabba the Hutt. The situation depicted that Han Solo acted politely to Jabba the Hutt because he knew he would be in danger if Han Solo did not try to negotiate what he had done. The genre conveyed in the conversation (6) is Apologizing.

Understatement, Metaphor, and Overstatement

This section is a combined analysis between Understatement, Metaphor, and Overstatement. This matter is done to avoid the repetition of data.

Per Warren (1992), Understatement, or litotes, is defined as an expression with a negative connotation that needs to be boosted into a positive term.

Conversation (7)

- C-3PO : Master Luke, sir, it's so good to see you fully functional again.
- Luke Skywalker : Thanks, C-3PO.
- R2-D2 : (beeping)
- C-3PO : R2-D2 expresses his relief also.
- Han Solo : How ya feelin', kid? You don't look so bad to me.
- Chewbacca : (Moans)
- Han Solo : And you look strong enough to pull the ears off a Gundark.
- Luke Skywalker : Thanks to you.
- Han Solo : Tha's two you owe me, junior.
- Chewbacca : (Moans)
- Luke Skywalker : (Laughing)

- Han Solo : Well, Your Worship, looks like you managed to keep me around for a little while longer.
- Princess Leia : I had nothing to do with it. General Rieekan thinks it's dangerous for any ships to leave the system until we've activated the energy field.
- Han Solo : That's good story. I think you just can't bear to let a gorgeous guy like me out of your sight.
- Princess Leia : I don't know where you get your delusions, **laser brain**.
- Chewbacca : (Cackles)
- Han Solo : (Looking at Chew) Laugh it up, **fuzzball**.
But you didn't see us alone in the south passage. She expressed her true feeling for me.
- Princess Leia : My—Why, you stuck-up, half-witted, **scruffy-looking nerf herder!** (angry)
- Han Solo : Who's scruffy looking?
(anger)
- R2-D2 : (Beeping)
- Han Solo : I must have hit pretty close to the mark to get her all riled up like that, huh, kid? (talk to Luke)
- Princess Leia : Why, I guess you don't know everything about women yet.

(00:16:47 – 00:17:46)

Conversation (7) happened when Luke Skywalker regained consciousness and recovered after the accident, and received a warm welcome from his fellows. On the other hand, Han Solo and Princess Leia, also in the same room as Luke, started to argue.

There were three euphemistic words in conversation (7), namely "**laser brain**", "**fuzzball**", and "**scruffy-looking nerf herder**". The word "**laser brain**" was uttered by Princess Leia to Han Solo. Regarding the context, that phrase indicated a swearing word because it implied idiotic, crazy, or stupid. She used "**laser brain**" to express a negative connotation by changing it into a positive term (Warren, 1992). Then, there is "**Fuzzball**." Han Solo mocked her as "**fuzzball**" because Chewbacca laughed at Princess Leia's words. The term "**fuzzball**" was a metaphor for euphemistic terms which explicitly insulted Chewbacca's appearance. Therefore, "**fuzzball**" was compared to the actual object (Warren, 1992). According

to Collins dictionary, "**fuzzball**" was a compound word of fuzz and ball, with an alias as puffball. It referred to fungus characterized by a spherical body shape that secreted a cloud of spores (Collins English Dictionary, n.d.). Another insult that Princess Leia threw toward Han Solo was "**scruffy-looking nerf herder**", which was an offensive modifier. Princess Leia used that phrase to express her annoyance; however, she conveyed it with exaggerated expression (Warren, 1992). Practically, it was two combined phrases; "**scruffy looking**" referred to a shabby or not neat appearance, and "**nerf herder**" referred to a shepherd who raised animals called nerfs, depicted in Figure 9, who has a shabby appearance. Han Solo was considered to have the appearance of a shabby nerf shepherd.



Figure 9. Nerf

According to Hymes' (1977) theory of the SPEAKING paradigm, as shown in conversation (7), Han Solo and Princess Leia dominate the conversation since Han Solo was trying to tease Princess Leia. The scene where they were arguing was located inward. That dialogue aimed to make Princess Leia express her feeling toward him. The act sequence of the conversation was Princess Leia intended to mock Han Solo for thinking she was keeping him around her. Han Solo's intonation was relaxed because he tempted Princess Leia that she still ordered him around her. The conversation was happening orally and face to face between Han Solo and Princess Leia. Han Solo's situation did not seem polite or impolite, but Leia's reaction was disrespectful by ridiculing Han Solo. The genre of the communication was arguing.

DISCUSSION

Types of Euphemism

Based on the analysis above, there are ten euphemistic terms used by the characters in Star Wars movies. Those euphemistic terms are divided into four types proposed by Warren (1992). They are Metaphor, Overstatement, Implication, and Understatement.

Metaphor was the type most widely applied in conversations. This type implied a derogatory term that

compared the addressee to an object with something in common. The metaphor was easier to use because comparing referents denoted the relationship between words and related objects. In this study, those terms refer to the physical appearance of fictional characters in Star Wars, such as Chewbacca, Ewok, and Jabba the Hutt. Since Chewbacca and Ewok have hairy appearances, their euphemistic terms refer to objects with hair or fur. As shown in the data: Walking Carpet, Flea-Bitten Furball, Mophead, Furball, and Fuzzball. While Jabba the Hutt was called Worm-Ridden Filth due to his slimy and brownish-color appearance.

In the second position, there was an overstatement type with two data related to this type. There were Bantha fodder and Scruffy-Looking Nerf Herder. This type was more related to emotional feelings. The emotional effect distorted the taboo subject and made the term bigger, better, or worse than it really is. Although the data obtained were in the form of derogatory terms and previous data regarding metaphor were also related to derogatory terms, the terms in overstatement type refer to other objects that have nothing to do with the addressee.

In the last position, there were two types that both have one data: implication and understatement. The data obtained regarding implication type was meet your destiny. Interpreting the phrase required the recipient's insight; if only the term 'meet your destiny' was taken and interpreted literally, then the meaning conveyed was only that. However, if you understand the phrase from the context, it implies another meaning behind it. Thus, interpretation of implication links to recipient insight, who can accurately interpret or predict the intent of the speech.

For understatement, there was laser brain and indicated as a swear word. The phrase 'laser brain' has the same connotation as "you idiot!" or any term related to mock brain function. Therefore, the referent of the phrase implied an idiotic, crazy, or stupid person.

The Contextual Meaning

From a sociolinguistic perspective, euphemistic terms occur because of linguistic interactions. To understand euphemistic terms more deeply, additional analysis is needed, such as an analysis of the context of the conversation. In which aspects they used and to whom they used those terms. In this research, the SPEAKING model developed by Hymes (1977) was used to analyze speech events in Star Wars movies. Those components are setting and scene (where and how speech situation is), participants (who participants), ends (what objectives), act sequences (what order), keys (what tones), instrumentalities (what facilities), norms (how norms implied), and genre (what type of speech). Most of these aspects have occurred in Star Wars movies. The speech

event happened and was carried out by all the main characters of Star Wars movies. The aspects that give out the clues to better understand euphemistic terms are participants, act sequence, and key. The euphemistic terms formed in the metaphor type were based on the participants involved. The act sequence provided a more detailed explanation because it appointed the order of conversations. The key given clues at what tone the euphemistic terms were thrown at and helped to read the situation as it occurred.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

CONCLUSION

To classify the data, the writer used the theory by Warren (1992), who explained that there were seven types of euphemism terms. The result showed that ten data has been found and classified into four types in Star Wars movies. The data was divided as follows: six words of Metaphor, two words of Overstatement, one word of Implication, and one word of Understatement.

In terms of contextual meaning, euphemistic words used by characters were described in detail using the SPEAKING model from Hymes (1977). It explained the use of euphemistic terms in the context of dialogue between characters. By explaining the setting and scene of the situation speech occur, the participant involved, the ends or goals of the conversation, the act sequences that participants presented, the key of speaking performed, the instrument used by the characters to deliver the utterances, the norms of the conversation, and the genre that indicated the type of conversation.

SUGGESTION

This research was about euphemistic words used by Star Wars movies' characters, intended to provide understanding for the readers. This research aimed to help people who are not familiar with euphemistic expressions. This research might be helpful as a reference for those who want to conduct research in the same field. It does not rule out the possibility of other researchers finding shortcomings in this study and making an advance regarding this research.

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