

Attitude of Examiners in Thesis Convocation

Mara Sutan Siregar

English Applied Linguistics Study Program of Postgraduate School
Universitas Negeri Medan
Medan, Indonesia

Corresponding email: marasutansrg@gmail.com

Abstract — The attitude in thesis convocation becomes the most crucial thing in comprehending and perceiving the meaning from the examiners to the examinees. This research attempts to investigate how the attitudes are realized by the examiners in thesis convocation. This research is conducted in qualitative approach by using discourse analysis method and takes place in English Applied Linguistics (EAL) Study Program of Postgraduate School of Universitas Negeri Medan on March, 16th 2017. The data of this research are the utterances of the examiners which consist of attitude expression. The data sources of this research are the utterances of five examiners in thesis convocation. The technique of collecting data is done by recording, and transcribing. The data is analyzed by discourse analysis technique. The result shows that the way of attitudes expressed are in various ways namely direct and indirect or positive and negative which is dominated judgment in criticize. It means that the attitudes of the examiners in thesis convocation are various which dominated by judgment in criticize. It is suggested to find more about the appraisal theory in other kinds of interpersonal relations to develop and find the differences findings of this study.

Keywords— *Appraisal; Attitudes; Thesis Convocation*

I. INTRODUCTION

Convocation is one of the process of finishing an academic study in a certain program. In certain university the convocation is commonly used in examining the final report of study or a thesis. Convocation is a large formal meeting, especially of Church officials or members of some universities in the UK [1]. Furthermore, convocation is defined as annual celebration bringing faculty and staff together before the start of the new academic school year such as welcoming new colleagues, highlight recent achievements and share ideas as we look to the future [2]. It means that convocation is a gathering of group in one place in order to discuss and examining certain things formally.

Thesis is a final report of a student in magister program in particular university. Thesis convocation is the process of presenting and examining the students' thesis in which is done formally and simultaneously. Examination is the process of examining the thesis or final report of the students in a certain program in a university. The examiners are the persons who examine the examinees. The examinees are the person who are being examined. The process of examining the thesis or final report is called by thesis

convocation. Thesis convocation consists of examiners and examinee.

In examining this thesis convocation, the examiners always expressing many statements, questions, commands, and so on. Precisely, those whole expressions simultaneously code the attitude of the examiners toward the examinees' presentation performance in the thesis convocation. This attitude is expressed in various ways to convey the meaning from the examiners to the examinees, it can be the meaning of affect, judgement, or appreciation. The attitude in thesis convocation becomes the most crucial thing in comprehending and perceiving the meaning from the examiners to the examinees. The examiners often implicitly show their attitude through utterances, and the examinee also often do not understand the examiners' attitude even they are conversating the same topic. The example of attitude on the thesis convocation like "*this is very danger, you know?*". This statement belongs to judgement from the examiners by saying "*danger*", it means that the research report of the examinee is not good academically. This is a problem when the examinees do not understand what the examiners mean by their attitude, there will be a misunderstanding or miscommunication between the examiners and the examinees. While what is hoped in the communication that the addressers can convey the meaning and the addressee understand and perceive the meaning. The meaning actually is not only conveyed through attitude, they can be conveyed by more ways like creativity, pragmatic, speech act, etc. This paper attempts to investigate the attitudes from the examiners and the examinees in the thesis convocation of English Applied Linguistics Program of Postgraduate of State University of Medan.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The attitude consists of three kinds namely affect, judgement and appreciation [3]. The other researcher which studied about the appraisal theory in the G.W. Bush Senior President to Barrack Obama in the Inauguration found that the most dominant sub-system in the Inaugural Address is the Appreciation, the second most dominant is Judgement, and the least dominant is the Affect [4]. Attitude was deployed in the expected order of appreciation, judgment, affect, and also that attitude was stylistically indicative of and worked in line with character and context within the novel in question [5]. The appraisal theory which consists of attitudes framework is a particular approach in exploring, describing and explaining the

way language is used to evaluate, to adopt stances, to construct textual personal and to manage interpersonal positioning and relationships [6]. It means that appraisal has the relationship between character and context. This study attempts to investigate whether the three kinds of those attitudes are used by the examiners in the thesis convocation in English Applied Linguistics Study Program of Postgraduate School of Universitas Negeri Medan.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research Method

This research was conducted in qualitative approach. The data of this research were the utterances of the examiners in thesis convocation of English Applied Linguistics Study Program of Postgraduate School of Universitas Negeri Medan which consisted of attitude expression. The data sources of this research were the utterances of the five examiners in thesis convocation whom they are the lecturers of English Applied Linguistics Study Program of Postgraduate School of Universitas Negeri Medan and examined three students in the thesis convocation on March, 16th 2017.

B. Instrument of Collecting Data

The instrument of collecting data was the researcher himself, as the main instrument which involved directly to the field and mobile phone as sound recorder. The mobile phone which was used in collecting data were four devices to make sure that the data clearly recorded and nothing missed.

C. Technique of Collecting the Data

The technique of collecting data was done by recording, and transcribing. Recording was used to record the utterances of the examiners and transcribing was used to transcript the utterances from the recording files.

D. Technique of Analyzing the Data

The data were analyzed by discourse analysis technique. The data were categorized into three categories, namely affect, judgement, and appreciation. The researcher analyzed the data by several procedures. During data analysis, the data were organized categorically and chronologically, reviewed repeatedly, and continually coded.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

A. The Examiners' Attitude Realization in Examining Thesis Convocation

The result of data analysis showed and proved that the three attitudes were occurred and expressed by the examiners in the thesis convocation realized in various ways. The affect attitude was realized in direct and implied, the judgement was realized in direct and implied, and the appreciation realized in positive and negative expression.

a. Affect

Affect is the way of people expressing their feeling. There are two general ways in expressing the feeling, good feeling and bad feeling. It means that affect can be positive or negative. Affect also can be expressed directly or it can be inferred from the way of people feel indirectly from their behavior. It also means that affect can be expressed directly or implied.

Example of affect in the thesis convocation: "*if you not sure, and then I finish my question*". The sentence "*I finish my question*" implicitly has the meaning of disappointed when the examinees could not answer the questions for sure. This affect was expressed in negative way and implicitly. This one is negative because there will be the expectation from the examiners that the examinees could answer the examiners' questions. This one is implicitly because the examiners did not say directly what to be answered.

"*I'm afraid that they belong to the fourth generation*". This sentence belongs to affect, it can be analyzed from the word "*afraid*" it means the affect means feeling of afraid that what examinee has researched were belonged to the fourth generation. Then, the attitude was expressed in negative way and directly. This one is belong to negative meaning because the examiners feeling that he/she is not sure for what the examinee has done. This is directly because the examiners say directly what is meant.

"*again you make me confuse?*". Confuse is one of the feeling means that someone difficult to understand and not sure about something. The examiners feeling in this sentence is confuse about what have the examinees done in his/her thesis report. This is a negative way since the examiners still confuse of what the examinee show. This is one of direct expression because this expression has stated before.

It means that the affect attitude were used by the examiners in this thesis convocation expressed in several way namely positive or negative and direct or implied.

b. Judgement

As it has been stated above, judgement is the evaluating of people's character. The judgement can be positive or negative and they may be judged explicitly or implicitly. In judgement, there are also personal judgement of admiration or criticism and moral judgements or praise or condemnation.

The example of judgement in this thesis convocation:

"*I didn't see yet the reason to compare this two groups of mixed marriages*". From this utterances the examiners should see the reason of the comparison of the mixed marriages of those two groups, but in the reality the examiners did not see yet. This is one of the critic which is used by the examiners to the examinee when the examinee could not show the comparison of two groups of mixed marriages. This one is personal judgement belongs to criticize rather than admire, and the way of expressing this attitude was in direct way.

“you *keliru* menulisnya ini?”. “*keliru*” means “*wrong*” this utterance belong to the critic since the examiners here judged the examinee by saying “*you are wrong in writing this one*”. This is kind of moral judgement belong to condemn rather than praise because the examiners judged the examinees directly. This is a condemn judgement because the examiners directly stated that *you are wrong*.

“*you are not for sure about your report so what for?*” The sentence “*you are not for sure*” means that the reviewers judged the examinee was not sure for his/her report. This is the critic of personal judgement. This is also a condemn by saying that the examinee is not sure for what he/she done. This is a direct expression because this statement has been stated previously by the examiners.

From the data above, it means that the reviewers also used judgement in various way in can be personal judgement like criticize or admire and moral judgement like praise or condemn and expressed in direct and implied way.

c. Appreciation

Appreciation looks at how people feel about people and the way they behave. Appreciation of things includes our attitudes about films, books, CDs, paintings, parks, etc. Appreciation can also be positive or negative.

Example of appreciation in this research:

“*surprising for me*”. The word *surprising* means the appreciation, This one is a positive meaning because the examiners value the thesis a good appreciation so the examiners said “it’s surprising for me” rather than “it’s bad for me”.

“*This is dangerous one*”. The examiners judged the examinee’s thesis by saying “*danger*”. This is one of the appreciation for the examinees. This is a negative appreciation because “*danger*” means not safe, the examiners chose to say like that rather than “*this is a good one*”.

“*the good advertisement like bla bla bla bla bla*”. This is a positive appreciation because the examiners showed the appreciation to the kinds of advertisement that he/she expected. This is the appreciation to the examinee since he/she could show the good advertisement to the examiners.

It has shown that the appreciation was also used by the examiners in the thesis convocation expressed in two ways namely positive and negative.

V. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In applying the attitude, the researcher investigated which one is the most dominant among the three attitudes of affect, judgement or appreciation. Based on the result of data analysis the researcher calculate the total number of attitudes which were occurred in the thesis convocation showed that the most dominant attitudes occurred were the judgement attitude for personal in criticize. This occurred 20 times and expressed in direct way for 17 times. It means that the criticize of personal in judgement attitudes are the most dominant and occurred in the thesis convocation.

It was found that the affect which was expressed in positive way occurred 3 times, then the affect of expressed in negative way occurred 14 times. The expression of the affect was expressed directly by emotional stated occurred 11 times and implicitly by metaphor only 2 times. While the direct physical, expression and implied in extraordinary and behavior were not found because those affect were only can be identified directly by watching the face expression, gesture, behavior or physic of the examiners.

It was also found that the judgement to the personal by criticize occurred 20 times, then the condemn for moral judgement occurred 8 times. The expression of the judgement was expressed directly by occurred 23 times and implicitly occurred 3 times. While the admire for personal judgement and praise for moral judgement were absent or not occur.

It was also found that the appreciation attitude in positive expression occurred 5 times, then the negative one occurred 6 times.

TABLE I
THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTITUDES OCCURED FOR THE WHOLE ASPECTS OF ATTITUDES

Attitudes	Occured
Affect	30 times
Judement	54 times
Appreciation	11 times

(Thesis Convocation of LTBI of Postgraduate School in March 16th, 2017)

The Table I shows that judgement for personal in criticize are the most dominantly used by the examiners in examining the thesis in convocation. It occurs because critical judgement attempts to see the examinees’ character in their thesis presentation by discussing more about the thesis by reviewers.

Based on the result above, the researcher found the new knowledge from this research;

a. Reviewers Attitude in Examining the Thesis Convocation is dominantly by Judgement

This is different when the previous researcher found that attitude in inaugural was dominantly found in appreciation but in this research the dominant one is judgement.

b. The whole way of expressing attitude could not be analyzed from the text.

The way of attitudes expressed in various way namely direct and indirect or positive and negative. There are no expression for physical, extraordinary and behavior in the way of expressing attitudes because those aspects only can be analyzed directly by seeing the face of gesture of the examiners, while in discourse analysis the data only can be analyzed in text only. Those whole attitudes should be analyzed by using video camera as the instrument of the collecting the data, while in this research the instrument was the tape recorder.

VI. DISCUSSION

The result showed that attitudes were one of the way in examining the thesis convocation. This study found that the

three attitudes were used by the examiners in order to examine the thesis in convocation. This study also found that the way of attitudes expressed in various way namely direct and indirect or positive and negative. It was also found that there were no expression for physical, extraordinary and behavior in the way of expressing attitudes because those aspects only can be analyzed directly by seeing the face of gesture of the examiners, while in discourse analysis the data only can be analyzed in text only. Then this study also found that the most dominant attituded used by the examiner are the judgement in criticize. Because the examiners wanted to give their opinion about the presentation from the examinees and discussed more in details that made criticize occured. Another study stated that appraisal theory is good to teach English especially in reading [7]. Furthermore, the Attitudinal meanings of English political column texts from the perspective of Appraisal Theory showed the existence of a strong preference across all the texts for attitudes expressed as Appreciation and Judgment rather than Affect [8]. It means that appraisal theory can be applied in evaluating or examining the thesis convocation especially in discourse analysis. Another relevant research also found that appraisal theory was acceptable in analyzing the attitude. The most dominant sub-system in the Inaugural Address is the Appreciation, the second most dominant is Judgement, and the least dominant is the Affect [4]. It means the attitudes of the examiners in the thesis convocation are accepted academically, since the theory of attitudes deals with evaluative resources or interpersonal relations.

VII. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the result above the researcher concludes that three are attitudes were used by the examiners in order to examine the thesis in convocation. The way of attitudes expressed in various way namely direct and indirect or

positive and negative. There are no expression for physical, extraordinary and behavior in the way of expressing attitudes because those aspects only can be analyzed directly by seeing the face of gesture of the examiners, while in discourse analysis the data only can be analyzed in text only. Then this study also found that the most dominant attituded used by the examiner are the judgement in criticize.

B. Suggestion

The researcher suggests to discuss more about the appraisal theory in other kinds of interpersonal relations beside the thesis convocation to develop and find the differences findings of this study.

REFERENCES

- [1] C. Advanced Dictionary. Application Version for Windows Operating System Version 4th Edition. 2014.
- [2] <https://www.csulb.edu/office-of-the-provost/convocation> accessed on October 24th, 2017 at 09:00 p.m.
- [3] J.R. Martin and D. Rose, Working with Discourse, Meaning beyond the Clause. New York: Continuum. 2007. pp. 28.
- [4] USU, Repository. Appraisal Theory in the Inaugural Addresses of the Presidents of the United States of America from George Bush Senior to Barrack Obama. Medan: USU. 2010. pp.2.
- [5] Y. Hadidi and L.M. Parvin. Systemic Functional Linguistics as Interpersonal Semantics: Appraisal and Attitude in the Stylistic Analysis of an English Novel. International Journal of Linguistics ISSN 1948-5425 2015, Vol.7, No.1. Iran: Machrothink Institute. p.129-147
- [6] S. Hunston, and G. Thompson. Evaluation in Text in Authorial Stance and the Construction of Discourse, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2000. p.1-10.
- [7] L. Xialin, An Application of Appraisal Theory to Teaching College English Reading in China. Harbin: Academy Publisher. 2010. p. 135.
- [8] L. Zhanzi. From Mood and Modality to Appraisal, Foreign Languages Research, Vol.88, No.6, 14-19, 2005. pp. 237.