ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS IN THE SHORT STORY
THE SUMMER SOLSTICE BY NICK JOAQUIN

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ABSTRACT

Language and literature are essentially connected, and one cannot function without the other. Thus, this study analyzes the language functions used by the main characters in the short story The Summer Solstice by Nick Joaquin. This study aims to determine the types of Language functions in the short story and identify the most dominant language function used by the main characters. Moreover, the study also aims to analyze the context of the language functions identified. The researchers used Janet Holmes' Theory of Language Function (2013) to analyze the utterances of the main characters and Dell Hymes' SPEAKING Model to analyze the context of the language functions in each utterance. The researchers then applied the descriptive qualitative design to systematically analyze the data. The result of this study shows that out of the eight (8) language functions identified by Janet Holmes (2013), only seven (7) types of language functions were found in the short story, namely expressive, directive, heuristic, referential, metalinguistic, phatic functions. On the other hand, poetic function was not found in this research. The findings revealed that this story dominantly uses expressive functions, in which the speaker's emotion is what captures the interest of the readers.

Key Words: Language Functions; Nick Joaquin; Speaking Model

INTRODUCTION

Language plays a vital role in our everyday lives. It serves as a key for communication as we use this in interacting, learning, and understanding one another. In literary works, the purpose of language or text is to inform the reader about the background of that era or some facts. It is also used to persuade readers to believe in something strongly conveyed to the audience; regardless of whether they were entertained or ignored, literary works bring insights into a different reality.

According to Jabbar and Hassan (2018), language should be studied in a variety of contexts. When people discuss the function of language, they are referring to the reason for using language. One primary function of language is to facilitate communication, which is also known as the speech function since people use language to send and receive messages among

themselves. The different functions of language have emerged as an important aspect of language analysis.

Moreover, the different language functions are the different functions that an utterance can serve. There are various types of classifications of language functions. For example, communicating facts, expressing feelings, empathy, clarifying statements, encouraging one another, and so forth.

Here are the eight types of language functions by Janet Holmes (1) the expressive function is a language that is used to express what is on the speaker's mind or personal feelings (I'm feeling great today); (2) the directive function refers to language used to persuade someone to do something (e.g., Clear the table); (3) the referential function are utterances that attempt to provide information (e.g., at the third stroke, it will be precisely three o'clock); (4) the metalinguistic function refers to utterances that comment on language itself (for example, the term "hegemony"); (5) the poetic function refers to utterances of language that emphasize aesthetic aspects of language (e.g., Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers); (6) the phatic function express solidarity and empathy with others (e.g., How are you today!); (7) the heuristic function is the 'tell me why' function to learn and discover (for example, what is the function of tractor?); and (8) the commissive function which refers to the language used to deal with promises, threats, marriage views, bets, and declarations of war (e.g., I promise to clean my room).

Furthermore, the different language functions mentioned above are also found in literary texts such as short stories. Compared to advertisements, movies, and even novels, which are lengthy and are often assessed for visual effects, short stories are defined as narratives that can be read in one sitting that is limited to a specific or singular effect (Abrams, 1970, p. 158). The researchers also believe that short stories should be promoted in schools to maintain a rich culture of reading language literature.

Additionally, it cannot be denied that literature and language are inextricably linked. Language is what makes up literature, and it speaks to one of the most common uses of language. From elementary school to tertiary education, literary texts are typically the object of study in learning a language. Language and linguistic analysis can also be used to understand writing from the learner's point of view. However, due to the rise of high technology, some studies say, students nowadays are no longer interested in long readings. Instead, books and novels are now being replaced with digital devices resulting in the decline of students' reading habits

(Vipin, 2022). Hence, the researchers acknowledge the importance of analyzing the language functions of a short story for a better understanding of a text. This study will help promote the field of language and literature and maintain their significance for schools, learners, researchers, and teachers.

The researchers aimed to analyze the language functions in the utterances of the main characters in Nick Joaquin's The Summer Solstice, specifically it aimed to determine the types of language functions in the short story; identify the most dominant language functions used in the short story; and analyze the contexts of language functions used in a short story.

Based on the researchers' readings, no study has been conducted yet to analyze the language functions found in this short story. Thus, the result of this study can not only help in understanding the context of the characters' utterances but also contribute to the study of language.

METHODS

This research used a descriptive qualitative design, also known as qualitative description. According to Kumar (2011), a study in which the focus is on description rather than examining relationships or associations is classified as descriptive. Creswell (1994) also mentioned that the purpose of the

descriptive method of research is to gather data on the current state of the environment and to systematically find a thorough explanation and description of the research object. Since the object of this study is a literary piece, this research design is the most suitable for this study.

The research instrument of this study is a copy of the short story The Summer Solstice by Nick Joaquin. The language functions used by the main characters of the short story served as the research data.

The researchers collected all the utterances of Don Paeng and Donya Lupeng, and examined if they contain Janet Holmes' (2013) Functions of Language. After that, the researchers classified and categorized the utterances of the main characters in accordance with the Theory of Language Functions (Janet Holmes, 2013). The utterance containing different language functions are then described and analyzed by the researchers. To analyze the context of the main character's utterances in the short story the researchers used the SPEAKING Theory of Dell Hymes.

Furthermore, after analyzing the data, the researchers conclude the study's findings by outlining the kinds of language functions that the main characters of the short story used most frequently and least frequently, as well as by describing the circumstances surrounding their use of those functions

in their utterances throughout The Summer Solstice. However, the researchers did not account for each component of the SPEAKING model in the discussion. Instead, the researchers only used Hyme's framework as a guide in analyzing the dimension and context of the communication situation where language functions are identified.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data gathered, among the eight language functions identified by Janet Holmes in her Theory of Language Functions (2013), only seven (7) out of eight (8) were identified by the researchers in the utterances of the main characters. These language functions include expressive, directive, referential, phatic, heuristic, and commissive functions. On the other hand, the poetic function was not found in any of the utterances of the main characters. The table below illustrates the frequency of the language functions found in the utterances of the main characters.

Table 1 Types of Language Functions

Types of Language Functions	Don Paeng's Utterance	Donya Lupeng's Utterance	Total Occurrences	Percentage
Expressive Functions	9	8	17	34%
Directive Functions	4	7	11	22%
Referential Functions	3	2	5	10%
Heuristic Functions	1	6	7	14%
Commissive Functions	0	5	5	10%
Metalinguistic Function	0	3	3	6%
Phatic Functions	0	2	2	4%

DISCUSSION

The results of the data gathered by the researchers are further analyzed below in order of the most dominant (Expressive Function) to the least frequently used (Phatic Function) language function identified. The context of the language functions is analyzed using Dell Hyme's SPEAKING model.

Below are some examples and discussion of the language functions found in the utterances of Donya Lupeng and Don Paeng. The context of the language functions is analyzed using Dell Hyme's SPEAKING model.

Analysis of Expressive Function

According to Janet Holmes (2013), expressive language is a language that is used to express what is on the speaker's mind or personal feelings. These expressions are influenced by social factors as well as the expression's nature as positive or negative. Based on the data gathered, there is a total of 17 utterances by the main characters, Doña Lupeng and Don Paeng, that consist of expressive functions. Below is an example of utterance that contains expressive functions.

Excerpt 1:

But without waiting for an answer, she went to the backdoor and opened it, and the screaming in her ears became wild screaming in the stables across the yard.

*Doña Lupeng: "**Oh my God!**" she groaned and, grasping her skirts, hurried across the yard.*

The excerpt above is taken from the utterance of Doña Lupeng, wherein she is asking the nurse of her children from the kitchen about the whereabouts of Amada, the one who oversees the cooking. Surprisingly, she heard a loud scream and did not wait for the nurse to answer and hurriedly opened the back door to find out where the scream was coming from. The utterance Oh my God is an expressive language function as it shows Donya Lupengs shocked expression upon seeing her cook, Amada, screaming wildly across the yard. The phrase "Oh my God" is often used in situations where the speaker expresses amusement, fear, or disbelief, or in events where one cannot accept what happened.

The expressive function is the dominant language function used by the main characters of the story. It consists of seventeen (17) data points out of fifty (50) total data points. The speaker of this story openly expresses themselves, whether in a positive or negative way as this involves fighting for one's rights as an individual. To be specific, the utterance of Don Paeng consists of nine (9) data, while for Donya Lupeng, it

consists of eight (8) data, a close match wherein Don Paeng happened to use this function more than his wife. The only difference is that Donya Lupeng expresses herself most of the time hysterically and with a little bit of exaggeration. On the other hand, Don Paeng is calm but uses harsh words when expressing himself or responding to the situation. With this, men and women are indeed both expressive, but they express themselves differently.

Analysis of Directives Function

The directive function involves the use of language to direct, influence, and manage one's own or another's actions. According to Holmes (2013), directive function refers to language used to persuade someone to do something. This function is designed to issue orders or requests using interrogative, declarative, and imperative statements. Furthermore, there are 11 (22%) utterances by the main characters, Don Paeng and Donya Lupeng, that consist of directive functions. The context of how this language function is used in the story is analyzed below:

Excerpt 2:

The children: How long you have slept, Mama! We thought you were never getting up! Do we leave at once, huh? Are we going now?

Doña Lupeng: Hush, hush I implore you! ***Now look: your father has a headache, and so have I. So be quiet this instant--*** *or no one goes to Grandfather.*

This excerpt is taken from the utterances of Doña Lupeng and her children. In her room, Donya Lupeng was woken up due to the screams of her children as they expressed their excitement about going to their grandfather's house to celebrate St. John's Day. The highlighted utterance above shows Donya Lupeng asking her children to hush down as their father, Don Paeng, and she is experiencing a headache. The highlighted utterance above falls into the category of directive function because it shows Donya Lupeng strictly commands her children to be quiet, or none of them will go to their grandfather's house. Donya Lupeng seriously delivered her message with power, as her utterance indicated the consequences if her children will not do as she said.

This is followed by directive functions, wherein it indicates that Donya Lupeng is quite the one who influences her husband to act accordingly to what she wants. In the story, it clearly showcases the capability of women by using this function as the master who can manage one's actions. The results show that there is a total of seven (7) data points from Donya

Lupeng and four (4) from Don Paeng. It cannot be denied that Don Paeng is the commander but fails to influence, which is an edge for Donya Lupeng.

Analysis of Referential Function

The referential function of language reflects the situation of speakers who wish to share their knowledge or news with the listener. As defined by Holmes (2013), these are utterances that attempt to provide information. In this case, people can express their observations by reporting on the sensory information they are receiving or have received. Furthermore, there is a total of 5 (10%) utterances of the main characters, Don Paeng, and Donya Lupeng, that consist of referential functions. The context of how this language function is used in the story is analyzed below.

Excerpt 3:

Doña Lupeng: He kissed my feet,
Don Paeng: Do you see? They have the instincts, **the style of the canalla! To kiss a woman's feet, to follow her like a dog, to adore her like a slave –**
Doña Lupeng: Is it so shameful for a man to adore women?
Don Paeng: **A gentleman loves and respects Woman. The cads and lunatics— they 'adore' the women.**
Doña Lupeng: But maybe we do not want to be loved and respected— but to be adored.

The data above is taken from the conversation between Don Paeng and Doña Lupeng. The setting is in their carriage on the way home, in which they still have this ongoing argument about how Guido behaves differently as a man. Doña Lupeng honestly shares what Guido did to her, and Don Paeng automatically gives a negative description of Guido. From his utterance above, Don Paeng enumerates the characteristics of what the style of canalla is so Donya Lupeng can distinguish the characteristics of Guido from him. As for Doña Lupeng, she asks her husband if it is that shameful to adore women, which Don Paeng confidently answers, as seen in the highlighted utterance above, that there is a difference between a gentleman and a cad and a lunatic. Don Paeng is making his wife understand that she is not for cads and lunatics, a man who behaves out of obsessions and selfishness, but for a gentleman who loves and respects women like him.

Then the referential function in the utterance of Don Paeng has three (3) data points, while Donya Lupeng has two (2). As seen in the story, Don Paeng tends to be more informative, wherein he shares information based on his personal stand and knowledge with his wife. This shows that men are known to

be that educated, as during this time, they are more prioritized than women.

Analysis of Heuristic Function

In his book, Learning How to Mean (1975), Holmes (2013) argued that Michael Halliday identified Heuristic Function as a function of language concerned with learning, which he glossed as the *tell me why* function. The study of children's language acquisition revealed the need for this function, in which language is associated with discovery and explanation, usually in the form of questions or a running commentary. Furthermore, there is a total of 7 (14%) utterances of the main characters, Doña Lupeng and Don Paeng, that consist of heuristic functions. The context of how this language function is used in the story is analyzed below:

Excerpt 4:

Doña Lupeng: I know, but better to be dirty than to be boiled alive. And what ails your wife, eh? Have you been beating her again?
Entoy: Oh no, señora: I have not touched her.
Doña Lupeng: **Then why is she screaming? Is she ill?**
Entoy: I do not think so. But how do I know? You can go and see for yourself, señora. She is up there.

The data above is taken from the conversation between Entoy and Doña Lupeng in her animal stable. Entoy was attaching a pair of horses to the coach when Doña Lupeng asked him about the unusual behavior of Amada. The highlighted utterance of Doña Lupeng above shows the need for an explanation as to why Amada is screaming and if Entoy is hitting her again, as this is the common scene between the two of them. The utterance of Donya Lupeng falls under the heuristic function as it shows Donya Lupeng's curiosity and concern as to why Amada is screaming.

The heuristic language functions as the *tell me why* function in the story; Donya Lupeng contributes more as it has six (6) data points compared to Don Paeng, who has one (1). It is meant to convey the message that men are not typically inquisitive. On the other hand, Donya Lupeng has many questions, and her curiosity, hunger for knowledge, and nature of being talkative make the conversation long. The writer is showing some characteristics of a woman who, by nature, cannot stop themselves from asking for something. A woman loves to gain knowledge and wants to hear an explanation in every new encounter.

Analysis of Commissive Function

According to Holmes (2013), the commissive function refers to the language used to deal with promises, threats, marriage views, bets, and declarations of war. Nonetheless, each

category has its own distinct features. As a result, it is possible to add a variety of additional categories that may be useful and illuminating for specific analyses. To put it simply, the Commissive function reveals what the speaker intends to commit to doing in the future. Furthermore, there is a total of 5 (10%) utterances of the main characters, Don Paeng and Donya Lupeng, that consist of commissive functions. The context of how the language functions is used in the story is analyzed below.

Excerpt 5:

Doña Lupeng: Very well, if you do want to come, do not come—but I am going. Don Paeng: I warn you, Lupe; do not provoke me! Doña Lupeng: **I will go with Amada***. Entoy can take us.* **You cannot forbid me, Paeng***. There is nothing wrong with it. I am not a child.*

The data above is taken from the conversation between Don Paeng and Doña Lupeng in their room, where Doña Lupeng is standing still at the window. They have this quarrel as Don Paeng does not permit her wife to go, but his wife is persistent enough that she is willing to disobey his husband. Donya Lupeng then tells her husband that if he will not permit her to go, she will go with their cook Amada. Donya Lupeng bravely reasoned that there is nothing wrong with attending the Tadtarin, and

she also acknowledges that she is no longer a child to be strictly forbidden against her will. The highlighted utterance above serves a commissive function because of her willingness to do something in the future, even if her very own husband hinders it.

As for the commissive function, it is only present in the utterances of Donya Lupeng. A situation wherein Donya Lupeng's bravery is well-founded, and even her husband could not stop her from making her desired decisions. In the story, Donya Lupeng uses a threatening technique that is effective because she successfully controls everyone to behave and obey her self-mastery. This entails that woman have this undeniable behavior, which, if overly granted, will build a character of abusiveness.

Analysis of Metalinguistic Function

According to Holmes (2013), metalinguistic function refers to utterances that comment on language itself. Furthermore, Metalinguistic is also commonly used in questions in which the message needs clarification. Moreover, there is a total of 3 (6%) utterances of the main characters Don Paeng and Donya Lupeng that consist of metalinguistic functions. The context of how this language function is used in the story is analyzed below.

Excerpt 6:

Don Paeng: I want this madness to die in you.
Doña Lupeng: No, you want me to pay for your bruises. Don Paeng: **How can you say that, Lupe?**
Doña Lupeng: Because it is true. You have been whipped by the women and now you think to avenge yourself by whipping me.

The data above is taken from the conversation between Doña Lupeng and Don Paeng. In their home, specifically in their bedroom, where they stood facing each other. Don Paeng here wanted to discipline his wife for not behaving according to their status. However, Doña Lupeng takes it as not discipline but a payment for the bruises Don Paeng got from the group of women attending the Tadtarin. Don Paeng then questioned what Donya Lupeng said as he could not believe that she thought of him as someone who passed on their painful experiences to other people. By asking this question that contains metalinguistic functions, Don Paeng is trying to confirm how his wife really looks at him.

The metalinguistic function is only used by Donya Lupeng. This indicates that mostly, women are the ones who need and want clarification. Women are bold enough to speak up about the things that bother them and give them confusion; as observed in the story, Donya Lupeng is not afraid to ask for clarification, whatever the situation. That is the advantage of a woman who is not afraid to ask for clarity.

Analysis of Phatic Function

According to Holmes (2013), these functions express solidarity and empathy with others. Phatic Function, as opposed to referential function, conveys an affective or social message. One of the insights provided by sociolinguists is that this language is used to express information about social relationships as well as referential information. Furthermore, there is a total of 2 (4%) utterances of the main character Donya Lupeng that consist of phatic functions. The context of how this language function is used in the story is analyzed below:

Excerpt 7:

Don Paeng: Do you see? They have the instincts, the style of the canalla! To kiss a woman's feet, to follow her like a dog, to adore her like a slave –
Doña Lupeng: **Is it so shameful for a man to adore women?**
Don Paeng: A gentleman loves and respects Woman. The cads and lunatics — they 'adore' the women.

The data above is taken from the conversation between Doña Lupeng and Don Paeng. They are still inside the

carriage on the way home. Don Paeng discriminately describes the characteristics of the style of canalla. Doña Lupeng then questioned Don Paeng if it is shameful for a man to adore women. Donya Lupeng, in her utterance that contains phatic function, does not only question Don Paeng's way of thinking but also the way society dictates how a man should think and act. This is an utterance with phatic functions as the answer to this question will give Donya Lupeng an answer or confirmation of how a man really thinks.

Furthermore, the least frequent function used in the story is the Phatic function, which consists of (2) out of the fifty (50) total data points gathered. A function in which only the utterance of Donya Lupeng is used. Donya Lupeng here is the one who is more concerned about maintaining a good social relationship in which she is open to all despite the difference in status and generation.

The story has seven language functions out of eight. The dominant function is the expressive function, wherein, unexpectedly, Don Paeng contributes more than Donya Lupeng. This indicates that men are also expressive, but as observed in the story, Don Paeng expresses himself because of how Donya Lupeng pushes him constantly. It is indeed the nature of

women to let you speak up, even if you are a reserved type of person.

Language function theory is becoming increasingly popular. Numerous studies on language functions in various subjects have been conducted. Theoretically, this research contributed to the field of discourse analysis, particularly in understanding the functions of language, as it is undeniably an effective theory for analyzing written or spoken discourse. Language functions are useful because they serve as a guide to better understanding the characters' utterances in the short story or any other written text in which the ability to know further why they use this specific language function in their utterances is examined.

The practical usefulness of this study is that it will give insights to the instructor to allow this type of analysis of language functions. Through this, it will enhance the thinking skills with which the students may be able to identify the usefulness of language and understand the different types of language functions. This type of analysis belongs under the subject of discourse analysis, as it applies to short stories, all written text, and even oral communication for students to have more exposure to textual analysis, which is one way of honing skills and imparting knowledge to produce

competent linguists as it is also one of the designs of the program by having this analysis enrichment.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

The result of the study shows that the main characters of the story have successfully portrayed their role, which is observed in the reality of husband and wife. The expressive function serves as the most used function in the short story, as this implies that the author knows the very nature of humans, particularly married ones, for they are comfortable enough to express themselves. With the usage of this function, it shows the freedom to voice out or speak up, wherein it is a must to have good communication. The general sense of this function is to grab the attention of readers. To acknowledge that when making a story, it is effective to indicate this function, as this serves as the backbone for successfully reaching out to readers.

The researchers recommend that the next researchers conduct research with a specific focus. For example, the next researchers can focus on analyzing four types of language functions to get a specific result about them. Moreover, the future researchers can apply a feminist or masculine approach by adding the analysis of language functions to the utterances of the main characters. In addition, the next researchers can use other data sources, for example, language functions in an interview, a movie, or an advertisement produced in Filipino, to help enrich the body of knowledge.

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