DISPREFERRED RESPONSES EXPRESSED BY HICCUP IN DEAN DEBLOIS' *HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2* MOVIE

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Abstract

This research aims to describe the types of dispreferred responses expressed by Hiccup, the male lead character in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie, and to reveal the functions of the dispreferred responses used by Hiccup in the movie. This research used a descriptive qualitative approach. The data were the second part utterances spoken by Hiccup. The dialogues between Hiccup and the other characters in the movie were used as the context of the data. Meanwhile, the data source is *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie. The primary instrument of this research was the researcher herself. The researcher analyzed the data taken from the movie script as the secondary instrument. The data were triangulated by verifying to the lecturers and other English Language and Literature students about the relevant theories and the findings to enhance trustworthiness. The results of this research are as follows. First, there are five types of dispreferred responses found in the movie. They are (1) assessment-disagreement, (2) invitation/offer-refusal, (3) request-refusal, (4) question-no/unexpected answer, and (5) blame-admission. Assessment-disagreement dispreferred response is the main type performed by Hiccup in the movie. This happened since he is a bit rebellious and hard to agree with other characters' opinion. Second, there are six functions of dispreferred responses performed by Hiccup in the movie. Those functions are categorized by analyzing the situation and the context of the conversations. The functions of the dispreferred responses found in the movie are (1) to state the speaker's disagreement, (2) to defend the speaker's argument, (3) to clear the misunderstanding, (4) to state the speaker's own reason, (5) to show that the speaker is not interested in the topic, and (6) to state the speaker's opinion. The functions that Hiccup often uses in this movie are to state the speaker's disagreement and to state the speaker's opinion. Those functions appeared as the result of Hiccup's disagreement with the first speaker's opinion of him.

Keywords: dispreferred response, types, functions, *How to Train Your Dragon 2*

INTRODUCTION

Conversation is a form of communication, specifically spoken, between two people or more. Conversations are expected to happen informally and spontaneously (Wardaugh, 2006: 296). When performing a conversation, one produces sentences or utterances. In the process of the conversation, one must be aware of the procedures to be followed. The choice of words and the expectation of the answers would also be considered. The two persons, or so called the participants of the conversation are acting as the speaker and the hearer, in which the speaker delivers the purpose of the conversation and expects the hearer to give or say the expected answer. According to Charles Goodwin in his book, Conversation Analysis (Goodwin, 1990: 283), conversation analysis tries to describe

the underlying social organization. Thus, the intelligible social interaction is made possible.

Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics study that focuses on the meaning communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener (Yule, 1996: 3). Pragmatics focuses more on what lies behind the utterances, sentences, and dialogues from the first speaker to the second speaker. Pragmatics as a contextual meaning involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what is said. Furthermore, Mey (2001: 4) describes that pragmatic turn is a shift from the paradigm of the theoretical grammar or syntax to the paradigm of the language user. This also proves that pragmatics deals with the users or the speakers of the language.

Adjacency pair is an important principle used in conversation. Adjacency pair is deeply inter-related with the turn-taking system as techniques for selecting the next speaker (Levinson, 1983: 303). As conversation is always adjacent or co-occurring, there are always pairs of utterances. The pairs of utterances provide the possibilities of both the continuity and exchange to be related. The pairing of the second utterance should follow or answer the first utterance to perform the adjacency pairs. Levinson states in his book,

Pragmatics, which not all the potential second parts to a first part of adjacency pairs are of equal standing. There is at least one preferred and dispreferred category of a response. The preferred second part is unmarked since it occurs as structurally a simpler turn. However, the dispreferred second part is marked by various kinds of structural complexity (Levinson, 1983: 307). Levinson explains further that dispreferred responses are typically delivered after some significant delay, with some preface marking their dispreferred status, and with some account of why the preferred second cannot be performed.

The researcher focuses on analyzing the dispreferred responses of the male lead character in the movie *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie. The researcher chooses only the second film because in this film Hiccup interacts with other characters more than in the first film, where the story shows the bonding between him and the dragons. Thus, it shows how one character responds to the other characters in the previous utterances with either preferred or dispreferred answers.

In this research, there are two objectives formulated: (1) to identify the types of the dispreferred responses performed by Hiccup in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie, and (2) to explain the functions of the dispreferred responses

shown by Hiccup in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie.

In analyzing the data, the researcher used a classification of dispreferred response proposed by Jacob L. Mey and George Yule. Both Mey and Yule proposed five types of dispreferred responses namely assessment-disagreement, invitation/offer-refusal, question-no/unexpected answer, and blame admission. In addition, the researcher also employed the functions of each type according to the context in the movie.

RESEARCH METHODS

Since this research aims to give deep understanding and explanation about the types and functions of dispreferred responses, a descriptive-qualitative method was applied. According to Krathwohl via Wiersma (1995: 12), qualitative research is a research that describes phenomena in words instead of numbers or measures, while quantitative research is a research that describes phenomena in numbers and measures instead of words. Furthermore, Smith via Wiersma (1995: 13) indicates that qualitative research is based on the notion of context sensitivity as it perceives facts and values inextricably mixed. Thus, it could be stated that qualitative research is done for the purpose of understanding social phenomena while quantitative research is

done to determine relationships, effects, and causes.

The researcher used the disreferred response in the second pair part utterances of Hiccup, the male lead character in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie as the form of the data. The dialogues in the movie were used as the context of the data, and *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie was the source of the data. As the research methodology was using the qualitative methodology, the primary instrument of the research was the researcher herself. The other instrument for supporting the researcher was a data sheet of the data chosen from *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie.

In collecting the data, the researcher followed several steps: watched and observed *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie, matched the dialogue in the movie and the script, selected and then classified the relevant data from the movie, and transferred the data into a data sheet. The process of collecting the data was followed by the data analysis. The data analysis consists of three steps: analyze each datum based on Yule and Mey's dispreferred response theory, re-analyzed the data until the relevant data were selected, and draw the conclusion.

In order to achieve trustworthiness of the data, a triangulation of the data was applied. The researcher got help from three

English students majoring in linguistics study as well as discussing the data findings with the researcher's two supervisors.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Hiccup, the male lead character in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie performed five types of dispreferred responses proposed by Mey and Yule. The main type performed by Hiccup is assessment-disagreement. In the second objectives, there are six functions found after analyzing the types. The main functions performed by Hiccup are to state the speaker's disagreement and to state the speaker's opinion.

Discussion

There are five types of dispreferred responses expressed by Hiccup in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie.

The first type is assessment-disagreement. Assessment is the form of value to evaluate something. Sometimes, the way to assess something is not directly performed by the characters in the movie which lead to disagreement for the response. An example of assessment-disagreement can be seen in the dialogue below.

Astrid : I think you're missing the point… I mean, chief. What an honor. I'd be pretty excited.
Hiccup : **I'm not like you. You know exactly who you are. You always have. But...**

(Datum 5)

The dialogue happened when Astrid gave her opinion about Hiccup, who was appointed as the next chief of Berk. She expressed her imagination of living as a chief and the advantages that came along with that. However, Hiccup responded with a disagreement. Hiccup was not sure about himself, and disagreed with how Astrid thought of him.

In this datum, the disagreement is shown directly in the example as Hiccup emphasized it with "I'm not like you". The emphasized words mean that Hiccup responds negatively to Astrid's assessment towards him and his choice. Thus, it shows that direct disagreement is part of the dispreferred response under the assessment-disagreement. In this datum Hiccup shows the function to state the speaker's disagreement, because he clearly disagrees with what Astrid said in the first part.

Another example of assessment-disagreement is shown below. This example shows the function to show that the speaker is not interested in the topic.

Drago : This... is the great dragon master? The son of Stoick the Vast? What shame he must feel.

Hiccup : **All of this loss, and for what? To become unstoppable? To rule the world?**

(Datum 28)

The dialogue happened in the war between Hiccup and his allies versus Drago Bludvist. Drago was attacking Valka and Stoick, Hiccup's parents while they were in their dragons. When Valka and her dragon knocked off, Stoick commanded his dragon to battle Drago. At that moment, Hiccup was stopping Drago's Bewilderbeast (or the new alpha). Disappointed at what Hiccup did, Drago mocked him while comparing Hiccup with his dad. Hiccup did not engage in the conversation, instead he asked Drago the reason why he did all of this.

In the example above, Hiccup is responding the assessment Drago made with a question, which is not really preferred to the first speaker. Hiccup also tries to change the topic to get Drago stop the war between the dragons. He did not respond to the way Drago mocked him. Thus, he performs the dispreferred response to Drago by changing the topic of the conversation.

The second type performed by Hiccup is invitation/offer-refusal. To invite someone means asking someone to come together to an event. The example of the invitation/offer-refusal is presented by Valka and Hiccup in the dialogue below.

Valka : This way. Come.

Hiccup : **You can't just say something like that and run off! You're my mother?! I mean, what the – do you grasp how INSANE it sounds?**

(Datum 20)

The dialogue above occurred when Hiccup coincidentally came across a cave, which turned out to be Valka's hideout. At first, Valka, Hiccup's long-lost mother, was suspicious about the uninvited guest in her hideout. When she learned that the boy was her son, she explained about her circumstance and how she ended up in this cave. Then, she invited Hiccup inside and took a look on the dragons she kept there. However, Hiccup, who still could not grasp the situation, responded negatively to her invitation. He did not believe what the woman said and tried to understand what just happened first.

In this datum, Hiccup does not show his refusal directly, but rather by saying "You can't just say something like that and run off!" he expresses his disbelief of what Valka tells him and still cannot accept the invitation to come inside. The function to defend the speaker's argument is presented in this datum.

The third type of the dispreferred response is request-refusal. A request is

done to convey the meaning of the first speaker's utterance to get through to the second speaker. An example of request-refusal is shown below.

> Stoick : Yeah, just add it to the pile.
> Hiccup : **Dad, unlike most surprises I spring on you, this is one you'll like. I promise! You just have to handle it delicately, so...**
> (Datum 27)

Hiccup was still confused as how his father knew the dragon cave, which was Valka's hideout. When he asked him, Stoick tried to get Hiccup back and grabbed his son so that Hiccup would not run away from him. Stoick did not concentrate on what Hiccup tried to say, which resulted in Hiccup responded with frustration and disagreement of his request.

The dialogue shows that Hiccup refuses his father's request of keep calm and follows him out. Hiccup tries to clear the misunderstanding of the situation, where Stoick thinks his son is trying to run away again. This datum shows that Hiccup is trying to clear the misunderstanding to his father.

The fourth type of dispreferred response is question-no/unexpected answer. An example of this type is presented by Astrid and Hiccup in the dialogue below.

> Astrid : (excited) What did you tell him?
> Hiccup : **I didn't. By the time he turned around, I was gone**.
> (Datum 3)

Astrid and Hiccup discussed about Hiccup's father who appointed him to be the new chief of their village. Astrid encouraged him to try it first while stating some advantages he would get when Hiccup became the new chief. Astrid then asked Hiccup's answer regarding this matter. Hiccup responded negatively as he was already gone before Stoick could hear his answer.

The unexpected answer with the expression "By the time he turned around, I was gone" indicates Hiccup's indirect answer. This leads to Astrid's disappointment. The occurrence shows the question-unexpected answer as Hiccup does not answers the way Astrid expects him. This datum also shows that Hiccup is trying to state his own reason.

The fifth type of dispreferred response is blame-admission. Blame is the act when people say or think that someone did wrong or that he or she is responsible for something bad happening. The act of blame leads to the expectation of denying the accusation or blame. Thus, the admission becomes a dispreferred response. An example of blame-admission is shown below.

Stoick : (Cont'd) Men who kill without reason cannot be reasoned with.

Hiccup : **Maybe**.

(Datum 19)

Stoick, who came to rescue Hiccup from Eret, Drago Bludvist's subordinate, could not change his son's decision. Thus, he finally told Hiccup and the other who were present at the moment about who is Drago Bludvist. He told them about the plan Drago made years ago in the great chieftain gathering. Drago told the chiefs about his plan to control all dragons. However, there was no one agreed with him. Then, Drago set the place in fire, and Stoick was the only one left. Stoick blamed Drago about killing others, and blamed Hiccup for not listening to his warning and Hiccup responded with "Maybe".

The dialogue above is categorized as blame-admission because Hiccup does not deny the blame his father puts on Drago Bludvist and himself. Even though he is unsure about the matter, which leads to his answer "Maybe", Hiccup is not denying about the blame. In this datum, the blame does not only put on one person, as Stoick indirectly blame Drago. Hiccup agrees with Stoick's accusation. He feels that he also takes the blame for himself with Stoick's implication of Hiccup not listening to his warning.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
Conclusion

In accordance to the first objective, there are five types of dispreferred responses performed by Hiccup in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie. They are the dispreferred response of assessment-disagreement, invitation/offer-rejection, request-refusal, question-no/unexpected answer, and blame-admission. From five types of the dispreferred responses, the dispreferred responses of assessment-disagreement are the main type regularly performed by Hiccup in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie. The relationship between Hiccup and the other character is the main reason of the dispreferred responses found in this movie. Since Hiccup is a character that is seen a bit rebellious, he often responded to the first speaker's assessment or opinion of him negatively.

Related to the second objective, there are six functions employed to the types of dispreferred responses. All those functions are based on the situational context in which the conversations are produced. The functions of the dispreferred responses are to state the speaker's disagreement, to defend the speaker's argument, to clear the misunderstanding, to state the speaker's own reason, to show that the speaker is not interested in the topic, and to state the speaker's opinion. Among the six functions

presented in the findings, it can be seen that Hiccup often uses the dispreferred responses to state the speaker's disagreement and to state the speaker's opinion. Those functions appear as a result of Hiccup's disagreement with the first speaker's opinion or assessment of him.

Suggestions

Due to the limitation, the researcher can only conduct the research of the pragmatic field of dispreferred responses found in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* Movie. Thus, the researcher suggested the other researchers to conduct a research on pragmatics field with different points of view and sources of data. There are many other topics regarding conversations, such as cooperative principle, speech act, implicature, and politeness.

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