

Register Used by the Profession of the Indonesian Online Drivers on Their Daily Jobs (A Case Study in Bandung City)

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is 1) to identify the register and 2) what factor that make online driver use register on the daily basis. This discussion is quite interesting, because in everyday life, the needs of the public towards online transportation, including online motorcycle taxis certainly affect the number of drivers. This can be seen from the work of online ojek drivers who are increasingly in demand in recent times, and many of the online motorcycle taxis communicate with a fairly unique vocabulary that is commonly used in their daily lives. As a solution to the curiosity of the way of daily communication online ojek drivers, this research was made to answer that curiosity. The method used is qualitative-quantitative. The process of collecting data is done by distributing questioner which contained unique words such as anyep and vermuk. The following vocabulary is quite famous among drivers. The result indicates that there is only one type of register found, that is casual register. The factor that makes the online drivers use such a kind of register is for creating new friends easily and nice socialization among them because the casual register is an informal form of language used by peers and friends. It is very helpful for online drivers to get more new friends.

Keywords

Sociolinguistics; register; online drivers; unique words

Introduction

For some reason, words mean everything. Robin Dodsworth (2008) stated that "Sociological consciousness as a component of linguistic variation". Sociolinguistics has made very significant contribution to theorizing linguistics and social change, communicative competence and communicative based of human interaction to others, the linguistics constitution of social context, interpersonal relation and adaptation. Interaction between online drivers usually dominated by informal register in their daily work. They use this kind of register to do, reach, communicate with others, reaching some condition, and understanding the conditions. But sometimes they use the vulgar register to express their feeling or feeling upset to something. Gave them many varieties of unique words.

Ojek online is a person who run a motorcycle taxi via online by utilizing an application on a mobile phone. *Ojek* is a typical Indonesian word for motorcycle taxi. *Ojek Online* has become a mainstay alternative transportation in Jakarta and other cities in Indonesia. It can be seen from the stretch of online *Ojek* application that has sprung

up. Online drivers have many unique words for their everyday use. That unique words can be classified as register. Halliday (1978) finds the concept of register "a useful abstraction linking variations of language to variations of social context" and suggests "that there are three aspects in any situation that have linguistic consequences: field, mode, and tenor" (Eggins, 1994). Let's take some examples, *Tupo*. *Tupo* means *tutup poin* in Indonesian, or closing the daily achievements. They use this word if their job has done and reach the top points, and their daily bonus will be given after that. It needs a lot of hard work and all day online status to have *Tupo* every day. Let us say, many of their time spent in city roads. The full-time drivers have lot of chance to reach *Tupo*, because their range of time and hard work, and it is different from part-timers. The part-time drivers have a time limit for their everyday job, so it is quite hard to reach the top point because they only take 5 to 10 order everyday while the full-time driver who could reach over 25 orders.

Another of these unique words like *Gagu*, *Bolang*, *Pemburu Food*, *Srikandi*, *Aplikator*, *Go-max*, *Go-pcx*, and many more. The use of the words corresponds to what and how things were going

on the field at the time. Like a word in everyday life, online drivers use these words according to what is happening now. For example, going busy, getting many of orders they will said "Gacor". Roaming the city in order to find more orders, these people were called "Bolang" (Acronym for *Bocah Petualang* in Indonesian, the Travelers in English). This research uncovers what kind of register used by the online drivers, and what factor that make online driver use register on the daily basis.

Literature Review

An Overview on Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. Holmes (2001) says that "sociolinguistic is the study the relationship between language and society.", while Chambers (2002) state that "Sociolinguistic Theory presents a critical synthesis of sociolinguistics that centers on the study of language variation and change, and identifies opportunities for future research. Since the inception of sociolinguistics four decades ago, the correlation of dependent linguistic variables with independent social variables has provided the theoretical core of the discipline."

Sociolinguists are interested in how we speak differently in varying social contexts, and how we may also use specific functions of language to convey social meaning or aspects of our identity. Sociolinguistics teaches us about real-life attitudes and social situations.

Dialect

Talking about dialects, it's essential to understand what's the meaning of it. First, what is the meaning of standard language? Standard language is the only kind of variety which can be called a proper language used in public communication and formal, legislation, correspondence, and official meetings. Dialect can be determining as non-standard used in certain language.

It's been stated by Wardhaugh (1986) that variety is defined in terms of a specific set of linguistic items or human speech pattern (presumably,

sounds, word, grammatical, features) which we can uniquely associate with some external factors (presumably, a geographical, area or a social group).

Social Stratification

According to Southerland and Katamba (1996), it is possible to correlate differences of how-to people speak with their membership in various social groups. Perhaps the most frequently invoked social correlate of language differentiation is socio-economic status. The meaning of social-economic is something related to income level, educational level, and characteristic of speakers. These social status will impact on how certain social group on using forms of language. A group of people will have its own form of language choice depends on what social status they are in.

Register

In sociolinguistics, a register is a variety of language used for a particular purpose or in a particular communicative situation. As it the theory that stated, "analysts are not just interested in what language is, but why language is; not just what language means, but how language means." (Leckie-Tarry, 1993), and "Context here relates to the context of situation and context of culture, both of which "get 'into' text by influencing the words and structures that text-producers use" (Egins & Martin, 1997).

Also comes from Australian tradition "can be thought of as the general framework that gives purpose to interactions of particular types, adaptable to the many specific contexts of situation that they get used in" (Egins, 1994). Halliday (1978) finds the concept of register "a useful abstraction linking variations of language to variations of social context" and suggests "that there are three aspects in any situation that have linguistic consequences: field, mode, and tenor" (Egins, 1994). According to him, field refers to "what is happening, to the nature of the social action that is taking place," mode concerns "what it is that the participants [of a transaction] are expecting language to do for them in that situation," and tenor has to do with who are taking

part in the transaction as well as the "nature of the participants, their status and roles (Hasan & Halliday, 1985).

According to Montano-Harmon, there are five language registers or styles. Each level has an appropriate use that is determined by differing situations, places, and timing:

Static register

This style of communications RARELY or NEVER changes. It is "frozen" in time and content. e.g., the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lord's Prayer, the Preamble to the US Constitution, the Alma Mater, a bibliographic reference, and laws.

Formal register

This language is used in formal settings and is one-way in nature. This use of language usually follows a commonly accepted format. It is usually impersonal and formal. A common format for this register is speeches. e.g., sermons, rhetorical statements and questions, speeches, pronouncements made by judges, announcements.

Consultative register

This is a standard form of communications. Users engage in a mutually accepted structure of communications. It is formal and societal expectations accompany the users of this speech. It is professional discourse. e.g., when strangers meet, communications between a superior and a subordinate, doctor & patient, lawyer & client, lawyer & judge, teacher & student, counselor & client,

Casual register

This is informal language used by peers and friends. Slang, vulgarities and colloquialisms are normal. This is "group" language. One must be member to engage in this register. e.g., buddies, teammates, chats and emails, and blogs, and letters to friends.

Intimate register

This communication is private. It is reserved for close family members or intimate people e.g., husband & wife, boyfriend & girlfriend, siblings, parent & children.

Methodology

The method used in this research is a qualitative-quantitative. Literature on related topics suggests that qualitative methods are most acquired (Chambers, 2002). Sociolinguistic Theory: Linguistic Variation and Its Social Significance (Robin Dodsworth, 2008), Sociological consciousness as a component of linguistic variation. According to Sugiyono (2009), quantitative method is a research method resting on positivism philosophy that is used to research population or particular sample, generally the technique to take the sample is taken randomly, the data collection uses research instrument, the data analysis has quantitative or statistics technique.

The research data are taken from the field and data collected by distributing questionnaires to some drivers. Before the questionnaires are distributed, a trial has been conducted in order to make sure that all of the questions can easily be understood by online drivers so that misinterpretations of the questionnaires can be avoided. Using qualitative studies will certainly be very helpful in solving this problem. Especially, if the source obtained requires some analysis of the daily facts of the subject (online drivers) in the field directly. It's a vital aspect to be researched because it is used by fellow online drivers on daily basis. Hence, the objective of this research in terms of the language used among the people's profession can be mutual understood.

Results and Discussion

Based on research data obtained through research instruments in the form of questionnaire, there is only one type of register found, which is casual register. Furthermore, there is only one factor causing online drivers use this type of register, that without a doubt is to make more new friends. It is normal and understandable that when someone able to use registers related to the profession of online drivers, they can easily have

and add many new friends. Thus, the two points discussed and analyzed below are one type of register - Casual register, and one factor, friendship factor.

Many of online driver personnel use the register of unique “words” for their daily operation. That are based from the Indonesian language, which later become some synonym and acronym. Even though some of these words are being made-off, it is quite useful and widely-used among online drivers. Here are the unique words used by online drivers. These are taken from their daily communication, for examples in the following five dialogs.

Dialog (1)

A: “*Orderan Anyep banget hari ini, ya?*”

(kalau bisa, buat kan padanan ungkapan ini dalam Bahasa Inggris)

B: “*Beneran, om. Anyep gegara ubah system kemarin.*”

(Situational Context: During this conversation, driver A said to driver B that today is “Anyep”, that means there is no orders since yesterday. It will affect to driver’s daily profit)

The dialog (1) above is categorized into casual register. It can be seen from using of the word. Besides, in that dialog, there is a unique word – a register that is used by the profession of online drivers, namely, *anyep*. This word is used to express that there are no orders.

The utterances in dialog (1) occurred among the online drivers. The use of such a word (*anyep*) is not without reasons. The factor that makes the online drivers use such a register is friendship. This informal language which tends to be close to slang language is used by peers or friends of online drivers.

Dialog (2)

A: “*Duuhh... lagi sepi malah dapet Opik.*”

B: “*Waduh gitu mah malah memperlambat usaha orang.*”

(Situational context: In this case, driver A said that he/she got *opik*. *Opik* is an acronym for *Order Fiktif* in Indonesian, or false order in English. That means, driver a being scammed because the order is considered false. In some cases, driver would be lost his/her money because of this kind of orders.)

The dialog (2) above is categorized into casual register. It can be seen from the using of the word. Besides, in that dialog, this word was an acronym there is a unique word – a register that is used by the profession of online drivers, namely, *Opik*. This word is use to express when the driver got fake order.

The utterances in dialog (2) occurred among the online drivers. The use of such a word (*Opik*) is not without reasons. The factor that makes the online drivers use such a register is express disappointment. This informal language which tends to be close to colloquial language is used by peers or friends of online drivers.

Dialog (3)

A: “*Gacor abis orderan hari ini, bang. Ane udah dapet 12 order dari jam 10.*”

B: “*Hebat bener, ente. Ane aja masih 3 lho. Gagu kali ya?*”

(Situational Context: In this case, driver A said that he got 12 orders since 10 a.m. He said “*Gacor*” to express his joy about his achievement today. But this situation is different to driver B, he said that he still got 3 orders since the morning. Because of this condition, he said that his account is considered “*Gagu*”.)

In the dialog (3) above, the register used is also categorized into casual register. It can be seen from the using of the word. Besides, in that dialog, there is a unique word – a register that is used by the profession of online drivers, namely, *Gacor*. This word is use to express a joy. But also, *Gagu*, the word that often use to express disappointment.

The expressions in dialog (3) occurred among the online drivers. The use of word *Gacor* and *Gagu* is well known to express the situation. The factor

that makes the online driver use such a register is to tell any fellow driver about the situation that occurred. The informal language which tends to be close to slang language.

Dialog (4)

A: “Ganggu aja ini yang **Tetembakan**. Rusak jadinya performa saya.”

B: “Masih pagi lo, bang. Siapa yang dah main **Tetembakan** aja?”

(Situational context: In this case, driver A got the order that being cancelled immediately. This is happened because someone makes the false order for their one-circle partner, but it missed. The order was fall to driver A, and being cancelled because of missed target. The result is driver A daily performance rate is decreasing because it was being cancelled with a reason, “*Atas permintaan driver*.” But it would be okay if the order being cancelled with a reason “*Ubah pesanan*”, etc.)

Dialog (4) above is still categorized into casual register. It can be seen from the word selection. Besides, in this dialog, there is a unique word – a register that is use by the online drivers, namely, *Tetembakan*. This word is identified as a kind of cheat tricks that made by the driver.

The utterances expressed in dialog (4) occurred among the online drivers. The use of such a word (*Tetembakan*) has some kind of meaning. The factor that makes the online driver use such a register is to express their feeling or warn another driver. This informal language which tends to be close to colloquial language is used by peers or friends of online drivers.

Dialog (5)

A:” **Vermuk** dulu, bos. Udah muncul menyunya.”

B:” Bener, sob. Ga **Vermuk** sekarang mana bisa jalan.”

(Situational Context:” As it said, driver A being remembered to doing “*Vermuk*”. *Vermuk* is an acronym for “*Verifikasi Muka*”, that means every driver should do *Vermuk* as the automatic pop-up

screen appearance. This is a kind of safety protocol from *Gojek* and *Grab* to identify their drivers. It is quite strict because if the system detects the incorrect face (in this case, driver face), the account would be suspended or being revoke.)

In the dialog (5) above, the register used is categorized into as a casual register. It can be seen from the function of the word. Besides, in this dialog, there is a unique word – a register that is use by the online drivers, namely, *Vermuk* is acronym from *Verifikasi Muka*. This word is referred to keep account online drivers. This informal language which tends to be close to slang language is used by peers or friends of online drivers.

The Utterances in dialog (5) occurred among the online drivers. The use of such a word *Vermuk* is to identify the face of online drivers. The factor that makes online driver use such a register to identify and inform the online driver themselves about security verification progress. This was a register to identify the security procedure that online driver should attempts, in order to keep their account safe snd earn the trust from customer about their identify. This informal language which tends to be close to slang language is used by peers or friends of online drivers.

Conclusion

From the discussion and the data analysis above, the finding can obviously be seen that there is only one type of register can be found, that is casual register. It is clearly seen from the use of both structure and the unique words such as *anyep* and *vermuk* among online drivers on their daily basis. Many of unique words from online drivers have their own meanings. After all, every word has a register order. Based on the Indonesian language, some of the registers used are in the form of synonyms or acronyms. It useful and helpful for online drivers to get more friends among them. The data discussed indicate how casual registers become an ideal form of language and they agreed that using such registers can help them easy get along and make new friends among online drivers.

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