LANGUAGE CHOICE AND PERCEPTION OF EFL LEARNERS' COMPLIANCE TOWARDS STAY AT HOME HEALTH PROTOCOL DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Indonesian government continuously announces its people for strictly obeying health protocols; one of them is to keep "Stay at home." The announcement was given in spoken and written form through various media, such as national TV broadcasts, social media, online newspaper, and government official websites. This study is aimed at investigating the language choice realized in government appeals for letting Indonesian EFL students "Stay at home." A total of 389 respondents were involved, varied from diploma to postgraduate degree (from first to above four year) who were chosen purposively based on the basis of their availability, residence, and convenience. The data were collected through online questionnaire which piloted first and examined its reliability through SPSS (0.88 Cronbach's Alpha). The data then analyzed quantitatively by employing descriptive statistics; particularly finding their frequency distribution. The result of analysis showed that the use of inspirative language was the most liked option, chosen by 341 respondents (185 agree and 156 strongly disagree). Other language choices preferred were figurative (336 positive responses), solutive (331 positive responses) and persuasive (329 positive responses). In contrast, the language choices which showed higher negative response were Interrogative (50 responses), permissive (26 responses), exclamative (24 responses), and imperative (20 responses). The findings suggested that the use of effective language choice affects much on respondents' compliance to obey COVID-19 health protocol, particularly for stay at home.

Keywords: Language Choice; Government Appeal; Health Protocols; Indonesian EFL learners

INTRODUCTION

Language choice is one of common phenomena which mostly discussed in Sociolinguistics. It happens in a particular language event where there are more options of choosing language variations and style. The term language choice may defined closely to language preference, which considered more ambiguous, reflecting one's underlying cultural values, social networks, political ideology, or construction of social identity (Gee *et al*, 2010). Speakers or writers may use different language variations even for the same purpose when they talk to different people (interlocutors) in different situation and context. In this case, other larger factors may also much influence the way of using different language choice, such as context of situation, context of culture, motivation, and even gender (see Dörnyei, & Skehan, 2003; Pawlak, 2012; Łukasiewicz, 2012; Nicolau & Sukamto, 2015; Ningrum & Crosthwaite, 2020; and Meletis, 2020). Besides, the speakers' L1 (first language) also gave influence on the use of language choice (see Lecumberri, 2001; Darmi *et al,* 2018; Brenneman, Morris, & Israelian, 2007: Arifin, Retmono, Warsono, 2014; and Vogel, 2017). Holmes (2013) claimed the language choice was simply due to the existence of language variations. She explained that language varieties could be realized differently in the form of grammar, vocabularies, style, pronunciat ion, dialects, and also language itself (see also Adeyanju, 2009; de Rosa, 2017; and Han, 2019). She further

added that the use of language varieties much influenced by the situational context, including participant (the interlocutor we are speaking to), topic (he subject matter being discussed), setting (time and place the language event happens), and function (the purpose of speaking). It is clear that participant affects speaker to use language differently, for example: in Indonesian educational domain, students mostly used high level of language variety rather than the low one when they talked to the teacher, and they used low language variety when they talked to their classmates. As argued by Fahmee and Fung (2016) that "the low language or variety is usually used in the family domain while the high language or variety is used in more formal domains such as education." Further, Jia *et al* (2002) confirmed that many bilingual individuals (such in case of most Indonesians) report that language choice when interacting with others was dependent on their parents' language use.

Practically, language choice implicitly infers the social relationship among speech community member. Even though, sometimes it needs more clarification to identify the social relationship among the members. Holmes (2013: 13) argued that "language choices convey information about the social relationships between people as well as about the topic of discussion." Language choice mostly occurs in multilingual speech community, which means various languages are involved in. Ansah (2014) added that "in a multilingual community, the multilingual speaker needs to make the right language choice which principally depends on the domain of usage and the linguistic repertoire of speech participants."

During the last decade, many researchers have studied the language choice in different linguistic domains and feature across disciplines which concerning on online communication (Fahmee & Fung, 2016; Seargeant, Tagg & Ngampramuan, 2012), bilingual academic learning environment (Dewi & Setiadi, 2018), language choice in multilingual community (Ansah, 2014), the choice of using discourse element in academic writing (Ebrahimi, et al, 2015), language choice in bilinguals (Dweik and Qawar, 2015), language choice as the strategies for apologizing (Banikalef et al, 2015). So far, studies on investigating language choice in Indonesian EFL context are found few. During the COVID-19 pandemic, none of published article has focused to address the language choice used in governmental appeals in Indonesia. Therefore, it is important and interesting to study the language choice realized in government appeals for letting Indonesian EFL students "Stay at home."

Geographically, Indonesia is the biggest archipelago in the world. It consist of top five biggest islands (Sumatera, java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Papua) and other smaller islands around 16.000 islands. As a multilingual country, Indonesia has a number of local languages. At present, there are 707 known living languages spoken by more than 255 million speakers in Indonesia. One of the local languages used most in Indonesia is Javanese (Arifin, 2014). Its speaker reaches 95.2 million people, equal to 40.2% of whole nation population (www.ethnologue.com). Even though Javanese is the largest language used in Indonesia, but it doesn't function as the national language for the country. It serves as the vernacular, just like other local languages (Cohn & Ravindranath, 2014). Indonesian government had decided another language as national language, that was Malay. Malay was chosen as the national language of Indonesia not merely due to its function as lingua franca, but the fact that Malay was ethnicity neutral as well as easier to learn (Paauw, 2009). Later on, the national language known as *Bahasa* Indonesia.

Most of Indonesians are bilinguals who able to speak at least two languages; the local and national language. Indonesians who live in Jakarta (the capital city of Indonesia) use mainly Bahasa Indonesia as their communicative repertoire. This is different with people who live outside Jakarta, they use local languages as their communicative repertoire and shift to use Bahasa Indonesia when they communicate with other people across their ethnicity or region. Such in case of Indonesian EFL students, the language variety they used was obviously varied

(see Waridah, 2015; Ramendra, 2013; Setiawati, 2019; and Arifin 2019). The dominant local language they used includes Javanese, Sundanese, Malay, Bugis, Batak, Balinese, and Dayak. Since childhood, the Indonesians who live outside Jakarta were exposed to use local languages, rather than national language. Then, when entering the primary school, Bahasa Indonesia is officially introduced. The teacher has to speak Bahasa Indonesia as the instructional language. So that, in this phase students were officially recognize and learn their second language which then serve as the national language (see Kasnadi et al, 2019).

The language background of most Indonesian EFL students comprises of three languages; local language, national language, and English (see Suprayitno et al, 2019). Although they use those three languages in different context and situation, and even in very limited communicative events but they are able to use multiple languages. In case of English usage in Indonesia, it is not easy to find natural setting that requires English as the only one language to use. The situations are mostly situated and unnatural, such as in English teaching and learning. A natural occasion that involved English speakers in Indonesia can only be found rare and limited, such as in tourism resort, hotel, and other specific place. In the present study, respondents' repertoire were dominated by Javanese (40.3%), and then followed by Sundanese (28.65%), (Balinese (10%), Malay (7.7%), Bugis (6.4%), Dayak (3.6%), and other local languages (3.4%).

Since the emerging of Wuhan pneumonia in the beginning of December, 2019 which then named Corona Virus Disease (COVID) 19, the use of health protocol was widely implemented in many countries. WHO as the highest health authority in the world noticed that this type of virus has largely infected people around the world. Therefore, this international organization needs to promote the health protocol and encourage countries in the world to apply it. This is intentionally applied in order to reduce the COVID-19 outbreak. At moment, WHO continually reports that at least 188 countries have infected by COVID-19. There are more than 8 million people who positively confirmed, and almost a half of million reported dead due to this deadly virus (https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com). Observing the current update which constantly dynamic, the new confirmed case seems to still continue growing.

In Indonesian context, by the end of June, 2020, the number of infected people has reached more than sixty thousand, who more than two thousand reported dead. Looking at to the current trend, the number of people who positively confirmed seems to increase more and more. Therefore, a set of health protocols have been adapted and implemented around the country, including: wearing a mask, washing hands with running water and antiseptic soap as often as possible, maintaining social/physical distancing, stay at home, close the mouth when coughing, close the mouth and nose when sneezing, and avoid the mass crowd. The government, through its spokesman, unrelenting calls on the public to comply with health protocols strictly. The instruction has also been continually socialized through various methods, such as through national TV broadcasting, daily update report, social media broadcast, public announcement, governmental direct appeal, socialization, and so forth.

Definitely, the term health protocol refers to a set of medical instructions that give clear and systematic steps to be done in order to prevent and diagnose necessary findings in a patient. In other words, health protocol can be defined as practical method to be followed by people to control the spread of a particular disease. This systematic protocol was formulated by the official health authority in the world, such as WHO (World Health Organization) and health authorities (such as Ministry of Health) in many countries. One of the health protocols which is highly encouraged by many countries and WHO is "stay at home." This health protocol is aimed at preventing people doing unnecessary activities outside of their home. This is feared that if they do outdoor activities, it can increase the risk of COVID-19 exposure. This protocol has been the better option for anyone during the global pandemic of COVID-19 to keep them safe.

In Indonesian context, health protocol of "stay at home" than has been further elaborated through other related health protocols. The government has strongly offered to its people for doing many activities from home. The government officially called it as "work from home, study from home, and pray from home". Although at the beginning, there was resistance from the community, but slowly the community began to accept. Other terms related to "stay at home" health protocol in Indonesia has also been introduced by other parties, such as e-commerce sector introduced "shopping from home", social media application introduced "meeting from home, donate from home", shipping and expedition companies offered "sending from home", and banking companies offered "transaction from home." In fact, the spread of COVID-19 outbreak has led to various and alternative breakthroughs for people life.

Through various media, Indonesian government continuously announces its people for keeping health protocols to prevent COVID-19 outbreak. Indonesians are highly suggested to take any necessary actions to stay health during the pandemic. Besides, Indonesian government also updates the information related to COVID-19 daily. The Indonesian government spokesman has been using various language choices to convince Indonesians that COVID-19 outbreak is still happening. In this case, the language choices used were varied in case of their forms and tones, such as informative, persuasive, imperative, appreciative, interrogative, suggestive, permissive, exclamative, motivating, solutive, figurative, and inspiring. In fact, the language used in appealing Indonsians was Bahasa Indonesia which serves as the national language (see Cohn & Ravindranath, and 2014; Paauw, 2009). The use of various language choices as in the previous case has led researchers to conduct a relevant research which considered urgently important.

The use of effective language to inform or even persuade others is very important. If the language used was effective, the targeted goal of communication will be completely achieved. It will lead both speaker and the interlocutor to the mutually intelligible level. To be effective, speaker needs also to highly adjust the interlocutors Sociolinguistics factors, such as gender, linguistic background, ethnicity, and even the culture. In communication, the use of language expresses the speaker's meanings to be digested by the interlocutor (Arifin, 2018). So that, choosing an effective language is undeniable to help speaker achieves the communication goal.

METHOD

The present study was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly from April to June 2020 in Indonesia. The study was designed as survey research by mainly distributing the online questionnaire on language choice. It was considered as the safest way in collecting the data due to the massive spread of Corona virus in the world, including in Indonesia. The researchers had no other option to collect the data since the temporary lockdown has been enacted in many cities, including in the city where the researchers live. The research was finished at Javanese Island, the most populous in Indonesia.

Respondents

The present study involved 389 participants, comprising of 316 (81.2%) female and 73 (18.8%) male. The respondents were coming from various tertiary educational levels, since diploma (4.1%), undergraduate (88.2%), graduate (4.9%), to postgraduate (2.8%). The respondents were the Indonesian EFL students registered at private, state universities, and Islamic state universities who were chosen on the basis of their availability, residence, and convenience. These points became the criteria for choosing them as respondent. The respondents' age were ranged from 18 to above 41 years old. Looking at the result of questionnaire, 87.9% (342) respondents were in the age of 18 to 24 years old. This was in line with the dominant number of respondents who were in undergraduate level (343 or 88.2%), in which the undergraduate

level students in Indonesia were commonly in the age of 18 - 24. The eligible respondents were purposively selected in accordance to their study program that was English Department which spread in eight territories; Sumatera (7.7%), Java (68.9%), Kalimantan (3.6%), Sulawesi (6.4%), Maluku (0.5%), Papua (0.8%), Bali and Nusa Tenggara (10%), and other (2.1%). In case of the period of the year, the respondents were distributed in the following year; first year (32.6%), second year (38.2%), third year (16.7%), fourth year (10%), and above fourth year (2.1%).

Instrument

To collect the required data, the researchers used an online questionnaire for gathering respondents' language choice. At the beginning step, the researchers collected the Indonesian EFL students' contact person (including phone number, active email, and social media account) from their lecturers who membered of Teacher Association of Teaching of English as Foreign Language in Indonesia and English Lecturers Association of Indonesian. Then, the online questionnaire was distributed to students by sending it through various social media, such as Whatsapp messenger, email and Facebook messenger during May to June 2020. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. The first section elicited the respondents' demographic profile with 6 items (respondents' availability, gender, year of study, program at tertiary education, age, and residence) while the second section sought the information about language choice, comprised of 12 items. In the second section, the respondent was required to choose one of five available answers adapting five-point Likert scale, ranging from "Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Moderate (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1)." The twelve items in the second section illustrated the use of language choice in encouraging one of health protocols (Stay at home) towards Indonesian EFL students during COVID-9 pandemic. The language choices used in illustrations were covered informative, persuasive, imperative, appreciative, interrogative, suggestive, permissive, exclamative, motivating, solutive, figurative, and inspiring tone.

The researchers intentionally constructed the questionnaire by using Indonesian language. This was due to the fact that Indonesians are more able to use their national language rather than English language. Besides, the respondents were also varied in year of study which influenced the level of English proficiencies. This also adapted from the government appeals to inform people for stay at home during COVID-19 pandemic which announced by using *Bahasa Indonesia*. Even though the respondents were coming from EFL students, but it did not automatically guarantee that they were able to speak English. Hence, the use of Indonesian language is preferably used. Before distributing, the questionnaire was firstly piloted and examined its reliability through SPSS. The index of reliability was 0.88 (Cronbach's Alpha). After that, the online questionnaire was directly distributed to the respondents who were identified before.

Research Procedure

The respondents involved in this study were selected through their major; that was English department. Further, they were chosen on the basis of basis of their availability, residence, and convenience. It didn't matter in what year they were. Before involving in the study, the researchers contacted the Dean of English Department at their universities, asking for permission and approval. After that, the researchers asked for a student representative contact number to be contacted. Through student representatives, the researchers distributed the online questionnaire and asked other students to participate. In order to get more respondents, the researchers also contacted the Dean and the English lecturers to encourage their student for being the respondent. During the data collection stage, the researchers monitored the progress

of questionnaire result through one of the researchers' account. The use of online questionnaire enabled the researchers to easily apply descriptive statistics analysis.

Data Analysis

After collecting the data from respondents, the raw data was firstly analyzed by generating with descriptive statistics. In this phase, SPSS version 21 was used. The result of data analysis was firstly converted to five Likert scale (1-5). The frequency distribution then calculated and presented as the findings. In this phase, the researchers also aggregated the score for each language choice by summing up the scores for the whole respondents. The process of data analysis then continued by presenting the findings in a whole and then discussed each of the finding on language choices. To get the general response, the researchers further classified the response into negative, neutral and positive. The negative response derived from "disagree" and "strongly disagree" option, while the positive response classified based on the "agree" and "strongly disagree" option. Another option, "moderate" simply changed as neutral response.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

As mentioned earlier, among the 389 respondents who involved in the present study were mostly female. The female respondents (81.8%) were obviously far greater than male (17.2%). This fact clearly shows the dominance of female in the educational field in Indonesia today. As reported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, from the total of Indonesian teacher in all levels; starting from primary, secondary, and tertiary education is 2.755.020, consisting of 1.773.034 (64.4%) female and 981.986 (36.4%) male. Besides, the number of female students in tertiary education is obviously greater than male students in Indonesia. This finding on female dominance in education field may correct the claim that the role of female in Indonesian education is still much less (see Zuhriyah, 2018). Therefore, it is not surprising when the Indonesians female respondents participated much more in the study (see Setiawati, 2019; Arifin 2019; and Waridah, 2015).

In case of education level, most respondents were in undergraduate level that ranged from 18 to above 24 years old. A total of 342 (87.9%) respondents are in the first to four years studying English. Only a few of them were in above four years of study. This greatly confirms that the undergraduate students in Indonesian context are commonly in the range of 18-24 years old. The current policy in Indonesia limits the duration for students in undergraduate level maximum until seven years, or fourteen semesters. If they reach the time limit, the school will automatically let them to drop out. The result also showed that respondents were mostly coming from Java, the most populous island in Indonesia. This simply reflects that the number of students in Java were dominated the tertiary education with almost a half of Indonesians universities lied in Java (2215 out of 4602 tertiary education institutions).

In the second section of the questionnaire, the researchers provided twelve illustrations as a part of the items. The items chronologically illustrated the use of language in different choice; informative, persuasive, imperative, appreciative, interrogative, suggestive, permissive, exclamative, motivating, solutive, figurative, and inspiring tone. The illustrations were mainly adapted from the government appeals announced daily through various media. The point of illustrations was underlining the appeal to comply with health protocol "stay at home" during the COVID-19 pandemic. The illustrations were intentionally constructed in *Bahasa Indonesia* since it serves as the national language for the country. This is also intended to avoid misunderstanding and information bias for the recipients (respondents) who have low English

proficiencies. The collected data of Indonesian EFL students' response on the illustrations given are presented in the following figure.
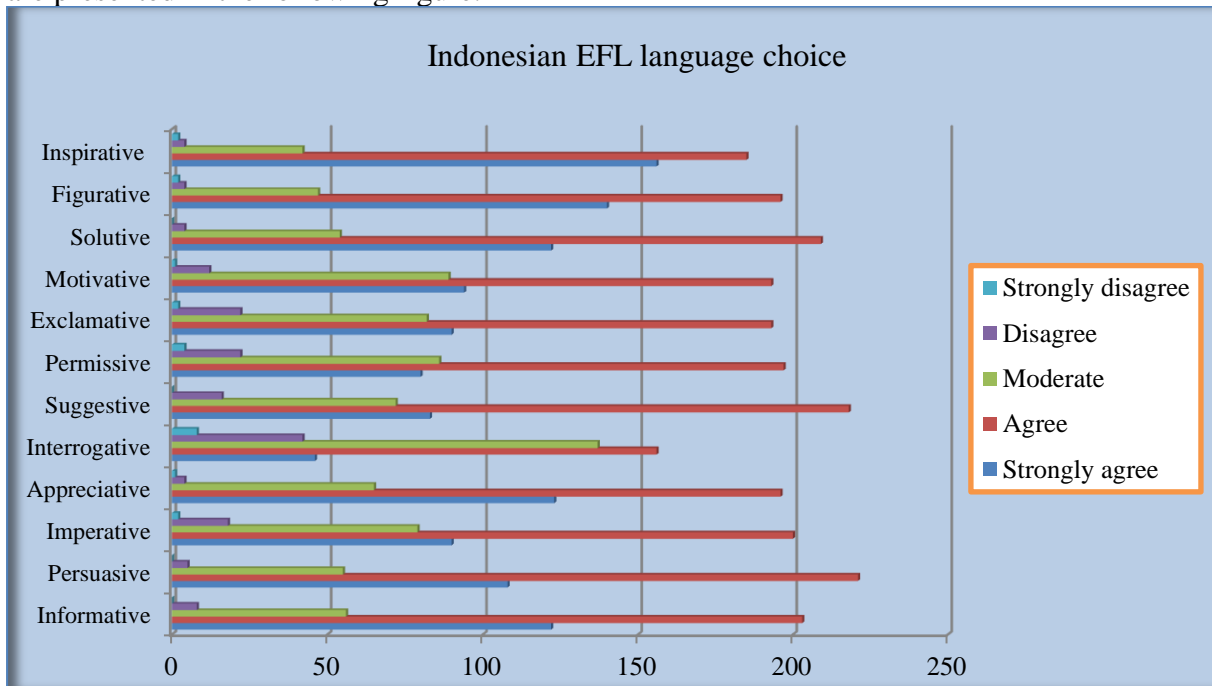

Figure 1. Response on language choice

Discussion

As clearly indicated in the figure 1, the language choice which contained the government appeal for keeping stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic that preferred most by Indonesian EFL students was inspiring tone (156 respondents), indicated by the option "strongly agree". Other language choices which liked most were figurative (140 respondents) and appreciative language (123 respondents). The slight difference found to the next language choice preferred most, solutive and informative which chosen by 122 respondents. Another positive response, indicated by "agree" showed the most chosen option among the twelve items in the questionnaire. Little bit differs from the "strongly agree" option, the respondents agreed most on the persuasive option (221 respondents), suggestive (218 respondents), solutive (209 respondents), and inspiring option (203 respondents). Up to this point, the researchers further classified the option "strongly agree" and "agree" as the positive response toward the government appeals. In this case, the respondents' choice might reflect their compliance to obey the COVID-19 protocol health, particularly of stay at home. The figure 1 also shows the negative response towards the language choice used by Indonesian government to strongly suggest Indonesian for remain stay at home. The negative response is simply concluded from the "disagree" and "strongly disagree" responses. Even only a few responses, compared to the positive one, but it could not be ignored. The negative responses on interrogative form displayed the most. A total of 50 respondents chose the negative response, comprising of 42 "strongly disagree" and 8 of "disagree". Other negative response is also found in permissive (22 disagrees and 4 strongly disagrees), exclamative (22 disagrees and 2 strongly disagrees), imperative (18 disagrees and 2 strongly disagrees), suggestive (16 disagrees) and motivative (12 disagrees and 1 strongly disagrees). The language choices which showed the fewest negative response were solutive (4 disagrees) and persuasive (5 disagrees).

Informative Language

In the second section of the questionnaire, the first item was asking the participants to respond on the illustration of government appeal in letting Indonesian for staying at home. The language

choice used was informative tone. Respondents showed various responses toward the illustration given. Their responses are summarized in the figure 1. Respondents tended to agree with the informative choice used by the government. A total of 203 (52.2%) chose agree, while 122 (31.4%) chose strongly agree. 56 (14.4%) of them were moderate (neutral) and the rest 8 (2.06%) were disagree. Interestingly, none of the respondent responded strongly disagree. The respondents positively responded to the language choice used by the government were 83.6%, which can be classified high. Therefore, the use of informative language is considered necessary to inform people, as well as persuade them. This choice was such away taken by the government; even though there were still 17% respondents remained neutral and disagree. Government may need another language choice if it wants to persuade people staying at home during COVID-19 outbreak. Armstrong & Ferguson (2010) highlighted that the use of language should be functional, regarding to the contexts of speaking.

Persuasive Language

Persuasive language is basically contains an "advice-giving or an effort to bring a person over to the truth" (Dillard, 2014). Compared to the first item on informative language, the second responses (on persuasive choice) were almost the same. Indonesians EFL students tended to choose agree as their option when the government persuaded them to keep stay at home during the global pandemic. In fact, this kind of language choice was shown a good response from the respondents involved. A total of 221 (56.8%) agreed, 108 (27.8%) strongly agree, 55 (14.14%) moderate (neutral), and 5 (1.29%) disagree. The respondents positively responded to the language choice used by the government were 84.6%, which can be classified higher than informative choice used. Based on the finding, the use of persuasive language contributes much on the effectiveness of government appeals for keeping stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though it is not the highest one, but government may need this option to announce its people for cooperating to stop the spread of disease in Indonesia. In Indonesian context, relevant studies which concerned on the use of persuasive language in various domain also showed the significant results (see Fauzan 2013; Hasanah, 2019; Iswara & Bisena, 2020). As a result, the use of persuasive language in communication is completely necessary in order to bring the interlocutor over the targeted goal.

Imperative Language

Compared to the first item on informative language, the second responses were almost the same. Indonesians EFL students tended to choose agree as their option when the government persuaded them to keep stay at home during the global pandemic. In fact, this kind of language choice was shown a good response from the respondents involved. A total of 221 (56.8%) agreed, 108 (27.8%) strongly agree, 55 (14.14%) moderate (neutral), and 5 (1.29%) disagree. The respondents positively responded to the language choice used by the government were 84.6%, which can be classified higher than informative choice used. Pinem and Nasution (2019) simply claimed imperative as the instruction language realized in various forms which strongly influenced by Sociolinguistics factors. Hence, the use of imperative needs to adjust the addressee's age level, addressor-addressee relationship, situational context, and other factors. Considering the response on the use of imperative language, the government needs seriously to pay attention for, because imperative language might sound superior for the hearer.

Appreciative Language

According to Macpherson (2015) appreciative language is intended to develop positive change of the targeted interlocutor. The language used in appreciative sentence explicitly expresses speaker's feeling of gratitude. Furthermore, Collington and Fook (2016) argued "appreciating language component comprises how to create and keep a positive mind-set of valuing, affirming, and building on strengths of an individual which can be initiated through thanking. Therefore, the sentence commonly uses "thank you" for referring the appreciation towards

someone else. Based on the result of analysis, the use of appreciative language was positively responded by 319 respondents (196 agrees and 123 strongly agrees). It was also negatively responded by only 5 respondents (4 disagrees and 1 strongly disagrees). The data reflected that the use of appreciative language significantly influences the choice of positive response among the respondents. Therefore, the use of appreciative language is considered important in order to lead people for obeying the health protocol of COVID-19 in Indonesian context.

Interrogative Language

Interrogative language simply reflects question form in which question words are used. Webber (1994) claimed that "questions create anticipation, arouse interest, challenge the reader into thinking about the topic of the text, and have a direct appeal in bringing the second person into a kind of dialogue with the writer, which other rhetorical devices do not have to the same extent." Based on the findings, response on interrogative language showed the fewest on positive one. Only 202 respondents chose positive response which 46 chose strongly agree and 156 chose agree. In contrast with the positive response of interrogative language, the negative response displayed the highest choice. A total of 50 respondents showed their denial towards interrogative form by choosing disagree (42 respondents) and strongly disagree (8 respondents). Compared to other option of languages, interrogative form was the lowest in case of the positive response, but the highest in case of negative response. Therefore, the use of interrogative form in leading the Indonesian for obeying health protocol "stay at home" is better omitted. This also informs that the use of interrogative sentence will not significantly influence Indonesian to keep stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suggestive Language

Qazi et al (2014) pointed out that suggestive language was categorized as indirect speech act which functioned to recommend or hint at. The language used commonly contained advice and recommendation for doing or deciding something positively. Based on the result of analysis, the form of suggestive language is responded positively by 301 respondents (218 chose agree and 83 chose strongly disagree). Besides, there were also 16 respondents who chose negative response by clicking disagree option. This means that the use of suggestive language showed very good positive response. It also displays the degree of compliance toward government appeal. Therefore, government needs to use this type of language to involve Indonesians for keeping health protocol of staying at home during COVID-19 pandemic.

Permissive Language

Harrington and Terry (2008) emphasized that "permissive language refers to regulations that allows the language users to make judgment and decision to serve the purpose in performing their role." By using permissive language, people are tolerated to choose available options which provided by the speakers. Hearers are not fully obliged to follow what has been clearly stated in their language. The result of analysis of permissive language showed that respondents chose 277 positive responses, indicating by 197 agrees and 80 strongly agrees. In contrast, the negative response towards the language used has put it in the second position with 26 negative responses (22 disagrees and 4 strongly disagrees). The findings on permissive language clearly suggested that government might not use this type of language choice, because the positive response showed low. It also will be implied to the degree of compliance towards government appeal for stay at home.

Exclamative Language

Collins (2004) stated that exclamative language typically refers to expression to the speaker's affective stance or attitude (sometimes reinforced by an interjection such as Wow, Gee, or Oh). In addition, Tenia & Saripudin (2019) argued that exclamative is realized through with the expression of surprise and even spontaneous speech. Based on the findings, the use of exclamative language in government appeal to ensure Indonesians staying at home showed 283 positive responses (193 agrees and 90 strongly disagrees). While the negative response on the

use of exclamative sentence reached 24 responses (22 disagree and 2 strongly disagree). The number of positive response is still lower than the use of persuasive, inspirative, solutive, and suggestive language. The findings revealed that exclamative is not the best option for the government to announce people for strictly obey the COVID-19 health protocol. Therefore, such kind of the language choice is better disregarded.

Motivative Language

Motivative language can be defined as the use of language which can increase hearer's interest and determination. Motivating language can be functioned to trigger someone for doing better. The use of motivating language is often indicated with the quotes or positive advice which served to convince hearer that she/he can do or achieve something better. The use of motivating language sometimes directly drives someone to achieve better, do the best, and even keep attempt as much as they can. Based on the findings, the positive response on motivating language showed 287 responses (193 agrees and 94 strongly disagrees). While the negative response showed 13 responses (12 disagrees and 1 strongly disagrees). In fact, the use of motivative language showed fewer positive responses than other language choice (persuasive, inspirative, and figurative). This option is basically better to use since it motivates the hearers to be more positive in action.

Solutive Language

In this case, solutive language refers to the use of language to offer alternative solution for the case faced by individual(s). Ideally, solutive language provides a relevant option(s) to cope the problem. Therefore, this type of sentence also tries to convince people for choosing the offer provided by the speaker. For the case, stay at home is intentionally given to convince the people that staying at home is the best choice during the pandemic. The finding has revealed that most of respondents have positively responded. A total of 331 positive responses were identified (209 agrees and 122 strongly disagrees). Interestingly, this option got the fewest negative response from the respondents. A total of 4 negative responses were identified and indicated by disagree option. This signals that the use of solutive language will influence much on respondents compliance to obey the health protocol. Therefore, the use of solutive language considered very important and definitely necessary.

Figurative Language

Abrams & Harpham (2005) pointed out that figurative language is a "diversion from the language that we use in daily life." Figurative language serves for convincing the hearer to imagine what is intended by the speaker by using verbal/written expressions. The quotes might be used dominantly to signal figurative language. As claimed by Fajrin & Parmawati (2021), figurative languages are now commonly used by people to express the actual words meaning. Based on the findings, the respondents gave very good positive response. A total of 329 (221 agrees and 108 strongly agrees) were identified. In contrast, the negative response was also found few. There were only 6 negative responses (4 disagrees and 2 strongly disagrees) were recorded. It reflects that the use of figurative language influences much on respondents' compliance to obey the health protocol. That is why, using this kind of language choice will be the good option.

Inspirative Language

Inspirative language refers to the use of language which aimed at inspiring people to let them think and do more. Inspirative language often involves quotes from well-known person as an example or role model. For the sake of government appeal, inspirative becomes one of the best language choice to deal with. It is intended to motivate and drive people to do what the speaker wanted. The use of ispirative language doesn't directly ask the people to do certain thing, but they were previously provided with an example then explicitly driven to follow the example given. Based on the findings, a total of 341 respondents positively responded to the use of

inspirative language, indicated by 185 agrees and 156 strongly agrees. In contrast, there were only 6 negative responses (4 disagrees and 2 strongly disagrees) were recorded. This means that the use of inspirative language in government appeal for applying COVID-19 health protocol in Indonesian context, particularly stay at home is important. The data also reflect that inspirative language has become the preferred top five language choice among Indonesians.

CONCLUSION

The use of right and accurate languages to drive people for doing something is undeniably necessary. The evidence of the findings has proven that language choice in government appeal for applying health protocol of "stay at home" played important role towards it effectiveness. The findings strongly suggested that the use of inspirative language affects much on the Indonesian EFL students' response to completely obey the "stay at home" health protocol. Further findings also reflects that the use of figurative, solutive, and persuasive language responden better than the other language choice, such as interrogative, imperative, permissive, and exclamative. In contrast, the use of interrogative, imperative, and exclamative showed the highest negative response of the respondents. The Indonesian EFL students' responses clearly represent their compliance towards the health protocol. The speakers may need the findings as the reference for announcing other government appeals which invite people to comply with. Therefore, the language choices which positively responded by the participants need to be continuously used. In contrast, the language choices which negatively responded by the participants need to be changed.

Since this study only focused on investigating the language choice realized in governmental appeals to engage Indonesians in preventing the COVID-19 outbreak by "Stay at home", other related health protocols are widely open to research, such as "work from home" and "study from home." The researchers strongly suggests for further researchers to investigate the aforementioned domain, so that this study will be developed and completed. Furthermore, the findings of present study can be used as the important basis for conducting similar researches in the same context.

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