TONES OF LAST OFFICIAL SPEECH AS FIRST LADY BY MICHELLE OBAMA

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Abstract

This article is an analysis of the last speech script of Michelle Obama as the first lady. This study aims to find out what the tone contained in Michelle Obama's speech, to know the type of tone that is often used by Michelle Obama in her speech, and to investigate the meaning of the tone used. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative and document as the source of the data. In collecting the data, first, the writers searched for a video of Michelle Obama's speech on the internet, then wrote the speech so that it became a transcript of the speech, after that, the writers did an analysis document by looking for the tone (McCarthy, 2006) used in Michelle Obama's speech. The results of the study showed that Michelle Obama uses all kinds of tone in her speech, namely Rise, Rise-fall, Fall, Fall-rise and Level. The dominant tone used by her is the Rise-fall. Tone Fall shows sadness, fall-rise tone show dissapointment, rise tone show happiness, rise-fall tone express hopeness and the last is level tone to show that speaker certain with her statement. It can be concluded that content of her speech is about motivation.

Keywords: *Tones, Speech*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool for interacting and communicating that is useful for delivering thoughts,ideas or feelings. According to Kracht (2007), language are sets of signs. Sign combine an exponent (a sequence of letters or sounds) with a meaning and he added that language is a means to communicate, it is a semiotic system. Kridalaksana (2009) stated that language is a symbol system sounds an arbitrary language that allows people to work together, interact and identify. It can be concluded that language is a sets of symbols that have meaning and have a function to interact. In learning the language, it will not be separate from linguistics.

Linguistics is the study of language (Bloomfield, 1973). Benveniste and Meek (1997) said the linguistics is the difference between semantic and semiotic dimentions in a language. linguistics learns how to analyze forms of langauge, the meaning of language and a language in a particular context. In addition, linguistics can learn how a language delivered by each individual can be different. Sachlos and Auguste (2011) said that linguistic expression is a piece of language with a form, a meaning, and syntactic properties. Kracht (2007) explained that in linguistics there is field that study of sound called phonetics, and then there is field that investigate the sounds of language according to their function called phonology.Nordquist (2019) said phonology is the branch of linguistics concerned with the study of speech sounds with reference to their distribution and patterning. Yule (2010) revealed that phonology is essentially the description of the systems and patterns of speech sounds in a language. Therefore, to know the meaning of the speech it can be known by phonology analysis of the speech.

Brown (2007: 4) as cited in Parmawati (2018) defines speaking as an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving and processing speech of sounds as the main instrument. There is a variation in the pitch of the voice while speaking called tones. Improve by McCarthy (2006) that the word tone is usually applied to those languages (called tone language) in which pitch serves to help distinguish words and grammatical categories. Brazil (1997) in Winnie and Warren (2005) argued that the used of tones it means of exerting dominance and control at certain points in the discourse. In an utterance, there are variations of tones that speakers may use in English. Every variations of the tones that a speaker speaks in English may be fall, rise or level. In this study, the writers analyzed five types of tones they are Fall, Rise-fall, Fall-rise, Rise and Level, it is based on McCarthy (2006).

Variations of tones in a speech can often spread itself out over more than one on syllable or word especially the rise-fall and fall-rise tones. Indeed, it will often be difficult to seperate consecutive occurences of a fall and a rise from a single fall-rise that spreads over several words. Halliday (1967) in McCarthy (2006) said that In actual fact it is not at all easy to isolate tone groups in natural data, especially in rapid, casual speech. Halliday (1985) in McCarthy (2006) is principal among these. For Halliday, tone groups are informational units, the speaker decides how to segment the information to be transmitted and encodes each segment as a separate tone group. However, sometimes the speaker clearly shows the tones in his speech.

Intonation has a grammatical function, that is to say, that there are correct intonations for things such as question, sentence-tag, subordinate clauses and so on. For example, "yes-no" interrogatives end in a rising tone and wh- interrogatives are held to be uttered with a fall. intonation or tone can show a person's expression and emotion as if someone is surprise then the tone becomes a high fall and if someone excitement then the tone becomes rise-fall. Any emotion can be accompanied by any tone. in essence, each tone has its own role in meaning something delivered by someone. Tone makes the language that is spread to be interesting, meaningful and understandable to the listener. If someone speaks in a voice that tends to be flat, it will lead to a misunderstanding (McCarthy, 2006). McCarthy (2006) added that most phonologists are agreed an a broad distinction between tones that end with a falling contour (fall and rise-fall), and tones which end with a rising contour (fall-rise and rise). Fall tone is the pitch of the voice falls at the end of the sentence. This is the most common tone pattern in english. It is commonly found in statements, commands, wh-questions. This tone means someone who want to utter the stress,felling sad, and dissapoint. Fall-rise tone has a function to show that the speaker is not certain of the answer, to show sadness and dissapoint. Rise tone is the pitch of the voice rises at the end of the sentence. Rise tone usually invites the speaker to continue talking. It is normally used with yes/no questions, and question tags that are real questions. This tone means to show hope and happiness. It is same with Rise-fall tone. The last is level tone, it means the speaker gives a statement certainly. It can be concluded that every tone have a different meaning in a speech.

In this study, the writers analyzed the tones in the last official speech of first lady delivered by Michelle Obama. The writers chose that speech because the writers were interested in analyzing the Michelle Obama, and want to know how she delivers the speech. There are three research questions in this research, first, what kind of tone is used by Michelle Obama in his speech,

second, what is the dominant tones used in his speech and the third, and what is the meaning of each tones used by Michelle Obama in his speech.

METHOD

In the study about analysis of tones in the last official speech of first lady delivered by Michelle Obama, the writers used descriptive qualitative method. According to Sugiyono (2005) cited in Apsari (2017), descriptive qualitative is a method used to describe or analyzed the results of the study but not used for make broader conclusions. Futhermore, Ary, et al (2010) stated that descriptive research studies are designed to obtain information concernig the current status of phenomena. This directed toward determining the nature of a situation as it exists at the time of the study. Qualitative method is considered relevant to the present research since involved the data collection for describing existing of tone in Michelle Obama speech.

The qualitative data consists of qualitative audio and visual materials. To collect the data, the instrument used by the writers is document analysis. First of all, the writers downloaded video from Youtube in VOA learning english channel on May 3rd, 2018. The tittle of this video is Michelle Obama : Last Officiial Speech as First Lady. Duration of this video is 5 minutes and 13 seconds. The writers turned the video into a writen script. Then, the writers analyzed the document on the speech script contained in the video and determined the type of tones used by Michelle Obama in his speech. As stated by Creswell (2012) cited in Aryana and Apsari (2017) that analizing qualitative data needs understanding how to make sense of text and image so that you can answer your research question. The writers analyzed the types of tones based on McCharty (2006).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Here is the result of the data :

The writers turned the video of the last official speech of first lady delivered by Michelle Obama into a writen script. From the video with duration 5 minutes and 13 seconds, the writers got 9 lines, 6 sentences and 22 clauses.

Transcript

As I end my time in the white house, I can think of no better message to send to our young people In my last official remark as first lady. So, for all the young people in this room and those who are watching, know that this country belong to you, to all of you from every background and walk of life if you or your parents are imigrants, know that you are part of a proud American tradition the infusion of new cultures, talents and ideas, generation after generation. That has made us the greatest country on earth. If your family does not have much money, I want you to remember that in this country, plenty of folks, Including me and my husband, We started out with very little. But with a lot of hard work and a good education, anything is possible, even becoming president. That is what the American dream is all about.
<div align="right">(Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGeab3CDLek&t=14s)</div>

Then, the transcript was analyzed by using types of tones based on McCarthy (2006) Here is the result.

Table 1. Tones in Michelle Obama's Speech

Tone	Sentences	Meaning
Rise	As I end my time in the white house	Want to continue the statement
Fall-rise	I can think of no better message	Dissapoint
Fall	To send to our young people	Sad
Level	In my last Official remark as first lady	Certain
Rise-fall	So, for all the young people in this room	Hope
Rise	And those who are watching	Hope
Rise	Know that this country belong to you	Hope
Rise-fall	To all of you	Hope
Rise-fall	From every background and walk of life	Hope
Rise-fall	If you or your parents are imigrants	Hope
Rise-fall	Know that you are part of a proud american tradition	Happy
Rise-fall	The infusion of new cultures, talents and ideas	Hope
Rise-fall	Generation after generation	Hope
Rise	That has made us the greatest country on earth	Happy
Fall	If your family does not have much money	Sad
Rise	I want you to remember that in this country	Hope
Rise	Plenty of folks	Happy
Level	Including me and my husband	Happy
Fall-rise	We started out with very little	Dissapoint
Rise	But with a lot of hard work and a good education,anything is possible	Hope
Rise-fall	Even becoming president	Hope
level	That is what the American dream is all about	Certain

From the table above, Michelle Obama used all kind of tone. She used Rise tone 6 times it means the speaker fell happy and hope. Rise-fall is used 9 times, it means hopeness. Fall tone twice, that is means speaker feels sad. Fall-rise tone twice, that is mean the speaker fell dissapoint and tone level 3 times that is mean the speaker ceartain with her statement. The tone that mostly use by the speaker and her speech is Rise fall tone with quantity 9 times, dan the less tone that use by speaker is fall and fall-rise tone with quantity twice.

Discussion

In this study, the writers analyzed the transcripts of Michelle Obama's speech. The writers analyzed whatever tone that is used by Michell obama in his speech. In this discussion would like to answer the research question. The results of the speech transcript analysis state that all types of tones are used by Michell Obama in her speech, namely fall, fall-rise, rise, rise-fall, and level. In his speech, Michelle Obama tends to use the rise-fall tone. Tone shows what expression the speaker felt. Tone Fall shows sadness, fall-rise tone show dissapointment, rise tone show happiness, rise-fall tone express hopeness and the last is level tone to show that speaker certain with her statement. The most tone that is used by the speaker is Rise-fall tone. And the less tone is fall and fall-rise tone. It is related to Brazil (1997) in Cheng and Warren (2005) argued that the used of tones it means of exerting dominance and control at certain points in the discourse. Which is supported by McCarthy (2006) , that people who used rise-fall tone, it means to show hope and happiness.And the content of the speech is to invite and motivate American youth. So, the speaker most express her hopeness.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this research is that there is a variation in the pitch of the voice while speaking called tones. There are five types of tone namely rise, rise-fall, fall, fall-rise and level. The results of this study suggest that Michelle obama uses all types of tones to express something in her speech. Michelle Obama's speech basically contains motivation for young people in America. Michelle Obama is more dominant using the rise-fall tone to express hopeness and happiness.

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