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**AN ANALYSIS OF PHATIC COMMUNION IN THE MOVIE
ENTITLED “*THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS*”**

A PROPOSAL

**Submitted to English Education Department of *Tarbiyah* Faculty
of *Syekh Nurjati* State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Cirebon in partial
fulfillment of the requirement for Research in Language Teaching course
and the Graduate Degree in English Education Department (S.Pd.I)**



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TARBIYAH FACULTY OF SYEKH NURJATI STATE INSTITUTE
FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES
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2012
ABSTRACT**



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AHMAD HAKIM: AN ANALYSIS OF PHATIC COMMUNION IN THE MOVIE ENTITLED “THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS”

Phatic communion, or more commonly known as small talk, is described as conversation for the sake of talking or conversing. This is an informal kind of discourse where the conversation does not focus on a particular functional topic or transaction that needs to be discussed. These utterances are simply but can break the silence even discomfort in conversation. Later the conversation is still continuing and the tension of discomfort gradually disappears.

Phatic communion has four forms; ritual words, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat and meaningless words. Phatic communion has strong relationship with politeness theory because several forms of phatic communion employed to show polite act to the others. Phatic communion also influenced by cultural aspect of language users.

The objective of research is to find out the forms of phatic communion that employed by the characters in the movie and its context of situation when phatic communion is used in the movie of “*The Pursuit of Happiness*”. This research is a library research and the method used is conversation analysis (CA). The technique of collecting data is transcription and data coding, and the data is analyzed by using transcription, identifying, marking up, and the last step is investigated the relationship between cultural or situational of the conversation with language used.

The result of the analysis is there are four forms of phatic communion employed by the characters in the movie entitled “*The Pursuit of Happiness*”, namely ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat and meaningless word or misunderstood words. Again, the use of phatic communion is depend on the own culture.

Phatic communion is important to break the silence between two people and maintain social relationship between two people. The phatic communion functions to establish and maintain the social relationship between people. From all data containing phatic communion, the end of the conversation is good. The relationship between participants is good.



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PREFACE

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds. I thank Allah for His graciousness and His mercy that I can accomplish my thesis entitled “**An Analysis of Phatic Communion in the Movie Entitled ‘The Pursuit of Happiness’.**” *Shalawat and Salam* be always to the prophet Muhammad SAW (peace be upon him), his family, his companions, and his followers.

This thesis is presented to the English Education Department of *Tarbiyah* Faculty of Syekh Nurjati State Institute for Islamic Studies in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Pendidikan Islam (S.Pd.I)*.

There are many people who gave such contribution, support, guidance, and inspiration in writing this thesis. Thus, for the people, the writer would like to express his sincere gratitude:

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6. My parents, my family thanks for giving me prayers, love, support, advice, and everything I need all the time so that I can finish my study in this college.
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The writer realizes that this thesis is not perfect. Therefore, any suggestion given for the sake of improvement in the future will be gladly welcome and appreciated. Expectantly, this thesis will be useful for readers especially for students of English Education Department of Education Faculty of *IAIN Syekh Nurjati Cirebon*.

Cirebon, July 2012

Ahmad Hakim



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. Research Background

Phatic communion is very interesting research subject. Phatic communication, or more commonly known as small talk, is described as conversation for the sake of talking or conversing. This is an informal kind of discourse where the conversation does not focus on a particular functional topic or transaction that needs to be discussed.

Aitchison (1996: 22) in *The Seeds of Speech-Language Origin and Evolution* labeled phatic communion as “*Talking for the Sake of Talking*” in the field of social importance. He classified the form of phatic communion into four forms, those are:

1. Ritual words and gestures are exchanged when people meet
2. Standard topics of conversation
3. Conversational interaction or supportive chat between friends
4. Meaningless words or even misunderstood words

So solidarity when interaction happens is importance in the effort of establishing and maintaining the communication. It can be viewed by the purpose of phatic communion in which create pleasant atmosphere among the speakers and meaning can be understood through seeing the context of situation when chat is happened.



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Because language cannot be understood without seeing the context of situation, it is very important to us knowing the context of situation based on the purpose of communication. Trudgill (1974: 84) states that the same speaker uses the different linguistics varieties in different situation and for different purpose. Language varieties not only base upon the social characteristics of the speaker such as ages, sexes, social classes and so on but also from the social context, so it is with phatic communion. It's inseparable from the context of situation. Therefore the researcher also analyze the context of situation of the dialogues in which employed by the characters on the movie.

Human needs language to communicating information. In communication they try to maintain and establish their communication, but sometimes they create a discomfort or silence in such communication. According to Trudgill (1974: 13) language is not simply as a means of communicating information; it is also very important means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. There are some utterances to maintain this communication. These utterances are simply but can break the silence even discomfort in conversation. Later the conversation is still continuing and the tension of discomfort gradually disappears.

This type of utterance called Phatic Communion. It is for the first time acquainted by an anthropologist, Bronislaw Malinowski. Phatic itself derived the ancient Greek word '*phatos*' and become '*phatic*' in English literature. It is refers to the meaning of spoken. Konrad in Sentf (2007: 227) interprets the



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use of the word communion that used by Malinowski as a means of emphasizing the intensity of the type of the speech.

Phatic communion is generally used refer to utterances that are said to have exclusively social, bonding functions like establishing and maintaining a friendly and harmonious atmosphere in interpersonal relations, especially during the opening and closing stages of social — verbal — encounters. It is generally claimed that phatic communion is characterized by not conveying meaning, by not importing information; thus, phatic utterances are described as procedures without propositional contents. Greeting formulae, comments on the weather, passing enquiries about someone's health, and other small talk topics have been characterized as prototypical examples for phatic communion.

This utterance used to establish or maintain the social conversation rather than communicating the information to others. The example which is used in daily conversation is such greeting: *'Hi!*', *'Hello'*, *'Good Morning'*, *'How are you?'* etc. Those utterances sometimes are not important but they can break silence or create mutual understanding among the speakers.

Since the object of the research is movie, the focus of data collection is conversation analysis. Conversation analysis later called CA is the method of collecting data through analyzing the conversation in the form of transcription. In this research the researcher analyze the forms of phatic communion in which employed by the characters and find out why the characters employ phatic communion in their communication based on the



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context of situation when phatic communion employed. To what extent the affect of phatic communion used in conversation can keep the conversation still going. It is also includes the participants of the dialogue and relationship between the participants.

There are many phatic communion phenomena found in the movie of “*The Pursuit of Happiness*”. This movie also has leadership values that god for the audience, the happiness must be pursued. The movie is inspired by true story of underdog Chris Gardner who fought and struggled to survive hislife. Unlike the other movie in which focus to the entertainment, this movie has many values to the audience how difficult to get happiness.

Phatic utterance usually but not always used when someone meet other then he want to talk about the serious topic, usually begins with phatic utterances such as asking for health, greeting formulae and so on. The researcher chooses this movie because the participants in the movie mostly used phatic phenomena in order to keep the conversation still continue.

The focus of the research is what are the forms of phatic communion that employed by the participants in the movie and how the context of situation affects the used of phatic communion. Therefore the researcher is interested to carry out an analysis of phatic communion of thesis entitled “THE ANALYSIS OF PHATIC COMMUNION ON MOVIE OF THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS”.

1. Identification of Problem



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The identification of the problem is required to give the clarification about the study which is will be investigated. Then, the researcher arranges the identification of the problem referred to the background of the problem above, those are:

1. The Field of Study

The field of study of the research is sociolinguistics.

2. The Kinds of The Problem

This study entitled “AN ANALYSIS OF PHATIC COMMUNION IN THE MOVIE ENTITLED “*THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS*”.

This research focuses on the forms and functions of phatic communion that employed by the characters in the movie, the field of the study is sociolinguistics.

From the title of the thesis and background of problem in which have explained, the researcher finds out and lists several problem to be identified in this study, they are:

1. What forms of phatic communion are used in the movie entitled “*The Pursuit of Happiness*”?
2. What is the context of situation when phatic communion used by the characters?
3. Is phatic communion used for establishing and maintain their communication?



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4. To what extent the use of phatic communion able to break the silence or discomfort when communication happens?

1. The Main problem

The main problem in which will be investigated and analyzed in this research is all the dialogues on movie of *“The Pursuit of Happyness”* that contains phatic communion and its context of situation in the movie.

2. **Limitation of The Problem**

The research focuses on the observation and analysis of phatic communion in the dialogue of *“The Pursuit of Happyness”*. The sources data of the research are all the dialogue that contain phatic communion in this movie and also the context of situation of the movie *“The Pursuit of Happyness”*. It is also supported by the script movie.

3. **Questions of The Research**

Based on the background of the problem that have described.

Therefore the questions of the problem are as follow:

1. What types of phatic communion are employed by the characters in the movie of *“The Pursuit of Happyness”*?
2. How the context situation is affect the use of particular Phatic Communion in the movie of *“The Pursuit of Happyness”*?

1. **The Aims of The Research**



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The aim of the research is the purpose of the study that will obtain regarding the questions of the research. The purposes of the research are:

1. To find out what types of phatic communion employed in the movie of “*The Pursuit of Happiness*”.
2. To understand the context situation affect the use of particular Phatic Communion in the movie of “*The Pursuit of Happiness*”?

1. The Significance of The Research

The research of phatic communion on movie of “*The Pursuit of Happiness*” is expected can give better understanding about phatic communion. Also the research product is expected to enrich the linguistics and literature of Indonesian dealing with the research through analyzing data.

This research product is able to become a concept thinking guide for English teachers, especially speaking skill. They can teach phatic communion to the students, so they are able to practice it correctly and meaningful to create better social relationship among students and teacher.

2. The Review of Related Study

The researcher includes the related study on phatic communion in which has close relationship with this research. A previous research was done by Natalia Dany Prastika (2009) in her thesis entitled *An Analysis of Phatic Communion Employed by the Characters in the Movie Entitled Juno (Based on a Socio-pragmatic Approach)*. It was conducted to describe the form of phatic communion that was employed by the characters in the dialogue and its context situation in the movie of “JUNO”.



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The result of the research shows that there are four forms of phatic communion namely ritual words exchanged when people meet, standard topics of conversation, supportive chats, and meaningless words or misunderstood words. The researcher also revealed the factor why the characters employed phatic communion based on its context of situation, the relationship between the character and domain of language that used.

From the related study on phatic communion above, the researcher put attention on the forms and functions of phatic communion and also the reason why the character in the movie used the form of phatic communion under the theory SPEAKING by Hymes. However the previous study on phatic communion has a different focus from the present. In this research, researcher carries out an analysis of phatic communion in the movie of *“The Pursuit of Happyness”*.

3. Synopsis of the Movie

Based on true story about man named Christopher Gardner. Gardner has invested heavily in a device known as a “Bone Density scanner”. He feels like he has made these device. However, they do not sell as they are marginally better than the current technology at a much higher price. On top of that, one of these does not work. As Gardner tries to figure out on how to fix the faulty one and sell the others, his wife leaves him, he loses his house, his bank account, and credit cards. Forced to live out in the streets with his son, Gardner is now desperate to find a steady job; he takes on a job as stockbroker, but before he can receive pay, he needs to go through 6 months of training, and to sell his device.



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