

A Study of Eii Kyar Kway's Satirical Writing Style in the book of Collected articles "My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive" from Semantic Aspect

Ei Ei Phyo¹

Abstract

In this paper, articles from the book "My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive" (Ngote Tote Htin Shar Yay Phaw Myar), written by the author Eii Kyar Kway, were used as the materials to study. The creations of satire from the author's articles were analyzed using functions of language from the book "Introduction to Semantics" written by author Dr. Khin Aye (2008). Functions of language were studied especially for verbal context and context of situation. It was found out that descriptive and aesthetic functions were mainly used in these articles. From this study, it was discovered that sentence-level was mostly created rather than word-level and phrase-level in creation of satires. The purpose of this study is to benefit those who are enthusiastic in creating and studying satires.

Key Words - Semantics, functions of language, informational function, expressive function, directive function, phatic function, aesthetic function.

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to assist language learners to know functions of language. It tried to analyze how the functions of language were used in the book "My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive", written by author Eii Kyar Kway (in 2004). This study was done to find out whether all five functions of language were used or not. It was done in descriptive research design in the field of Semantics. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used. Semantic classification of Myanmar proverbs in research journal no. (1), Department of Myanmar, Mandalay University, and Myanmar proverbs and aesthetic function from "Literary Beauty and Linguistic Beauty" (Sarpay Ahla, Bharthar Ahla) by Dr. Nu Nu Kyi, published in 2018 were studied. This paper studied functions of language in the field of Semantics. In this paper, author Eii Kyar Kway's satirical styles were collected by using linguistic links. After collecting the data, they were analysed according to functions of language. Therefore, the paper was assumed to be useful for satirical enthusiasts who want to write and speak satirically.

Aim

The purpose of this paper was to study the functions of language from the book "My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive", written by author Eii Kyar Kway, focusing on the satirical function.

Research Question

- (1) How are the satires mostly created in the articles "My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive".
- (2) Which functions of language are used in creating satires in these articles?

Literature Review

Semantics, "Semantic Classification of Myanmar Proverbs" in research journal no. (1), Department of Myanmar, Mandalay University, studied by Dr. Min Min Than¹ in the field of Semantics, and "Myanmar proverbs and Aesthetic Function" from "Literary Beauty and

¹ Daw, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Myanmar, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages

Linguistic Beauty ” (Sarpay Ahla, Bharthar Ahla) by Dr. Nu Nu Kyi, published in 2018 were studied literature review. This paper studied satires the found of the writing style of satires by means of functions of language and classification according to types of speech functions mentioned in the book “Introduction to Semantics” by Dr. Khin Aye’s.

The Meaning of Semantics

Semantics is a branch of linguistics. Semantics is the study of meanings. It is the study of meanings of parts of speech, such as lexemes, words, phrases, clauses and sentences.²

Functions of Language

Language is used as the basis of communication in interacting, writing and reading. There are five linguistic functions.³

1. Informational Function

Informational function is the most widely used function. It is found that the function of conveying information in communication, speaking and writing in everyday life, is the most commonly used.⁴

2. Expressive Function

Expressive function is related to expression of the speakers’ or writers’ feelings and attitudes.⁵

3. Directive Function

Directive function is related to directing listeners or readers by speakers or writers. Directive function includes commanding, directing, notifying, requesting, apologizing, etc.⁶

4. Phatic Function

Phatic function is related to the use of opening a communicative channel among speakers and listeners. Greetings when people meet such as “Are you in a good health?”, “Have you had your meal?”, “Where did you come back from?” do not literally mean to inquire as in their greetings. By opening the communicative channel between speakers and listeners, it smooths relationships more.⁷

5. Aesthetic Function

Aesthetic function is related to the aesthetic use of spoken and written language to make it beautiful.⁸

Meaning and Link

In communication by spoken or written language, there are different uses of linguistic functions. Such differences were pointed out in terms of two links: (1) Verbal context, and (2) context of situation.

(1) Verbal context

Verbal context covers not only the surrounding words of a word, but also the whole paragraph, and even the whole book.⁹

² Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 1;

³ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 46;

⁴ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 47;

⁵ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 48;

⁶ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 49;

⁷ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 51;

⁸ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 52;

⁹ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 102;

(2) Context of situation

Context of situation is the vocabulary which originated from the research works of Malinowski, an anthropologist and Firth, a linguist. Context of situation covers the language speakers' whole cultural background.¹⁰

Methodology

The book "My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive", written by author Eii Kyar Kway, was used as the material. Linguistic functions from Semantics were studied by verbal context and context of situation. The paper is written in descriptive research design using mixed method of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. In this paper, functions of language from the book, "Introduction to Semantics" written by Dr. Khin Aye's published in 2008 were used as the theory for analysis. The satires from "My Fellow writers Who are Still Alive" were used as materials. Definitions used in this paper were from Myanmar Dictionary published in 2008.

Data Analysis

*"Literary talks suit such air-conditioners which are full of air like Guru Kway."*¹¹

The satirical style using the English word, "air-conditioners" was used to express how author Min Lu was nonchalant and how author Eii Kyar Kway was full of air like an air-conditioner blew out the air. Therefore, this satirical style described how the author was talkative (full of air), to the readers, and thus informational function was found while the author evaluated himself as a person full of air by his own opinion, and thus descriptive function was found.

*"Aww... that Mg Saw Chit ooderstund (tha-bout-paw) understood (tha-baw-pout)!"*¹²

The satirical style using the anagram "ooderstund (tha-bout-paw) understood (tha-baw-pout)" was used in relation to author Lae Twin Thar Saw Chit. Sentence-level satire was also found when. Author Lae Twin Thar Saw Chit was firstly intimidated by author Ei Kyar Kway because of their fellow writers' playful warnings. Later, familiarizing with author Eii Kyar Kway after going to a literary talk, he understood about author Eii Kyar Kway. Sentence-level satire was used to describe about it. This satirical style was used to delight in the writing, thus aesthetic function was found.

*"Who's that lassie? It could've convinced me she's dancing by her shaking head and waving hands. She seems talkative too. The lassie a mynah must call 'elder sister'!"*¹³

The satirical style with a metaphor "The lassie a mynah must call 'elder sister'!" was used in relation to author Tekkatho Kyu Kyu Thin's actions. The actions author Tekkatho Kyu Kyu Thin made while she was meeting author Daung Nwe Swe was satirized. For the reason that this satirical style expressed the way she acted and spoke, informational function was found. As it expressed the author's only opinion, expressive function was found. To made the readers enjoy, reading the article aesthetic function was also used.

*"New obscure penmen, like Min Thien Kha, are being bitten by mosquitoes in the corner."*¹⁴

¹⁰ Khin Aye, Dr., 2008, 107;

¹¹ Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 30;

¹² Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 59;

¹³ Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 76;

¹⁴ Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 118;

The satirical style with the implication “*being bitten by mosquitoes in the corner*” was used in relation to author Min Thien Kha’s unsold novel *Manucārī*. Sentence-level satire was found in it. This satirical style expressed the unsold books to the readers, thus informational function was found. To express the author’s emotions, expressive function was used here. As it made the readers enjoy, reading it can be said to have aesthetic function.

“*Manucārī has failed_ not only drubbing (khwat-khwat-lan), but also done-in (pat-lat-lan). Not only slash, but also 10 stitches at hospital.*”¹⁵

The rhyming satire, “*drubbing (khwat-khwat-lan), but also done-in (pat-lat-lan)*”, and the satire of the wordplay, “*Not only slash, but also 10 stitches at hospital*” were used in relation to author Min Thien Kha’s unsold books. For those satirical styles were used to inform about the unsold books, informational function was used. As it was the author’s only opinion, it can be regarded as expressive function. As it make the readers enjoy reading it can be said to have, aesthetic function.

“*Your strength is ...,well, only your name is Big Strength (Bala Gyi)... Look at you! Skinny. Like an upright dried garfish!*”¹⁶

The satirical style with the simile, “*like an upright dried garfish!*” was used to express author Thu Maung’s tall slim body structure. Sentence-level satire was found in this expression. These satirical styles were used to inform about author Thu Maung’s appearance, informational function was used. As it was the author’s opinion only, expressive function was used. To express the author’s emotions, making the readers enjoy, it can be said to have aesthetic function.

“*Your Majesty, please rise from slumber on the backseat of the car!*”¹⁷

The satirical style with the royal language, “*your Majesty, please write*” was used in order to wake up author Thu Maung who was sleeping in the backseat of the car while he was traveling to a literary talk with the author. Sentence-level satire was used in it. As it instructed to wake up, directional function was found.

“*Hey man, Ko Htay Myaing! How do you do? Is your ‘do’ (knee) still fine?*”¹⁸

Do (n) = knee; the joint where thigh and calf connect¹⁹

The satirical style with homophones, “*How do you do? Is your ‘do’ (knee) still fine?*” was used while greeting author Dagon Tar Yar. It was sentence-level satire. This satirical style asked what author Dagon Tar Yar was doing, thus phatic function was found. As the English word “do” from “How do you do?” and Myanmar word “do (knee)” were homophonously satirized, therefore it can be said to have aesthetic function.

Findings

In the book “*My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive*” (Ngote Tote Htin Shar Yay Phaw Myar), written by author Eii Kyar Kway, it was found that linguistic links were mostly used. In creation of satires, it was found that sentence-level satires were mostly used. In this study of the author’s as it studied satirical style, aesthetic function was most frequently used. As it was written about personal information, descriptive function was second-most frequently used. As it introduced the authors’ related information, informational function was third-most frequently

¹⁵ Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 118;

¹⁶ Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 157;

¹⁷ Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 167;

¹⁸ Eii Kyar Kway, 2004, 213;

¹⁹ Myanmar Dictionary, 2008, 178;

used. As they are the articles describing about the authors, who are his friends, phatic function was fourth-most frequently used function. When author Eii Kyar Kway directed his friends in literary affairs, and when he alerted younger authors, who were his friends, directional function was used. Therefore, in the book “My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive” (Ngote Tote Htin Shar Yay Phaw Myar), written by author Eii Kyar Kway, all five functions of language were used.

Discussion

This paper studied the articles from the book “My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive” (Ngote Tote Htin Shar Yay Phaw Myar), written by author Eii Kyar Kway, from Semantic point of view. As he described the articles with satirical styles, aesthetic function was used 117 times. As he satirized friends’ information with his own opinions, descriptive function was used 87 times. As he reported about his friends to the readers, informational function was used 48 times. As he socialized with his friends, phatic function was used 9 times. When he directed authors, who were his friends, directive function was used 3 times. Therefore, by studying author Eii Kyar Kway’s satirical style, it was found that all five functions of language were used.

Evaluation

In the study of the satirical styles from the book “My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive” (Ngote Tote Htin Shar Yay Phaw Myar), written by author Eii Kyar Kway, links were mostly used. In the satirical styles, word-level, phrase-level and up to sentence-level, it has been satirized with strong links, it makes the readers more delightful than other satires do. In the satirical styles, more than one function were used simultaneously, it can be concluded that they were better satirical styles. Therefore, it could be assumed that it would benefit satirical enthusiasts who want to study and write satires.

Conclusion

This paper studied the use of satirical styles used by the author “My Fellow Writers Who are Still Alive” according to the functions of language from Semantics. The satirical styles were studied by using descriptive research design and mixed method of qualitative and quantitative methods. Those satirical styles can also be studied from Sociolinguistic, and Pragmatic point of views.

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