

Types of Figurative Speech in Biak

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ABSTRAK

Kata kunci:

Jenis, Bahasa Figuratif,
Biak.

Bahasa suku Biak merupakan salah satu bahasa daerah yang dituturkan di Papua yang dikategorikan sebagai anggota filum Austronesia dan subfilum Teluk Geelvink. Penutur bahasa ini berjumlah sekitar 40.000 orang. Penutur ini tinggal di pulau Biak, Numfor, sejumlah pulau di sebelah timur dan barat Kepala Burung, di Manokwari dan di bagian utara Kepala Burung termasuk Pulau Mapia. Ada enam dialek di Biak yaitu, Var Risen, Var Swandiwe, Var Awer, Var Swandivru, Var Dore dan Var Eramber. Metode yang digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data adalah metode kualitatif dengan menerapkan pendekatan deskriptif untuk mendeskripsikan data dari instrumen dengan wawancara. Makalah ini membahas jenis-jenis tuturan kiasan dalam bahasa Biak yang terkait dengan makna tidak langsung. Penggunaan kiasan dalam masyarakat Biak bertujuan untuk melembutkan pesan yang disampaikan oleh penutur secara tidak langsung dalam arti dengan menggunakan ungkapan konotatif. Metode deskriptif digunakan dalam mendeskripsikan dan menganalisis data. Teknik sederhana dalam menganalisis data adalah sebagai berikut: (1) menyediakan transkripsi Biak, (2) membuat gloss bahasa Inggris, (3) melakukan penerjemahan bebas dan (4) menyediakan makna konotatif dari setiap ucapan kiasan. Dari sudut pandang pembahasan, ada sebelas jenis kiasan yang ditemukan di Biak seperti simile, hiperbola, personifikasi, eufemisme, sinekdoke, metonimi, litotes, ironi, metafora, sarkasme dan perumpamaan.

ABSTRACT

Keywords:

Types, Figurative
Speech, Biak.

Biak tribal language is one of the vernaculars spoken in Papua which is categorized as a member of Austronesian phylum and Geelvink bay sub phylum. The speakers of this language are approximately 40.000 people. These people are on islands of Biak, Numfor, numerous islands east and west of Bird's head, in Manokwari and in northern Bird's head including Mapia island. There are six dialects in Biak namely, Var Risen, Var Swandiwe, Var Awer, Var Swandivru, Var Dore and Var Eramber. The method used to collect the data is qualitative method by applying descriptive approach to describe the data from the instruments by interviewing. This paper discusses types of figurative speech in Biak related to indirect meanings. The use of figures of speech in Biak society aims to soften the messages conveyed by a speaker indirectly in meaning by using connotative expressions. Descriptive method was used in describing and analyzing the data. The simple techniques in analyzing the data were as follow: (1) provide Biak transcriptions, (2) do English gloss, (3) do free translation and (4) provide the connotative meanings of each figurative speech. From discussion point of view, there are eleven types of figures of speech found in Biak such as similes, hyperbole, personification, euphemisms, synecdoche, methonymy, litotes, irony, metaphor, sarcasm and parable.

INTRODUCTION



Biak tribal language is one of the vernaculars spoken in Papua. This language is categorized as Austronesian language (Grimes, 1998). The spreading of Biak is wider than other vernaculars in Papua. It is spoken by approximately forty thousand (40.000) native speakers, quite a few thousands second users (Gordon, 2005). It is located on islands of Biak, Numfor, numerous islands east and west of Bird's head, in Manokwari and in northern Bird's head including Mapia islands.

Wurm and Hattori (1982) classify the language as a member of Geelvink Bay sub family. Moreover, Gordon (2005) groups this language as a member of Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, South Halmahera-West New Guinea, New Guinea, and Cenderawasih Bay. It is found in Biak Numfor regency covering East Yapen, Biak town, West Biak, North Biak, West and East Numfor, South and North Supiori (Silzer, 1991: 42-43, Grimes, 1988). Fautngil, et al. assert the following are dialects of Biak: Var Risen, Var Swandiwe, Var Awer, Var Swandivru, Var Dore, and Var Eramber. These dialects have sub dialects(variants) such as Korem, Soor, Arwam, Dwar, Manwor, North Supiori, Sopen, Supiori, Sorndiwari, Bosnik-Opiaref, Padaido, Swapodibo, Sorido, Samber, Numfor, Dore, Vyak Amber bondi, and Vyak Amber vondum (1988: 22).

Concerning the orthography of Biak, this language has been transcribed in the forms of Scriptures in New Testament (1990) and folk songs (songger be rok /sound of flute) Kapissa (1975). Regarding library research reports such as social situation, culture, language and religion in Biak Numfor, these documents had been written by Blust (1978, cited in Fautngil, 1992), Wurm and Hattori (1982) and Voorhoeve (1971). The grammar of Sorndiwari sub dialect (variant) was studied by Steinhauer (1985), while Fautngil, et. al. researched on Phonology (1998), Morphology (1991) and Syntax of Biak (1992).

These previous studies have discussed Biak language's aspects in terms of linguistic point of view but figurative speech in literature perspective has not been discussed yet therefore, I would like to discuss Biak's figurative speech.

The purpose of this paper is to describe and identify types of figurative speech based on indirect meaning in Biak. The writer tries to contribute this short paper to both literature and linguistic fields by analyzing and describing types of figurative speech based on indirect meaning in Biak vernacular as one of Papuan languages. It is also an effort to do documentation as well as inventorying this language. This is also useful for an applied linguistic field, i.e. teaching this language to students in Biak, Numfor and their surroundings.

METHOD

This study applies qualitative method and employs the descriptive approach to describe the collected data. The data collected by using interview technique as an instrument to collect the data from the informants. In describing and identifying sentences in order to categorize indirect meaning figures of speech in Biak, the writer used four steps of descriptive method (Nida, 1949). These simple steps are: (1) provide Biak transcriptions, (2) do English gloss, (3) do free translation of the Biak transcriptions, and (4) provide connotative meanings of each expression in every figurative speech.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The types of figurative speech based on indirect meaning found in Biak are as follows:

Similes

The word 'simile' means 'similar'. If in English the words 'like' or 'as' are used for comparison, Biak also has the words 'rya/o' and 'imnis/ra' for 'like' and 'as' in order to compare two things. Here are the simile sentences in Biak:

1. Biak : I-frarde – ryao- rusa- ifrar-i
English gloss : He/she –runs- as –deer- runs-it (3 thing sing. pronoun).
Free translation : He runs like a deer
Meaning : this person is running faster like a deer.
2. Biak : Rosita-i-imbran –imnis –kmar-i
English gloss : Rosita-3 person. sing. marker-walk-like-father-3 person sing. marker
Free translation : Rosita walks like her father
Meaning : The way of Rosita walks is similar to her father's
3. Biak : Bastian –i- danggar kar – imnis- Abunawas-i
English gloss : Bastian-3 person marker- lies- like – Abunawas-3 person marker
Free translation : Bastian is a liar like Abunawas
Meaning : The way Bastian lying people is like Abunawas
4. Biak : Inoi –ine –isar- bese-imnisra- silet
English gloss : knife-this-sharp-very-like-a razor
Free translation : This knife is very sharp like a razor
Meaning : The sharpen of the knife is similar to a razor.

Metaphor

In English we can use metaphor in which the meaning is not clearly stated. In Biak the same phenomena is also used. Here are the expressions in Biak:

5. Biak : Snonbor-syama-samambrab-ero-mnu-ine
English gloss : youths-they (plural marker)-strong-in-village-this
Free translation : The youths are the power of this village
Meaning : The power of this village lays on the shoulder of the youths
6. Biak : Snon-iyame-wonggor –beba riri
English gloss : man-that-crocodile-big
Free translation : That man is a big crocodile.
Meaning : That man is a big woman chaser.

Personification

A figure of speech in which non human things are treated as if they are human. This type is also found in Biak's society. Here are the metaphors in Biak:

7. Biak : Manseren-mggarem-byedi- dor- ko –be-rumari
English gloss : God-voice-His (possessive marker)-calls-us-to church
Free translation : God's voice calls us to go to church
Meaning : The church's bell is symbolized as the Voice of God that remains Christian to go to church every Sunday.
8. Biak : Risen-bebaya- myun-mnu-Korem-i
English gloss : wave-big-kill-village-Korem-it (3 thing singular)
Free translation : The big wave kills Korem village
Meaning : The big wave ruins the houses and the people also die because of its strong currents.
9. Biak : Wamdober-ifnao-rum-bero-yen-andirna
English gloss : typhoon-plays-house- in-beach-bank areas
Free translation : The typhoon plays houses in the beach areas
Meaning : The typhoon ruins and damages all houses in the beach areas.

Hyperbole (Overstatement)

Biak people often use this type to say statements containing exaggeration. Here are the sentences in hyperbole:

10. Biak : Ya-msor-kwar-erobo-ya-mun-au
English gloss : I-angry –already-a little bit-I-punch-you
Free translation : I got angry already. In a short time, I will punch you
Meaning : I can not control my emotion. In a short time, I will punch you. In fact he will not punch that person, only his words!
11. Biak : Aya-kada- ya-frur –ronayafakame-mbe jadi
English gloss : I-only-1person singular-do-everything-happen
Free translation : I can do everything, no one is like me
The meaning : This person, in his mind, claims that he could do everything. In fact if he is given an easy work he could not do it at all. He only shows arrogant of himself.
12. Biak : I-mande-rya-swan-ido-pyau- kasem -beba-si
English gloss : He-just/only-go-fishing-if-catch-shark-big-plural marker
Free translation : He can catch big fish like shark in the sea, no one can like him
The meaning : This person goes fishing he could catch a big fish but in fact this expression is given to him that he could catch a small fish in the sea. This expression is contradiction with the real facts.

Synecdoche

A figure of speech that uses the whole is replaced by the part or vice versa. This type is also used by Biak society.

13. Biak : Roma-Amban-syama-saninem-swan-dao (totum proparte)
English gloss : Boys-Amban-plural marker-drink-alcoholic-very
Free translation : Boys from Amban like to drink alcoholic drinking.
Meaning : This expression is given to label all boys that their behaviors are the same; in fact only one boy likes to consume alcohol.
14. Biak : Boor-oser byako-syaran-ririm (pars prototo)
English gloss : head-one-pay-thousand-five
Free translation : One head pays five thousand rupiahs
Meaning : Every person is charged for five thousand rupiahs

Euphemism

It is usually used in order to make language is more polite or to soften the message from the language. This expression is also found in Biak society. Here are the sentences:

15. Biak : Bastian-i-bur-do-paik-inseri-aniwara
English gloss : Bastian-3 person sing. marker-go-in-month-december-ago
Free translation : Bastian died last December
Meaning : Bastian passed away last December
16. Biak : Marthina-kyainkuker-do-robandi
English gloss : Marthina-sit-on-last night
Free translation : Marthina sat last night
Meaning : Marthina delivered a baby last night
17. Biak : Abraya-isjob-Robert-i-ro-wemin-byedi
English gloss : rope-pull-Robert-he (3 person sing. marker)-in-foot- his
Free translation : a rope pulls Robert on his foot
Meaning : A snake bites Robert on his foot
18. Biak : Dolina-dors-paek-ebe-kyor
English gloss : Dolina-stand-month-ordinal number marker-three
Free translation : Dolina stands for three months
Meaning : Dolina is in the third month of her pregnancy.

Irony

It is usually used by the speaker or writer to say the very opposite of what he intends to convey. In Biak society this type is commonly used. The following are the expressions of Irony in Biak:

19. Biak : Snon-iyā –sbari-iba-monda
English gloss : man-that-mouth-big-only
Free translation : That man has a big mouth

- Meaning : That man is big mouth. He can not do anything but he just talks only but there is no action.
20. Biak : Roma-ine-imyaren-dao
English gloss : boy-this-diligent-very
Free translation : This boy is very diligent!
Meaning : This expression is used to ridicule the laziest boy.

Litotes

This type of speech is also found in Biak community. The expressions of litotes in Biak are:

21. Biak : Wa-biser- ido- wra-yob-ya-ro- abdares- yedi
English gloss : you-hungry-if-go-visit-I-in-shelter-my (possessive)
Free translation : if you are hungry, you may visit me in my shelter
Meaning : If you are hungry, you may come and see me in my house.
22. Biak : Rwama-waso-aya-ro-waimos –aye dine
English gloss : come-follow-me-in-boat old-my (possessive marker)
Free translation : go with me in my old boat (car, motorcycle, etc)
Meaning : You can go with me in my car. The car is comfortable but the owner uses this expression (waimos) to show his/her humbleness.

Parable

This figure of speech is also found in Biak. The use of parable expression in Biak is shown below:

23. Biak : Wa-mnis-awer-manyouri-rya-raro-koreri-babesya-dap-koreri
English gloss : you-like-do not-parrot bird-go-in-heaven-but-say-heaven.
Free translation : Do not be like a parrot bird. He never goes to heaven but he says that he has ever been there.
Meaning : If you knew nothing, did not talk too much. Please be silent!
24. Biak : Man-o-irob-ro-diyawwara-worimfres-fani, wai-o-byores–ro-dibunwara-worimbres-fani
English gloss : bird-any –fly-in-above-you – call-feed-it, canoe-any-paddle-in/at-off shore-you-call-it –you-feed -it
Free translation : If any birds are flying above the sky you call them and feed them. If any boats are sailing off-shore you call them and provide them some food.
Meaning : Show your kindness to everybody. This expression is addressed to new married couple that builds a new and good family through your kindness to everybody.

Metonymy

This type is used by Biak society to describe something indirectly by referring to things around it, such as describing someone's clothing in order to characterize the individual. The metonymy expression in Biak is:

25. Biak : Y-an-fas-ben/pirin-oser-d-an-fas-ben/pirin-risuru
English gloss : I-eat-rice-plate-one-he-eat-rice-plate-two
Free translation : I have a plate of rice, but he has two plates of rice
Meaning : The man who has two plates of rice is greedy.

Sarcasm

This figure is also used by Biak society to express the apparent praise conceals another meaning. Here is the expression:

26. Biak : Wa –sambern-dari- rwa-ma –beri-nggo-fasosfa- nggobur
English gloss : You (2 singular marker)-quick-so- you-arrive- just-we-ready-go home
Free translation : You are so quick, so when you arrive we are ready to dismiss
Meaning : This expression is used to ridicule someone coming late for a meeting. So when he arrives, the meeting has dismissed.
27. Biak : Enem-bedi-ifrur-mamyai-aya-rao
English gloss : behavior-your-make-shy-I-very
Free translation : Your behaviors make me shy
Meaning : I am embarrassed because of your bad behaviors

CONCLUSION

In accordance with these types, Biak's figures of speech also can be categorized into three types of figure of speech related to their usage such as figures of speech based on comparison for instance, metaphors, personifications and parables, figures of speech based on contradictory such as irony, hyperbole, and litotes and figures of speech based on relationship such as metonymy, synecdoche, euphemism, and pleonasm. From the previous discussion, I can conclude that Biak has eleven figures of speech regarding indirect meaning. Those types are similes, metonymy, euphemisms, personification, hyperbole, irony, metonymy, litotes, synecdoche, metaphor and sarcasm.

Papua is known as the world's language and culture laboratory, but there are still many linguistic and literary objects in this region that have not been explored in depth by experts. Therefore, studies on Papuan languages need to be carried out both from the fields of linguistics and literature, considering the richness of the regional languages it has. Even small aspects in the field of literature have great potential to encourage other linguists to be interested in conducting further research, not only on this language, but also on the languages of other tribes in Papua.

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