

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES USED BY BILINGUAL CHILDREN OF INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE FAMILY (A CASE STUDY)

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan strategi komunikasi yang digunakan oleh anak-anak dwi bahasa dari keluarga pernikahan campuran dalam melakukan interaksi dengan keluarga mereka di desa Singapadu, Kecamatan Sukawati, Kabupaten Gianyar, Provinsi Bali. Subyek penelitian ini adalah dua anak dwi bahasa dari keluarga pernikahan campuran. Penyelidikan difokuskan pada jenis strategi komunikasi yang mereka gunakan dalam melakukan interaksi dengan keluarga mereka, strategi komunikasi yang paling sering mereka terapkan ketika mereka melakukan interaksi, dan alasan mereka dalam menggunakan strategi komunikasi. Penelitian ini merupakan studi kasus yang dikombinasikan dengan analisis kualitatif dan kuantitatif di mana teknik triangulasi digunakan. Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa anak-anak dwi bahasa menggunakan tujuh strategi komunikasi yang meliputi: topic avoidance, approximation, circumlocution, clarification request, paralanguage, menggunakan gambar atau objek untuk membantu menyampaikan pesan, dan berbicara perlahan. Strategi komunikasi yang paling sering digunakan oleh anak-anak bilingual adalah paralanguage. Ada tiga alasan utama mereka menggunakan strategi komunikasi, yang pertama adalah untuk membuat keluarga mereka mengerti apa yang ingin mereka sampaikan, kedua karena strategi komunikasi mudah dan alami, dan alasan terakhir karena strategi cepat untuk digunakan.

Kata kunci: Strategi komunikasi, anak-anak dari keluarga pernikahan campuran

Abstract

This study aimed at describing the communication strategies used by bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family at Singapadu village, Sukawati district, Gianyar regency, Bali province. The subjects of this study were two bilingual children of interracial marriage family. The investigation focused on the types of communication strategies that they used in doing interaction with their family, the most frequently communication strategy that they applied when they were doing the interaction, and their reasons in using the communication strategies. This research was a case study which combined qualitative and quantitative analysis in which a triangulation technique was used. The results of the data analysis show that the bilingual children used seven communication strategies which included: topic avoidance, approximation, circumlocution, clarification request, paralanguage, using pictures or objects to help conveying message, and speaking slowly. The most frequently used communication strategy used by the bilingual children was paralanguage. There were three main reasons that they stated in using the strategies, the first to make the family understand of what they expected, the second because the strategies were easy and natural, and the last reason because the strategies were quick to be used.

Keywords: Communication strategies, children of interracial marriage family

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays interaction is not merely an activity which is done by people to build good relationships, but an interaction can

be used as a means to connect every mind which is involved in an interaction. In daily life every human in every chance always does an interaction each other to fulfill human's role. When some people do

an interaction, there will be a message which is delivered and accepted. In sharing information in an interaction, people use language as a tool of communication to deliver their own opinion.

An interaction happens in every life setting, one of them is in family, including in an interracial marriage family. Interracial marriage family or also known as mixed marriage family is a family in which parents have different nationalities. According to Lanzieri (2012) interracial marriages are defined as those in which one partner is native-born and the other is born abroad. People who involve in an interracial marriage family can be considered as people who have different races, nationalities, and languages.

The difference of languages which are brought by the parents will produce bilingual children. According to Oxford's dictionary bilingual is defined as "able to speak two languages equally well". It can be said that bilingual children or bilingual speakers are people who are able to speak a language fluently but also can produce a meaningfully complete utterances of another language. When an interracial marriage family which consists of a Canadian father and an Indonesian mother has children, of course their children are going to interact to both of the parents' families.

Bali as one of the tourism objects in Indonesia indirectly makes many possibilities of the occurrence of many interracial marriage families. Nowadays, there are many interracial marriage families in Bali, one of them stay at Singapadu village, Sukawati sub district, Gianyar regency. This interracial marriage family used both English and Indonesian language in doing interaction.

There were some studies which were also conducted under the topic of communication strategies. The first was study entitled "Communication Strategies in Short Text Messages" which was conducted by Paragae (2011) where this study was conducted in Ganesha University of Education which involved

students of English Education in the academic year of 2010/2011. In this study, found that the effectiveness of the communication strategies supports the effectiveness of the communication. There was the difference found between the messages sent by people with different power. Powerful senders send shorter and briefer messages and do not use creative or unique communication strategies. And the study second was "Communication Strategies Used by Local Guides in Ceking Tourism Object" which was conducted by Sucipto (2012). In this study, the researcher found that there were nine communication strategies used by the local guides in Ceking tourism object. There were three main reasons which were stated by the local guides found. The reasons were to run the communication well, to give clear and correct information, and to emphasize the utterances.

The result of the observation mentioned above gave an idea to investigate the way how they communicate. It is caused of the bilingual children of interracial marriage family in Singapadu village frequently communicate with the mother's family members who mostly use Indonesian language. After the researcher doing an observation, the researcher found that the children used two communication strategies those were non verbal strategies and using pictures or objects. In relation to definition of communication strategies, Littlewood (1984) states that communication strategy is verbal and non-verbal strategy used by the speaker to make the communication run effectively. For sake of this study, communication strategy is defined as verbal and non-verbal strategies used by bilingual children of interracial marriage family (the children under 12 years old) in doing interaction with their family. The communication strategies which are going to be observed are communication strategies which include: topic avoidance, approximation, circumlocution, language switching, paralinguistic, comprehension check, clarification request, using picture or objects to help conveying message, and

speaking slowly (Littlewood, 1984; Tarone, Cohen and Dumas, 1980; Tarone, 1980; Bilaystok; 1990; Dorney, 1995; Pierson (see also Marsakawati 2006 and Mardika 2011). Therefore, the researcher intends to know more strategies especially communication strategies used by bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family because the researcher interested in finding more strategies used by the bilingual children.

The objectives of this study are to find out the type of the communication strategies used by the bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family and the find out the reasons of why the bilingual children applied the communication strategies.

METHODS

This study was a case study involving qualitative and quantitative analysis. According to Yin (2003) case study is used to describe an intervention or phenomenon and the real-life context in which it occurred. Moreover Yin (2009) in his book entitled "Case Study Research" states that case study is used in many situations, to contribute to our knowledge of individual, group, organizational, social, political, and related phenomenon. Quantitative analysis was used to find out the communication strategy which most frequently used by bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family. Further, qualitative analysis was used to find out types of communication strategies used by bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family.

The study was conducted at Singapadu village, Sukawati sub district, Gianyar regency. The subjects in this study were two bilingual children of interracial marriage family. The bilingual children were divided into BC1 as bilingual children 1 and BC2 as bilingual children 2.

The research procedures can be stated as follows: (1) observing the bilingual children in doing interaction with

their family, (2) transcribing the observation data into written form. All of the data which were gained from observation were transcribed into written form in order to enable the researcher to analyze the data in form of utterances. According to Hurford and Haesly (1984) (see also Mardika, 2011), an utterance could be a word, a phrase, a fragment of sentence, a full sentence, or sentences, (3) analyzing, classifying and calculating the data. The utterances were classified into types of communication strategies proposed by various experts, namely Topic Avoidance, Approximation, Circumlocution, Language switching, Paralanguage (non verbal), Comprehension check, Clarification request, Using pictures or objects to help conveying message, and Speaking slowly. And then the data were calculated in order to know the most frequently communication strategy used by the bilingual children. The strategy which was considered to get the highest number of occurrence was decided as the most frequently strategy, (4) interviewing the bilingual children to find out the reasons of why they applied communication strategies. (5) transcribing the result of interview, (6) analyzing the bilingual children reasons, (7) using triangulation to get the valid and reliable data. Triangulation is the technique was used by the researcher in obtaining more valid and reliable data. Denzin (1978) as cited in Bryman (2000) states triangulation is a method of cross-checking data from multiple sources to search for regularities in the researcher data.

There were some instruments used in this study, they were: (1) human instrument, human instrument in this study was the writer himself since the researcher acted as participant observer during the process of collecting the data. Human instrument was needed in order to gain primary data in the process of data collection. (2) mobile phone, in this study mobile phone used as video recorder to record the bilingual children in doing interaction with their family. The record

data became the authentic evidences in this study, so it was very crucial. Besides that, the video recorder was very helpful in the process of transcribing and analyzing the data. (3) observation sheet, The observation sheet was used to note the occurrences of communication strategies made by the bilingual children during the observation. Further, it was used to classify the data and answer the first and second research questions about what communication strategies used by the bilingual children.

This observation sheet was in the form of table. The researcher used coding such as Child 1 and Child 2 to address the bilingual children who are observed. There were four columns in the observation sheet. The first column was to put number, the second column was used to put utterances, the third column was used to put context and the last column was used to put the frequency.

Table 3.1. Observation Sheet for Bilingual Children

Subject Code :
Date :
Time :
Location :

N o	Utteranc e	Contex t	Frequency of Communicatio n Strategy

(5) field note, and (6) interview guide, Interview guide is a list of questions which were going to be asked to the bilingual children about their reason in applying the communication strategies. There are five main questions which were used in this interview guide which are related to the types of communication strategies proposed by the experts. The mobile phone was used as a video recorder to collect the data from the interview. The five main questions can be stated as follows: (a) How do you begin the communication with your family

members?, (b) What language that you use dominantly to communicate with your family members?, (c) Do you mix two languages (English and Indonesian) to communicate with your family members?, (d) Have you ever experienced any confusing or misunderstanding in your family members about your explanation? And what will you do if that phenomenon happened?, (e) Why do you apply (certain communication strategy) in communicating with your family members?. Those five main questions used to be guidance in having more data in doing the interview.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of this study was concerned with the investigation of the types of communication strategies used by the bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family, the type of communication strategies used most frequently by the bilingual children of interracial marriage family when doing the interaction with their family, and the bilingual children reasons in using the communication strategies in doing interaction with their family. Finally the data had been obtained during the observation and the interview was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively.

There were seven communication strategies which were applied by the bilingual children in doing interaction with their family, those were topic avoidance, approximation, circumlocution, paralinguistic, clarification request, using objects or pictures to help conveying message and speaking slowly which were stated by Littlewood (1984), Tarone, Cohen, and Dumas (1980), Tarone, 1980; Bialystok; 1990; Dornyei, 1995, and Pierson.

The first was Topic Avoidance. Topic Avoidance was one of the communication strategies applied by the bilingual children in doing interaction with their family. The bilingual children derived conversation to different topic when their interlocutor asked about certain topic. In the observation which was done on 13th of

March 2014, it was found that BC 1 (Bilingual Children 1) avoided the topic that she didn't know by answering the question of MBC (Mother of Bilingual Children) and CS 1 (Cousin 1) to different topic. Look at these utterance below:

CS 1 : Naomi bisa nyanyi lagu Bali?
(Could you sing a Balinese song Naomi?)

BC 1 : *Disekolah*
(At the school)

CS 1 : Lagu apa?
(What song?)

BC 1 : Gak tau..hehe..
(I don't know)

When the CS 1 asked about BC 1 ability in singing Balinese song, then BC 1 just derived the topic by answering CS 1's question with *Disekolah*. It happened because BC 1 didn't really know about Balinese song.

The second was Approximation. It dealt with telling the family about difficult word or sentence by giving another word or sentence which has similar meaning. According to the result of observation, the bilingual children preferred to translate the difficult word. The utterance can be seen as follows:

CS 1 : Kucing?. Bukannya kura-kura y?
(Cat? Is it not a turtle?)

BC 1 : Ahh?

BC 2 : *That means turtle!*

BC 2 described word "kura-kura" by translating the word into English to make BC 1 understood.

The third was Circumlocution. Circumlocution was another communication strategy applied by bilingual children when interacting with their family. The bilingual children gave a description about something to make the conversation run well. The utterance can be seen below:

FBC : What is resetting?

BC 2 : Maha told me, there is a whole(pointing the toy) and then you have a red thing and you put in. This is manual (showing the receipt to her father)

The BC 2 gave a description to her father in order to her father understood what resetting means in the toy. So the conversation could run well.

The fourth was Paralanguage. Paralanguage defined as the use of facial expression and gestures as communication strategies. It can be seen when the bilingual children described something or emphasized their utterances by using gestures. The utterance can be seen as follows:

CS 1 : Puzzle that (pointing to the puzzle)

BC 1 : Yes.. (*smiling*)

CS 1 : Apa itu? Untuk apa itu?
(What is this?. What is that for?)

BC 1 : (*Holding the toy and dancing*).
Music(answering the question)

In this phenomenon, the BC 1 emphasized her utterance by using facial expression. BC 1 used gesture in this case dancing to emphasize her utterance. It made her Cousin understood what that toy was for.

The fifth was Clarification request. It dealt with clarifying the Family mistake in making statement about something. According to the observation, the FBC (Father of Bilingual Children) ever made a mistake in making a statement from the observation which conducted on 13th of March 2014. Look at the utterance below:

BC 1 : Tamagochi? What is tamagochi?

FBC : Tamagochi is a toy made in Indonesia.

BC 2 : Not made in Indonesia, Japan!
(staring, shaking her head, and showing facial expression that emphasizing tamagochi is not Indonesian toy to her father)

The BC 2 clarified her father utterance by giving the right answer that tamagochi was not an Indonesian toy, it was Japanese toy.

The sixth was Using Pictures or Objects to Help Them Conveying the Message was one of the communication strategies used by bilingual children. The bilingual children used the objects to help

them in conveying a message that they want to convey. They also used objects to emphasize their utterances in explaining something. For example:

CS 1 : Mana lagi berbiyenya?

(Where are the other berbie dolls?)

BC 1 : (*Taking the berbie doll in the form of mermaid*)

The seventh was Speaking slowly. It was the last communication strategy used by the bilingual children in doing interaction with their family. Bilingual children speak slower to emphasize and made the message clearer. Moreover it was not often occurred, the utterance can be found only once time.

BC 1 : Tabasagochi?

BC 2 : *T-A-M-A...*

T-A-M-A-G-O-C-H-I

In this case, the strategy occurred when the BC 1 didn't know the name of the toy that was hold by BC 2. The BC 1 asked her older sister and BC 2 told her younger sister the name of the toy by speaking slowly.

The most frequently used communication strategy applied by the bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family was paralanguage. Paralanguage is one of the communication strategies proposed by Tarone (1980); Bialystok (1990); Dornyei (1995) which deals with the use of facial expressions and gestures to convey or emphasize messages. Paralanguage is categorized as non-verbal communication strategy.

The data which had been collected were calculated. The result can be seen in the table 4.1

Table 4.1 The Calculation of Every Type of Communication Strategies

Communication Strategies	Total occurrences	Rank
Topic Avoidance	2 times	IV
Approximation	3 times	III
Circumlocution	1 time	V

Language Switching	0 (never)	VI
Paralanguage	29 times	I
Comprehension Check	0 (never)	VI
Clarification Request	1 time	V
Using Pictures or Objects to Help Conveying Message	28 times	II
Speaking Slowly	1 time	V

From the table 4.1, it can be seen that paralanguage was the most frequently communication strategy used by the bilingual children when interacting with their family with the total of the occurrences 29 times. The second communication strategy most frequently used was language switching with the total of the occurrences 28 times. The third rank was approximation with the total occurrences 3 times. The forth most frequently used was topic avoidance with the total occurrences 2 times. And the fifth rank was divided by three communication strategies they were circumlocution, clarification request and speaking slowly. And the last the communication strategies which were not used were language switching and comprehension check.

From the observation which was done on Thursday, 13th of March 2014 and Thursday 10th of April 2014 there were 65 communication strategies applied by the bilingual children of interracial marriage family in doing interaction with their family. On the first observation, there were 56 communication strategies applied in which the distribution of the occurrences can be stated as follows: Topic Avoidance (2 times), Approximation (3 times), Circumlocution (1 time), Paralanguage (22 times), Clarification request (1 time), Using pictures or Objects to Help Conveying Message (26 times) and Speaking Slowly (1 time). On the second observation there

were only 9 communication strategies applied by the bilingual children, they were: Paralanguage (7 times) and Using Pictures or Objects to Help Conveying Message (2 times).

The percentage of the communication strategies which have been calculated can be seen in the chart below:

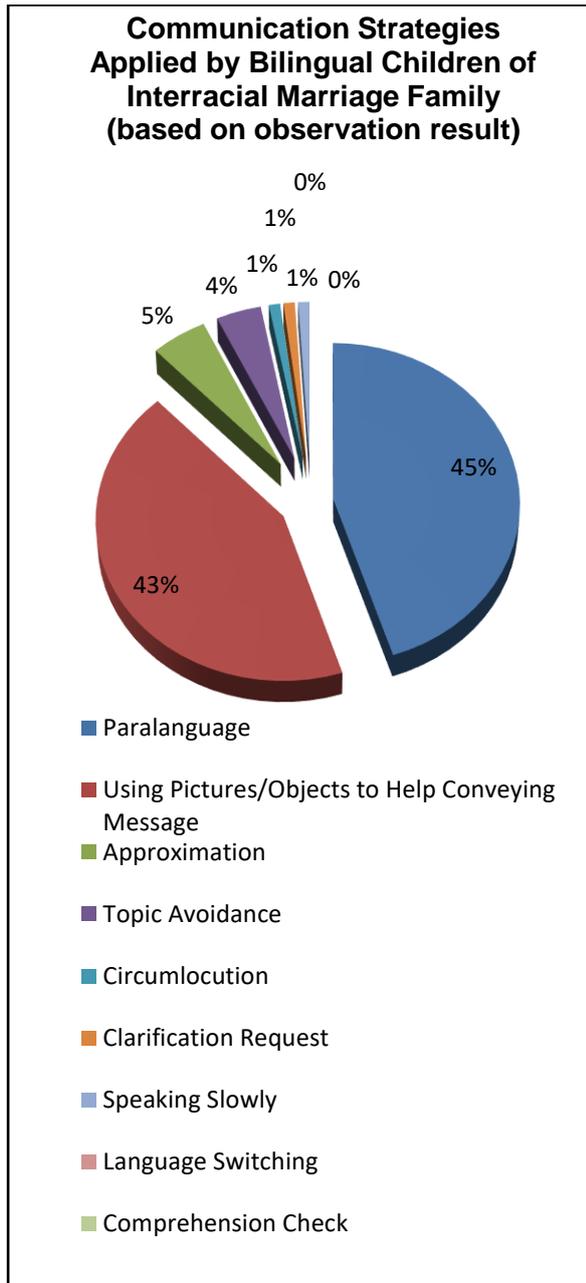


Chart 4.1 The Communication Strategies Applied by Bilingual

Children of Interracial marriage Family (Based on Observation Result)

From the chart 4.4, it can be seen that the paralanguage shows the total percentage 45% and then followed by using pictures or objects to help conveying message with the total percentage 43%. In the third rank is approximation with the total percentage 5%. The fourth rank is topic avoidance with the total percentage 4%. Followed by the fifth rank which is divided by three communication strategies they are circumlocution, clarification request and speaking slowly with the total percentage 1% for each communication strategy. And in the last rank there are two communication strategies they are language switching and comprehension check with the total percentage 0% for each communication strategy.

Besides doing the observations, the researcher also conducted an interview to the bilingual children.

After transcribing the data which was obtained from the interview, and then the data were analyzed in order to know the reasons why the bilingual children conducted the communication strategies.

In interacting with their family, bilingual children of interracial marriage family had their own reasons in using communication strategies. For example, bilingual children used communication strategies to emphasize what they aimed and in order to interlocutor understood what the bilingual children wanted. There was also communication strategy which was easy and natural to be used in order to make communication run well, such as paralanguage and using objects or pictures to help conveying messages. That was why the frequency of those communication strategies occurred as the most frequently used by the bilingual children.

As stated in the findings of the interview that had been conducted by the researcher, there were three main reasons why the bilingual children applied the communication strategies. The first reason was to make the family understand what the bilingual children want. Here, the

bilingual children mostly emphasize their utterances by using gestures or objects in interacting with the family. It made the family understand what the bilingual children aimed.

The second reason was because there are some communication strategies which were easy and natural to be used. Such as paralinguistic which defined as the use of facial expression and gestures as communication strategies and using pictures or objects were two communication strategies which mostly were used by bilingual children. The bilingual children thought that both of these strategies were easy to be used. Moreover the bilingual children liked to use paralinguistic because it was natural to be used.

The last reason why the bilingual children applied communication strategies in doing interaction with their family was there were some strategies were quick to be used to make the interlocutor understood. Approximation was one of the quick strategies to be used to make the family understood quickly, it was because approximation directly gave other words which had similar meaning or it can be said as paraphrasing. The bilingual could also translate the difficult word to make the communication run well.

Can be seen that from the three main reasons, there was a tendency that the reasons were focused on the way how the communication strategies could make the interaction and the communication which happened run well. As stated by Littlewood (1984) that communication strategies are verbal and non-verbal strategy used by the speaker to make the communication run effectively.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

From the findings and discussion which have been presented in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that there were seven types of communication strategies applied by the bilingual children in Singapadu Village. Those types of communication strategies were topic avoidance, approximation, circumlocution,

clarification request, paralinguistic, using pictures or objects to help conveying message and speaking slowly.

From the calculation which had been done, it was obvious that most frequently used communication strategies by bilingual children of interracial marriage family was paralinguistic. Followed by the other communication strategies those were using pictures or objects to help conveying message, approximation, topic avoidance, circumlocution, clarification request, speaking slowly, language switching, and comprehension check.

The interview results show that there were three main reasons of why the bilingual children applied communication strategies in doing interaction with their family. The reasons were, to make the family understand, because some strategies easy and natural to be used, and because there are some strategies are quick to be used. All of the reasons refer to the main purpose of the communication strategies, that is to make the communication run well.

Additionally, there are some suggestions which are proposed by the writer. In this study the writer has two suggestions to be given, the first is to the parents of bilingual children and the second is to the other researchers who want conduct the same study under the topic communication strategies especially communication strategies used by bilingual children of interracial marriage family.

The first suggestion is given to the parents of the bilingual children, although in this study the bilingual children had a consistency in using both English and Indonesian, but the parents need to keep that consistency in order to the children make it as a habit in doing interaction with other people not only family. Parents also can direct the bilingual children in order to mostly using English in doing interaction with their family that indirectly help the family learn English. In this case parents take an important role to direct their children.

The second suggestion is given to other researchers who want to conduct the same study under the topic of communication strategies especially communication strategies used by bilingual children of interracial marriage family. In collecting the data, the researchers cannot directly obtain the data, because the children are different with Indonesian children. The bilingual children of interracial marriage family are influenced by two cultures both Father's Culture and Mother's Culture, so the researchers have to do an approach firstly to have a consideration of what technique which appropriate to be used in collecting the data

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