

**TYPES AND INTERPRETATIVE FUNCTION OF USING EUPHEMISM BY  
MINANGKABAU TEENAGERS AND ADULTS IN PARIAMAN**

**Thesis**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain strata One (S1)  
Degree*



**RIMA KHAIRATUR RAMADHANI**  
NIM. 17019064

Advisor

Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M. Hum.  
NIP. 19670722 199203 1 003

**ENGLISH LITERATURE PROGRAM**  
**FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF PADANG**

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## HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN SKRIPSI

**Judul** : Types and Interpretative Function of Using  
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Adults in Pariaman

**Nama** : Rima Khairatur Ramadhani

**NIM** : 17019064/2017

**Program Studi** : Sastra Inggris

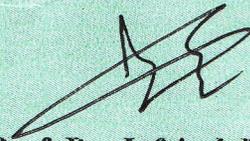
**Jurusan** : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

**Fakultas** : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, November 2021

Disetujui oleh,

Pembimbing



Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum  
NIP. 19670722 199203 1 003

Mengetahui  
Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Desvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D.  
NIP. 197105251.998022.002

## HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Skripsi  
Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra  
Inggris Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang  
dengan judul

**Types and Interpretative Function of Using Euphemism by  
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Nama : Rima Khairatur Ramadhani  
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Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

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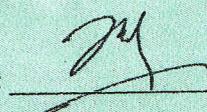
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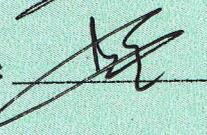
1. Ketua : Prof. Dr. M. Zaim, M.Hum.

: 

2. Sekretaris : Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum

: 

3. Anggota : Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M. Hum.

: 



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**JURUSAN BAHASA DAN SAstra INGGRIS**  
Jl. Belibis. Air Tawar Barat. Kampus Selatan FBS UNP. Padang. Telp/Fax: (0751)447347

---

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Saya yang bertandatangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Rima Khairatur Ramadhani  
NIM/TM : 17019064/2017  
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris  
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni UNP

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Ketua Jurusan Bahasa & Sastra Inggris

Desvalini Anwar S.S., M.Hum. Ph.D.  
NIP. 197105251.998022.002

Saya yang menyatakan,



Rima Khairatur Ramadhani  
17019064/2017

## ABSTRACT

**Ramadhani, Rima Khairatur. 2021. "Types and Interpretative function of Using Euphemism by Minangkabau Teenagers and Adults in Pariaman." Thesis. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

This research aimed at finding the types and interpretative function of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. The type of this research was descriptive-qualitative research. The data were euphemism utterances used by the informants. The informants of this research were Minangkabau native speakers. The data were collected by using the observation. The researcher found there were four types and two interpretative functions of euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers in Pariaman. Types of euphemisms were part of body, disgusting thing and animal, obituary, character and situation while the interpretative function of euphemisms were to polite the speech and hide something. Meanwhile, there were seven types and three interpretative functions of euphemisms used by Minangkabau adults. Types of euphemisms were part of body, disgusting thing and animal, obituary, character and situation, disgraceful occupation, disease, and activity euphemism. The interpretative function included to polite the speech, hide something and refuse hazard.

**Keywords:** Euphemisms, types and interpretative function of euphemisms, Minangkabau language

## ABSTRACT

**Ramadhani, Rima Khairatur. 2021. "Types and Interpretative Function of Using Euphemism by Minangkabau Teenagers and Adults in Pariaman." Thesis. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan jenis dan fungsi interpretatif penggunaan eufemisme oleh remaja dan dewasa Minangkabau di Pariaman. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif-kualitatif. Data yang digunakan adalah tuturan eufemisme yang digunakan oleh informan. Informan penelitian ini adalah penutur asli Minangkabau. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan observasi. Peneliti menemukan ada empat jenis dan dua fungsi interpretatif eufemisme yang digunakan oleh remaja Minangkabau di Pariaman. Jenis eufemisme meliputi bagian tubuh, benda menjijikan dan binatang, berita kematian, sifat dan situasi sedangkan fungsi interpretatif eufemisme adalah untuk sopan santun dalam berbicara dan menyembunyikan sesuatu. Sementara itu, ada tujuh jenis dan tiga fungsi interpretatif eufemisme yang digunakan oleh orang dewasa Minangkabau. Jenis eufemisme adalah bagian tubuh, benda menjijikkan dan binatang, berita kematian, sifat dan situasi, pekerjaan memalukan, penyakit, dan eufemisme aktivitas. Fungsi Interpretatif antara lain untuk sopan santun dalam bertutur, menyembunyikan sesuatu dan menolak bahaya.

**Kata kunci:** Eufemisme, tipe dan fungsi interpretatif eufemisme, Bahasa Minangkabau

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The writer

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 Background of the Problem**

Social relationships depend on how people communicate. In order for what people communicate in interaction is meaningful, they must pay attention to various factors of social status. These factors involve the status of the participants based on the social values that bind them, such as age and power by using politeness. Politeness is very considered. According to Agha (in Mahmud, 2019), politeness is form of honorification or honorific. It regulates human's communicative behavior by paying attention to the other's feeling. People usually have certain values that used to measure a person's politeness, including how to express related expressions with taboos. Speaker's understanding about the concept of politeness is needed so that the communication process can work well.

One of the way people express their politeness in verbal communication is by using euphemism. Euphemisms are softening expressions that usually replace words that feel uncomfortable. Arif (2015) says euphemism is a word or phrase to switch disagreeable term which appears as sense of humanity. It is used in sensitive area or place which should not be talked to avoid negative impact of the utterance or try to offend someone's hurt feeling. The sense value of using euphemisms is determined by someone's intelligence and experience in using the language itself. Words that have a good sense tend to

be accepted by the interlocutor compared to bad words. Psychologically, good words show respect for the person or subject being discussed.

Moreover, Rahardjo (2002) says that euphemism is the exchange of taboo language and people try to elude that. Taboo is an expression believed by society that having a bad impact. They are acts of violation of language or vocabulary that are abstinent, disrespectful, inappropriate and rude spoken by every individual who lives in society. The vocabulary or clauses are curses that should not be mentioned. This is for reasons of belief or expression violates moral values. Euphemism is intended as a smoothing expression or language refinement. It pays attention to ethical values and manners in a society. In communication, euphemisms enrich speaking strategies to avoid abusive and inappropriate disclosures in certain situations.

Generally, euphemism is used because of certain functions. Chi and Hao (2013) explain that the basic functions of euphemism are concealing and veiling. How they are different is in their purpose. In concealing, people try to maintain the norms and culture while veiling aims to make move someone to act something. By using euphemism, it is believed that the utterances become less abusive, annoying or harassment from the speaker to the listener than another word. Refining the meaning of words when people use language can change people's habits as language users for the better. In communication, the principle of politeness by using euphemism must be instilled from an early age so that the communication process can be carried out politely, wisely, and easily accepted.

Relationship of euphemism and society can be seen in one of social variables, that is age. Euphemism uses are different due to different age which is between children, teenagers and adults. The reasons to this case, children, teenagers and adults as the products of age have their own way of speaking and word choice. Every age has label which becomes the characteristics of them. According to Sunarso (1997), speakers' age determines language use, not only the tone, but also vocabularies and grammar. There are suitable words for teenagers and it will be disappeared when they are adults. For teenagers, they are competent speakers of their language and they tend to be bluntly. Meanwhile adults usually use figuration in some situations and they pay more attention to social and cultural aspects than teenagers.

One of euphemism phenomenon can be seen in conversation of Minangkabau people in Pariaman. Pariaman is one particularly area in West Sumatra Province, which is called *kota tabuik*. There are various euphemisms produced by people when they are speaking. According to Sutarman (2013), euphemism is divided based on the referents. There are seven types of euphemisms; disgusting thing and animal euphemism, part of body, disgraceful occupation, disease, activity, obituary, and character and situation euphemism. For example, *Inyiak* 'tiger' is euphemism referred to animal, *pinyagham* 'kind of food' is euphemism word for poop that refers to thing, *kapunduang* 'damsel' is euphemism for stupid referred to character, *baampok* 'gamble' are euphemism referred to activity. Other examples are *sadang*

*payah* ‘poor’ euphemism referred to situation, *sumagheh* ‘kind of food’ referred to part of body, etc.

Moreover, Studies about euphemisms were conducted in some areas such as Minangkabau language, movie, novel, translation, talk show, etc. In Minangkabau language, there were several studies finished. The first study was written by Rosa (2012) conducted research about types of euphemism in Minangkabau folklore written by A.A. Navis. Second, there was a study conducted by Rosadi, Rosa, and Tiarina (2013) entitled Differences in Euphemisms Used by Male and Female in Minangkabau people. Third, euphemism study related to Minangkabau language was conducted by Fauzi, Husein and Sumarsih (2019) which was about the euphemism in “Sambah Manyambah” tradition of Minangkabau people wedding ceremony. Fourth, Rosa (2014) conducted research about types and forms of euphemism and related to the culture. Furthermore, there was research conducted by Himyati (2016) entitled Euphemism in Minangkabau Language Speech by Sungayang Residents. In movie, there were several studies; Sari (2007), Agustina (2017), Silaban, Sundari, Purba (2020), and Harahap (2017). In novel, the study was finished by Lailiyah and Yustisia (2018). In translation, there was research written by Farghal (2005). In talk show, there were several studies that had been conducted; Khairunnisa (2020), Fitriani, Syarif, Wahyuni (2019), Ningsih and Ardi (2020).

This research has similarity to the previous studies mentioned. However, there are some differences between this research and the previous studies. First, this research examines the types and interpretative function of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. Second, this research divides the euphemism based on the referents. The categories are disgusting thing and animal euphemism, part of body, disgraceful occupation, disease, activity, obituary, and character and situation euphemism.

Even though people and euphemisms cannot be separated in communication, only some people are able to use euphemisms in their local language. Some people, especially teenagers assume that foreign language like English is more impressive than their local language. In fact, they ignore their identity slowly. The ability of teenagers and adults in using euphemism is surely different. They have different characteristics of ability in vocalizing their own language or they have different ways in choosing language. It will be useful to the reader in knowing how age affects to the euphemism use.

Research about the types and interpretative function of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman is important to do as the way to maintain the local language. As the largest language used by the society in Indonesia, Minangkabau language is still lack of written language. It needs to be studied further so that the next generation can conserve their local language.

## **1.2 Identification of the problem**

In linguistics studies, euphemisms can be analyzed in some points of view such as semantics, sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics, and morphology. Analyzing euphemism language in semantics can be done through the meaning of euphemism. In sociolinguistics study, euphemism can be analyzed through the relationship between euphemism and social variables in society such as age, gender, social status, education, etc. In anthropological linguistics, euphemism can be analyzed through the relationship between euphemism and culture in the society. In morphology, euphemism can be analyzed through the part of speech of euphemism. For this study, researcher uses sociolinguistics point of view which find out the types and interpretative function of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman.

## **1.3 Limitation of Research Problem**

This research is limited to the phenomenon of euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. This study analyses the phenomenon of euphemisms based on sociolinguistics study. The researcher classifies the using of euphemisms into seven categories, which are disgusting thing and animal euphemism, part of body, disgraceful occupation, disease, activity, obituary, and character and situation euphemism. The limitation of the problem in this research is important since the discussion about euphemism is not only in sociolinguistics study, but also in semantics, anthropological linguistics, and morphology.

#### **1.4 Formulation of Research Problem**

Based on the limitation of the research problem above, the formulation of the problem is: “What are euphemism types and interpretative function frequently used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman?”

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

The formulated problem is elaborated into three questions:

1. What are the types and interpretative function of euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers in Pariaman?
2. What are the types and interpretative function of euphemisms used by Minangkabau adults in Pariaman?
3. What are the similarities and differences types and interpretative function of euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman?

#### **1.6 Purposes of the research**

Concerning the formulation of research questions above, the purposes of the research are:

1. To find out the types and interpretative function of euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers in Pariaman.
2. To find out the types and interpretative function of euphemisms used by Minangkabau adults in Pariaman.
3. To find out the similarities and differences types and interpretative function of euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman.

## 1.7 Significance of the research

This study can contribute to Sociolinguistics studies, especially in euphemisms. Theoretically, it gives information about the types and motives of Minangkabau euphemisms used by teenagers and adults in Pariaman, the meaning of euphemism and how language differ from different age. Practically, it is expected can help and support other researchers who are interested in analyzing euphemism. Therefore, this research can help to accommodate and support further research about euphemism. It is also expected that this research can increase the awareness among the people in society about their native language.

## 1.8 Definition of the key term

- 1) Sociolinguistics study : The study of language use related to social aspects in society.
- 2) Euphemism : A word or phrase to switch disagreeable term which appears as sense of humanity.
- 3) Minangkabau people : An ethnic group in Minangkabau Highlands of West Sumatera, Indonesia.
- 4) Pariaman : A coastal city in West Sumatra, Indonesia.
- 5) Teenagers and Adults : Two stages of growth of human being.

- 6) Type : Thing or person sharing a particular Characteristics that causes them to be regarded as a group.
- 7) Interpretative function : The natural purpose of something by providing an interpretation.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

The research was conducted to find out the types and interpretative function of using euphemism by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. The results of the euphemisms analysis used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults lead to a number of conclusions. First, regarding to the research, it can be concluded that the finding on analysis of euphemisms used by teenagers in Pariaman shows there are four types of euphemisms; part of body, disgusting thing and animal, obituary, character and situation. The dominant type of euphemisms produced by teenagers is character euphemisms. The least types of euphemisms is terms of animal. Moreover, there are two interpretative functions used by Minangkabau teenagers, they are to polite the speech and hide something. The dominant function of using euphemism is to hide something.

Second, there are seven types of euphemisms used by Minangkabau adults in Pariaman; part of body, disgusting thing and animal, obituary, character and situation, disgraceful occupation, disease, and activity euphemism. The dominant type of euphemisms is disgusting thing and animal. For the function of euphemisms, there are three interpretative functions used by Minangkabau adults, they are to polite the

speech, hide something, and refuse hazards. The dominant function is to hide something disgusting. There are the same function produced by teenagers and adults. The similarities between teenagers and adults in using euphemism are to polite the speech and hide something. The mostly interpretative function used both of teenagers and adults is to hide something disgusting. Meanwhile, there is also interpretative function that is not produced by teenagers, that is to refuse hazard.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

In this research, the researcher gives some information about euphemisms used by Minangkabau teenagers and adults in Pariaman. This study only focuses on the types and interpretative functions of using euphemisms by teenagers and adults. Therefore, it is suggested to the further researcher to conduct the study related to this subject in different perspectives such as in Anthropological linguistics, Morphology, etc. It is also suggested to the next researcher in analysing euphemisms by using other social variables like types and function of euphemism in different education, job, etc.

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