

AN ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF DICTION ON EMPHATY STATEMENT IN GOODENOUGHPARENTS.ID

Rose Diana

Faculty of Letters, salva_rose@staff.gunadarma.ac.id, Gunadarma University

Article History

Received : 10-10-2023
Revised : 20-10-2023
Accepted : 20-11-2023
Published : 26-11-2023

Corresponding author:

salva_rose@staff.gunadarma.ac.id

No. Contact:

Cite This Article:

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.56127/jushpen.v2i3.1050>

Abstract: *In this research, the writer aims to analyze the use of diction of gentle parenting sentences in GoodEnoughparents.id. This study analyzes the diction based on Gorys Keraf theory which includes (1) diction based on meaning consist of denotation and connotation, (2) diction based on lexical issues, especially in terms of formal and informal diction in gentle parenting conversation/sentences, and (3) the function of diction in gentle parenting sentences/conversation. The research method used is a descriptive qualitative method. The object in this research is dictions in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in Goodenoughparents.id both in web or instagram posts. Data collection was conducted by reading, classifying, and analyzing. The validity of this data in this study was obtained through observation, discussion, and sufficient references. There are four research results found based on the data analysis. First, the type of diction used in Goodenoughparents.id instagram posts is diction which has denotative and connotative meanings, but most of the dictions (90%) of the instagram posts use denotative dictions. Second, the researcher found that in terms of lexical structure, there are only formal and informal dictions and the usage of formal and informal diction in goodenoughparetns.id instagram posts are equal. Third, the function of diction in gentle parenting conversation or sentences is to ensure that the communication between parents and children can run smoothly, through denotative dictions in pretend play activities or through informal dictions that is popular among children.*

Keywords: *parenting, gentle parenting, diction.*

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, we can find so many articles discussing gentle parenting/positive discipline parenting and how gentle parenting is often described as the best parenting style any parents should ever adopt. Not only in articles but also in many social media, such as Instagram, Facebook people share so much information about gentle parenting and how to respond to our kids with gentle parenting practice.

In accordance with its name, gentle parenting is a method of parenting which prioritizes gentle ways to communicate with our kids. This method is firstly introduced by Sarah Ockwell-Smith, the author of gentle discipline book and how to be a calm parent. According to the book (Sarah, O.S, 2016), there are two main things that any parents need to know about gentle parenting, first is by putting empathy in our words to validate children's feelings and second is by setting clear boundaries that they need to obey. From these two main points, the researcher finds how strong a word is until it can make such a different impact on our child. Only by using the right diction, one can achieve those two main points, both for building emotion validation and by creating clear boundaries. All work is all done only by words. Of course action does matter, but most of the time gentle parenting is all about how to set the right word at the right time in the right place, so that children would obey parents' direction without feeling controlled.

In this writing, the researcher will analyze the use of the diction in gentle parenting, so that parents can figure out on what kinds of dictions that are usually used by the gentle parenting educators when parents want to communicate with children in a gentle way, so that it will come in handy when parents want to

practice gentle parenting at home and more than that it will become a great tool to strengthen bonding between parents and kids.

The accuracy and suitability of word selection/ diction will depend on its context because a word can cause various meanings. The point of accuracy, acceptability, and readability should be used as guidelines in choosing words (Keraf, 2009, p. 114-115). In accordance with Keraf, (Kenney, 1996, p. 60) stated that diction is meant simply the author's choice of words, also the author's way of using language and applying words, then turning it into sentences. It refers to a speaker's ability to explain simple and complex ideas using precise and economical words that are relevant for the intended audience (Syafari, Z., Muhaimi, L., & Nuriadi, N. 2021, May). Therefore, in order to achieve a clear, effective, and persuasive communication without misleading the audience, the speaker must carefully select words and organize ideas logically. (Phatak, A., & Hudgins, R. R., 1993).

In this research, the authors will use one sample from one of the biggest gentle parenting instagram accounts in Indonesia. In delivering messages, the media uses its own style of language, diction, and even ideology, which mostly applies empathy statements as its tool . The author will further analyze the diction or choice of words from the instagram account of *goodenoughparents.id*. This is a social media account managed by Damar Wahyu Wijayanti as a certified Positive discipline parents educator and Pritta Tyas Mangestuti as a psychologist and also as a certified positive discipline parents educator. As credible positive discipline educators in Indonesia, it is necessary for us to research and analyze more deeply the aspects of the language that the gentle parenting educators used to deliver their messages on *goodenoughparents.id* .

METHODS

Dictions is word choice to convey a message. In psychology, diction is very important as the way we select our words can deliver different effects to the audience. In fact, many cases show that diction is often used when the author wants simple and complex ideas by choosing accurate and economical words, and by choosing ways of expression and explanation that are suitable for the target audience (Syafari, Z., Muhaimi, L., & Nuriadi, N. 2021, May). Diction is also often used when the author wants to distinguish precisely the meaning and places it in a suitable situation and sense of value owned by the community. However, selection of the right words is only possible by mastering a lot of vocabulary or words in the language.

In this study, the researchers applied a qualitative method to analyze the subject. This method is chosen because the data is mostly in text and images. Therefore, it is considered that this method is able to produce appropriate and detailed descriptive diction.

According to Creswell (Creswell, J.W., 2012), qualitative research aims for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures; collecting data in the participants' setting; analyzing the data inductively, building from particulars, to general themes; and making interpretations of the meaning of data. Moreover, qualitative research seeks to obtain a full picture of a matter according to the human perspective studied. Qualitative research relates to ideas, perceptions, opinions or beliefs of the person being studied and all of them cannot be measured by numbers which is suitable for this research since the data were analyzed descriptively without the need for any numbers to be calculated.

The data collection techniques used in this study were reading techniques and note taking techniques. The reading technique is applied to obtain data which is conducted by reading the use of diction in *goodenoughparents'* instagram posts. The next step is identifying and collecting data that has been found in the research subject in accordance with the (accuracy, type, and meaning of diction into the data) collection. After collecting enough data the researchers sorted the data to avoid having too much resembling data.

The source of data

The data was taken from *GoodEnoughparents'* instagram posts, published in April 2021 until August 2023. All of the data has been sorted and the researcher has taken 6 samples that could represent the data.

TABLE 1. DATA REPRESENTATIVES TAKEN FROM GOODENOUGHPARENTS.ID

1.	“Apa yang bikin kamu marah?”	Published on <i>goodenoughparents.id</i> on 8 August 2023
2.	“Kok kayanya kamu kesulitan ya? Apa yang membuatmu sulit?”	Published on <i>goodenoughparents.id</i> on 23 August 2023

3.	“Untuk ngeberesin mainanmu supaya balik ke rumahnya masing-masing.”	Published on goodenoughparents.id on 28 April 2023
4.	“Wah lantainya penuh mainan, ibu ga bisa lewat. Ibu akan menyalakan robot pembersih mainan. Mana tombol <i>power</i> -nya ya? Oh ini dia!”	Published on goodenoughparents.id on 2 Februari 2023
5.	“Sudah kenyang? Nasinya ibu simpan di sini, kalau lapar lagi, kamu bisa memakannya.”	Published on goodenoughparents.id on 31 Mei 2023
6.	“Kamu suka banget mainan ini karena mirip sama mainan yang ada di tontonan kamu kemarin ya?”	Published on goodenoughparents.id on 21 Februari 2023

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Diction is a study that has a wide range of subject to discuss about, according to Watkinson, in his theory explains that diction is based on its meaning, and based on lexical (synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homographs), formal diction, and informal diction (abstract words), concrete words, general words, special words, popular words, jargon, slang, foreign words, and loanwords). In this study, the researchers focus on meaning and diction based on formal and informal.

Denotative and Connotative

According to Keraf, diction based on meaning is divided into two categorizations, denotative meaning and connotative meaning.

Denotative

According to Isnaiah and Agustina, denotation is a signifier that explains how signifier and signified interact in reality, that is, about specific meaning in a signified picture (actual). Denotation uses simple, objective language to convey meaning (2020, p. 5).

Denotative meaning, also known as conceptual meaning, is concerned with a phrase’s literal or fundamental meaning. We can check a word’s definition in a dictionary and gain a direct meaning, allowing us to understand the term without having to search it up (Zuhdah and Alfain, 2020, p. 3).

Therefore, in semantic denotative is actually the word that has the same meaning as what is being stated or in other words, denotative meaning means words that refer to its first meaning that deliver no ambiguous meaning.

Connotative

On the other hand, connotative meaning is described as meaning that is not directly tied to the objective or purpose. According to Isnaiah and Agustina, connotation is a signifier that describes how signifiers and signified link to inexplicit, indirect, and ambiguous meaning, or it can be regarded as the meaning component of one or more texts depending on speaker and listener feelings (2020, p. 5).

The additional meaning or sense value inherent in a word is frequently referred to as connotation. It refers to the interaction that occurs when a sign interacts with the users’ sentiments or emotions, as well as the values of their culture (Zuhdah and Alfain, 2020, p. 3).

In other words, connotative words always have more than one meaning and it is usually beyond its literal meaning which perceives the overall meaning of what a writer or speaker is trying to communicate.

Formal Diction and Informal Diction

Formal Diction is often used in professional texts, business documents, and legal papers, as it sticks to grammatical rules and uses complex syntax-the structured sentences. Therefore, it contains no slang or colloquialisms yet sophisticated language only. In this case, the formal diction means the sentence will follow “EYD(Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia yang Disempurnakan)” as a legitimate guidance that can be used when somebody wants to practice Indonesian language correctly both oral and written.

Informal diction is often used in narrative literature and is more conversational. It shows how people interact in real life situations, in this way an author can depict more realistic characters freely.

There are ten types of informal diction follows :

- a. The abstract word
Abstract words are words that have a referent in the form of concepts words described as difficult abstract references that cannot be absorbed by human senses. Abstract words are often used to explain the thoughts that are technical and specialized.
- b. Concrete word
The concrete is a word that refers to something that can be seen or sensed directly by one or more senses. Concrete words refer to specific goods and actual experience. The concrete used to present vivid pictures in the mind of the reader to exceed other words.
- c. Common word
Common words are words that have a broad scope of coverage, general words refer to many things, to the set, and to the whole.
- d. Special word
Special words are words that refer to specific directives and concrete. A special word is showing that special object.
- e. Scientific word
Scientific word is a word used by the intelligentsia, especially in scientific writings.
- f. Popular word
Popular words are a word commonly used by all levels of society, both by the intelligentsia or to the average person.
- g. Jargon
Jargon is technical words or secrets in a field of science particularly, in the arts, commerce, collection of secrets, or other special groups.
- h. Slang
Slang words are non-standard words are informal, organized typically, used powerful and witty in conversation, the word also a slang word high or pure. The use of slang is to introduce many new words into the language by combining old words into new meanings. Slang also introduces an entirely new word.
- i. Foreign word
Foreign word elements derived from foreign languages are still retained in their original form because they have not been fused with the original language.
- j. Loan word
Loan word is a word from a foreign language that has been adapted to Indonesian form or structure.

Diction based on meaning

1. Denotative

Based on collected data from Goodenoughparents posts the researchers find more than 90% of sentences in the posts uses denotative meaning sentences. Two of the representatives are as they are shown below.



In the first picture, it is shown that each word in the sentence is in its direct meaning. In this case “*Apa yang membuatmu marah?*” is literally asking about what makes them angry, there is no other meaning that can make the audience wonder about any other certain implied interpretation.



Similar to the first picture, the second example also shows denotative meaning in its sentence. In this picture, the sentences “*kok kayaknya kamu kesulitan ya? Apa yang membuatmu sulit?*” also perform direct meaning, so there is no other meaning that the audiences need to figure it out.

Both pictures represent almost 90% posts from GoodEnoughParents’s instagram account. In other words, most of GoodEnoughparents.id instagram posts apply denotative meaning in their sentences. This is coherent with the aim of gentle parenting which is to give clear guidance to children in order to avoid any confusion or miscommunication. Therefore, the diction of the sentence also needs to be on point so that the goal can be achieved easily without the need to repeat the words or re-explain the meaning of your words. Moreover, with this kind of diction, children can easily digest each word that parent’s express so that the communication between parents and children is able to run smoothly.

2. Connotative

Unlike most of the posts that are commonly found using denotative meaning, there are few posts that apply connotative meaning. The researcher finds only few posts apply connotative meaning in its sentences. In fact, there are no more than 10 posts that use connotative meanings. It means only 1% from the data apply connotative meanings. Two of them are as represented below.



In the first picture the word “*rumah*” doesn’t refer to what KBBI refers to as a building. Here in this post, the word “*rumah*” implies other meaning than as a building, according to the context of the sentence, the word “*rumah*” here means a place to manage toys to keep them looks neat and tidy, so it doesn’t mean a building but a place that can be a container, drawer, or any thing that is commonly used as an object to keep toys so it wouldn’t be scattered all over the place.

So, instead of merely saying put the toys in the container, the word “*rumah*” is chosen by the gentle parenting educator to make the tidy up activities seem more lively to the children. From this perspective,

pretend play is chosen to describe that each toy has its “own home”. In this way, it can appeal to children’s nature of playing and children don’t feel burdensome by the activities.



In the second picture, the word “robot pembersih mainan” and “tombol power” actually perform connotative meanings. In this case, the mom wants the kids to clean up the toys. In order to make the kids clean up the room joyfully, the mom creates a conducive situation through pretend play where the kid impersonates a cleaning robot which has a power button and is ready to clean up the room from toys.

Even Though using connotative meaning may cause any misinterpretation, but in some cases, for example in order to create a humor or to lose the tension of the situation a humor is tremendously needed to stimulate children to do what they have to do without having any unnecessary dispute with their parents that can either consume time and energy from both sides, parents and the children itself. One of the most popular ways among children, from the youngest one till the bigger one is through pretend play. Here, same as the first picture, in the second picture, the connotative meaning of the sentences in pretend play act is also used as a solution from parents when they want to make children do something without having any refusal or disagreement.

In fact, the researcher found that almost all connotative meanings in GoodEnoughParents.id are only used when it comes to pretend play acts. Therefore, the researcher found that the usage of connotative meaning is very restricted in which in most cases are only for pretend play acts.

3. Formal and Informal Diction

Another characteristic that can easily be spotted in gentle parenting diction is the usage of formal and informal diction. The researcher found that in GentleParenting.id posts, there are many conversations and sentences that use both formal and informal diction. Formal and informal in this context will refer to Indonesian “EYD”. The percentage of formal and Informal is 50:50.

Here are some data that are found in GoodEnoughParents.id posts which can be used as data representatives.

Formal Diction



Formal diction can be found in many GoodEnoughParents.id posts, this kind of sentence, “*Sudah kenyang? Nasinya ibu simpan di sini, kalau lapar lagi, kamu bisa memakannya*” follow each guideline in EYD. Formal diction is usually used in formal situations, but in daily activities and everyday life, especially between parents and children, using formal diction like this is not common.

Informal Diction



Informal dictions are the most used diction that are found in all of GoodEnoughParents.id posts. Informal diction is categorized into many types, but the researcher found that most of the posts used popular words of informal diction, such as “banget”, “nggak”, “udah” and etc, instead of using more formal diction in Bahasa Indonesia, such as “sekali”, “tidak”, or “sudah”. Popular words that are usually used are usually popular words that are very commonly said in Indonesian conversation. Most children must get used to these kinds of words, so it will be easier for kids to digest these kinds of words.

CONCLUSION

The use of dictions in GoodEnoughParents.id instagram posts are divided into two; diction based on connotative and denotative meanings and diction based on lexical, especially on formal and informal diction. From all of instagram posts of GoodEnoughParents.id, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. More than 90 percent of the diction used by GoodEnoughParents.id is denotative. This shows that the Gentle Parenting Educators want to give a clear message in every sentence, so that the children can easily understand any direction and message that parents want to convey.
2. Only 1 percent of the diction used by the gentle parenting educators has connotations. The connotative diction is only used by the educators when they want to put humor into their sentence through a pretend play act, so that it has appeal to children and it can easily lead children to do what parents ask them to do.
3. From the lexical diction, the researcher only finds two types of diction, which are formal diction and informal diction.
4. Function and meaning of diction in GoodEnoughParents.id Instagram posts is to ensure that the communication between parents and children can run smoothly and understandable by providing clear instructions. However, since we interact with children who naturally love to play, then our communication needs to be a little bit playful too. Therefore, having a little pretend play act would have a bigger impact on the communication results.

REFERENCE

- [1]. Daumi Rahmatika Zuhdah, S. N. (2020). *An Analysis of Denotation and Connotation in Chairil Anwar's Poem*. e-Journal of Linguistics.
- [2]. Isnaiah and Agustina 2020 Siti Isnaniah, T. A. (Juli 2020). “COVID-19” MEME IN SOCIAL MEDIA: STUDY OF ROLAND BARTHES SEMIOLOGY. BAHTERA: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra, Volume 19 Nomor 2.
- [3]. Kenney, W. (1996). *How to Analyze Fiction*. Monarch Press.
- [4]. Keraf, G. (2009). *Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa*. PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.

- [5]. Krause ED, Mendelson T, Lynch TR. *Childhood emotional invalidation and adult psychological distress: the mediating role of emotional inhibition. Child Abuse & Neglect*. Published online February 2003:199-213. doi:10.1016/s0145-2134(02)00536-7
- [6]. Nur Nabilah Fauziyah, R. N. (Jun 2020). *Denotative and connotative analysis on Elia Pettie's short story. Journal of Applied Studies in Language*, Volume 4 Issue 1.
- [7]. Nur Nabilah Fauziyah, R. N. (Jun 2020). *Denotative and Connotative Meaning in One direction's Songs Lyric: A Semantic Perspective. Journal of Applied Studies in Language*, Volume 4 Issue 1.
- [8]. Ockwell-Smith, S. (March 2016). "The Gentle Parenting Book". Little, Brown Book Group.
- [9]. Pane, M. M. (2019). *Diction and Sentence Structure* .(Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara).
- [10]. Phatak, A., & Hudgins, R. R. (1993). Grand Words, But So Hard to Read! Diction and Structure in Student Writing. *Chemical Engineering Education*, 27(3), 200-209
- [11]. Creswell, J. W. (2012). *Educational Research : Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* Fouth Edition. Boston : Pearson Education, Inc.
- [12]. Siti Isnaniah, T. A. (Juli 2020). "*COVID-19*" *MEME IN SOCIAL MEDIA: STUDY OF ROLAND BARTHES SEMIOLOGY. BAHTERA: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra*, Volume 19 Nomor 2 .
- [12]. Syafari, Z., Muhaimi, L., & Nuriadi, N. (2021, May). *An Analysis of the Use of Diction on Covid-19 News in Disway. id*. In 2nd Annual Conference on Education and Social Science (ACCESS 2020)(pp. 168-173). Atlantis Press