

# The Study of Parents' Words, Behavior and Attitude as the Means to Build the Children's Character in Bulukumba Regency

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**Abstract**—Parents' words, behavior and attitude can serve as the media or means to build the children's character. This research is aimed to describe, analyze, and explain the implementation of parents' words, behavior and attitude as the means to build the children's positive character in Bulukumba Regency. The data includes parents and children speech, while the research resources were from the parents by using hand phone as the tool. The other instrument used during the research was the field note. The data of the research were analyses using the model created by Miles and Huberman (1993) consisting of data collection, unitization, note taking, service, and the tentative or temporary conclusion drawing, validation, final conclusion or hypothesis. The result of the research showed that the words, behavior and attitude of the parents toward the children in Bulukumba can be seen as follows: 1) utterance used with the declarative way which is meant as asking, containing communicative, friendship and character values 2) the implementation of the parents' words, behavior and attitude in accordance with the imperative way possesses creative character building. 3) Words uttered in interrogative way which means urgent, possesses honest character building.

**Index Terms**—behavior and words uttered, parents, children, character

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the world of communication nowadays, men use utterance as a way of expressing their mind. The words or utterance or speech is highly dependent upon various contexts, including social context that leads to the extension of the utterance meanings. When a sentence is uttered and heard or listened by others, they tend to usually do the requested actions. The readiness of someone in doing a particular thing or job is varied; one of the factors is a cooperative will to work together among individuals. Therefore, a language one utters can be meant as a cooperative means.

In every single communication process, there is always a thing called speech event and speech act in the speech situation. Speech situation and speech act are incorporated in the pragmatic study. Speech act is an event in which linguistic interaction takes place is a speech or utterance way. Therefore, a speech act can be viewed more as the meaning or definition of an act in the speech. Speech act can be divided into two things; directly or indirectly. This speech act can occur in various ways either in the form of declarative, interogative, or in the imperative way. Speech act is regarded as the pragmatic element which involves the speaker or talker, listener, writer, or reader as well as the things explained earlier (Setiawan, 2005, p. 16)

Basically, all the speech acts wished or hoped is the speech act which is positive and can eventually trigger the development of the children character. The children in certain range of age i.e. the ranging age between 6 and 12 years old possess big potential to imitate or copy the language uttered they hear in day to day life. If the words or language they hear are good, then the words they uttered are also good and vice versa. A positive character of speech act constitutes a dreamed character. Maman (2016) argued that the development of the children character can be expected as a lightened thing. In this regard, the development of the children character is expected as the means or media to change the character of the nation from the darkness to the lightness as what is stated in every religion and is as well reflected in the national constitution particularly in the philosophy of the Republic of Indonesia.

Tolla (2013, p.6) stated and argued that within the character particularly positive character, there are numerous humanity values which is symbolized as a different or distinctive kind of character and personality between one and the others. Things like these cover or range from positive character, personality, behavior, attitude, loyalty, honesty, devotion, living life without depending on others, care to the others, associate with others socially, respect others, respect or appreciate the existing social laws and social norms, love and care to the environment, responsible and

accountable, discipline, and always try to work professionally. Afterwards, Tolla (2013, p. 7) stressed and emphasized upon the values mentioned earlier are the characteristics of the individuals who have character.

Sapir-Whorf in Loveday (1982, p.36) argued that the mind or mindset and the behavior of the human (which can be observed) occur as a result of language used or uttered. The language we acquire or use in everyday life is always integrated with the culture or custom simultaneously. According to the basic design developed by national education ministry (Kemendiknas, 2010), psychologically as well as social-culturally, the development of the character within the individuals constitutes the function or actualization of his full potential within himself or herself.

The parents populated in the regency of Bulukumba are now getting more aware of the flow of information and globalization. This will enable the parents to talk or utter in more educative ways particularly in terms of shaping the character of the children. Characters meant or wished are the positive quality characters as standardized by the Board of Research and Development and the Center of Curriculum by the National Education Ministry (2010) covering the aspects as follows; (1) religious, (2) honest, (3) tolerant, (4) discipline, (5) hard working, (6) creative, (7) independent, (8) democracy, (9) inquisitive and curiosity, (10) the spirit of nation, (11) love to own nation and motherland, (12) respecting or appreciating any achievement, (13) friendly and communicative, (14) love peace, (15) like reading (16) care to the environment, (17) social care, (18) the attitude and the behavior of a person in order to do what's his duty or responsibility as well as the obligation that are supposed to be done by oneself, society, environment, country, nation and the God Almighty.

The research in the field of sociolinguistic and pragmatic has been numerously conducted or carried out such as what Rahardi (2005) has done. He studied the imperative courtesy or hospitality in the Indonesian language. This courtesy or hospitality study is based upon the three (3) theories of courtesy or hospitality i.e. the principle of Leech courtesy. In this research, the aspect of speech act studied is around the form of speech act.

Trosborg in Gunarwan (2007, p.5) argued that the pragmatic linguistic study is the pragmatic aspect in linguistic study, while pragmatic nonlinguistic constitutes part of the sociology, psychology, ethnomethodology and literature study. Yule (1996, p.5) stated that pragmatics is the study on the relation among the forms of linguistics and the users of the forms. Based on the explanation stated earlier, it can be concluded that pragmatics is a branch of a language science which focuses its study on the meaning of the words based on the context of the speech and utterance.

Speech act occurs in the speech event. This is in line with the opinion of Verschueren (1999, p.22) who argued that speech act is the act or action expressed through sentences or statements. Speech event constitutes a social event since it relates or connects to the parties involves in the utterance or speech in certain time, in certain place. Basically, speech event constitutes the sequences or series of various speech acts which are organized in order to achieve certain goals or targets. This speech event constitutes the social symptom. Leech (1993) stated that the implementation of the speech act can be seen in various forms. One of them is in the declarative, imperative and interrogative ways.

The function of the speech act is mostly related or connected to the illocution act (a style of speech or speaking). In this regard, Sumarsono (20012, p.323) explained that the illocution act is an act or action in order to do something mostly regarded or related to the function of speech act. Praise or giving compliment, complaint, mocking, promising, humiliating and similar forms of these are called the illocution act. Leech (1993) argued that the function of speech act is correlated with the goals or targets of the speaker or talker as what is occurred in the speech act in the speech event.

Rahim (2008, p.29) stated that the types of speech act are divided based on the strategy as follows:

Based on the model, a sentence or clause can be divided into declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentence. Conventionally declarative sentence is used to tell about something, interrogative sentence used to ask something, and imperative sentence is used to order or invite someone to do something. These can be told or said through direct strategy.

Mitchell and Alan Davis in their book which was translated by Ibrahim (2008, p.41) stated that the use of certain speech act and not the other speech act is then the meaning of the statement is up to the listener, then this is considered as the indirect speech event or speech act.

Courtesy constitutes one of the implementations of how one respects someone else. Watts (2003, p.39) argued that a courtesy is indeed the ideal character of a person in his action and in his ability or competence to please other people through some positive external activities.

Mey (1994, p. 67) argued that basically a courtesy can be meant that a person or someone can communicate well and easily to be understood.

A conversation in a family constitutes a speech event in a form of dialogue. As a speech event, a conversation is a verbal activity in the social interaction which is symbolized with the change in the speech between Pn and Mt. The use of a language in a speech event can be viewed as the personal act in order to serve as the personal goal as well as the personal act or speech actor. The individual goals meant here is the personal intention of the speech actor. The social goal is the goal in which the achievement occurred as a result of mutual understanding and harmonic relations achievement based on the social-cultural norms of the speech actor.

According to Asep et al (2010, p.48) that a character can shaped through culturalization, that occurs internally within the family, community of culture of a certain ethnic, community of culture of a certain. The process of culturalization is done by the parents, people who regarded as the senior ones towards the children or toward the younger people.

The national education ministry for the center of development and curriculum (2010) that covers the following things such as: (1) religious, (2) honest, (3) tolerant, (4) discipline, (5) hard working, (6) creative, (7) independent, (8) democracy, (9) inquisitive and curiosity, (10) the spirit of nation, (11) love to own nation and motherland, (12) respecting or appreciating any achievement, (13) friendly and communicative, (14) love peace, (15) like reading (16) care to the environment, (17) social care, (18) the attitude and the behavior of a person in order to do what's his duty or responsibility as well as the obligation that are supposed to be done by oneself, society, nation country and God The Almighty. Based on the explanation stated earlier, then the children's character values which are expected from this research were the eighteen character values as what stated in Board of Research and Development and the Center of Curriculum by the National Education Ministry (2010, p.9-10) above. These characters as mentioned earlier are the characters expected from the children as a result of good speech act and speech event by the parents to the children.

The problem or the research was that "how are the real concrete speech act of the parents as the means or media to shape and develop the positive character of the children in the regency of Bulukumba?"

The goals of the research the researcher wish to achieve was to describe, analyze, and explain, the real implementation of the parents' speech act and speech event as the media or means to shape and to develop the children positive character in the regency of Bulukumba.

The result of this research is expected to be very contributive which can enrich and develop the treasure of the theory of parents' communication and interaction toward the children as the media or means to shape and to develop the children positive character. Besides, the result of this research is as well expected to be able to grow and develop more interest and willingness toward the theory of parental speech act toward the children.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of this research is qualitative descriptive, namely the typical research which is attempting to explaining things in words and descriptions, Bogdan and Taylor, (in Moleong, 1994).

With the focus of the research are the all the words, utterance and speech of the parents that serve as the objects of this research.

This research is typically a qualitative kind of research using the plan of eclectic theory i.e. the collaboration and combination of between pragmatics and sociolinguistics.

The sources of this theory were the parents in the regency of Bulukumba. The instrument of the research was the researcher with the assisting tool i.e. *cell phone and field note*.

The data were collected using Observation, interview, and recording. The check of the validity of the data i.e. the intensity of the observation and fellow researcher cross check, as well as the expert of Indonesian language, Sugiyono (2009,p .272).

The Analysis of the flow model data was taken from the theory by Miles and Huberman (1992:15). There were three steps in this analysis covering (1) data reduction, (2) data serving, (3) verification of the data and drawing the conclusion. The technique used in this research was the triangulation research findings validity checking, either the source triangulation or the method triangulation.

## III. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The implementation of the parents' speech act as the means to develop the positive character of the children in Bulukumba can be identified through the use of speech act and the words or diction they use. The use of utterance or speech act can be seen from three models, they are (1) declarative, (2) imperative, (3) interrogative. Conventionally declarative sentence is used to tell about something, interrogative sentence used to ask something, and imperative sentence is used to order or invite someone to do something. These can be told or said through direct strategy.

### A. *The Use of Speech or Utterance with Declarative Model*

In the interaction between the parents with the children using the declarative speech act somehow and sometimes used to order or ask to do something. The utterance of speech act is formulated using the Indonesian language which is not formal so that in the delivery of the speech can be identified by the type or variant of local identification particularly the Buginese language.

In the family environment context, the speech act and utterance using the declarative model with the characteristics are considered normal. It is said and considered normal since the speech act is used by the parents toward the children in their day to day interaction. The use of such speech act can create harmonic relationship and trigger the achievement of mutual understanding. This can be seen from the following data:

1 A: The noodle didn't get any carrots. (1)

I: The boiled eggs please! (2)

A: The boiled eggs perhaps. (3) (WTTOT.Dklrt. Hrs. Dt1)

(Context: the speech act was uttered by the mother obviously the housewife one along with her children about the rice sold in the cafeteria. They talk about what should be done particularly in terms of selling the fried rice in order to be delicious and attract more buyers)

The speech act above on the data (1) constitutes declarative utterance. The sample of the data conversation (1a) involves the participants i.e. the mothers and the children. This speech event is usually occurred and happened at home. The topic of this conversation is about the canteen or cafeteria snacks available at school. The sample of the conversation above used the speech act and utterance in an informal way. The utterance or speech act is delivered in the form of phrase and simple sentences. The utterance and speech act is started with the statements of the children who described that the noodle sold was not given a little carrot. Afterwards, it was responded by the mother who said '*telur masakmo*', meaning that the boiled eggs would be good. Then it was responded again by the children by saying '*Telur masak kapang*' (the eggs are boiled perhaps).

The speech act above constitutes the direct declarative model. The parents used the model to order or ask someone to do something. This is commonly happened considering that the relation between the parents and the children which are asymmetric, then whenever the parents ask the children anything, won't disturb the positive image of them and this considered normal. This is also normal in the eye of people, as the chance or potential for parents to order the children is very large. This is connected to the status of the parents with their children in the family. In certain extent, the children are supposed to keep the image of the parents so that there won't be any conflict occurred in the interaction.

The utterance and speech act is normally happened. Therefore, the utterance and speech act is categorized as the proper or polite utterance and speech act. In this case, this utterance and speech act use the informal Bahasa Indonesia. This is indicated by the use of some variants or small talks in Bugisnese local language i.e. the words ended with *-mo* particularly in the words *telur masakmo* meaning that *just the boiled eggs*. Using Bahasa Indonesia with the utterance like that sounds like or seems like trying to smoothen or soften the order. This utterance and speech act still possess choice or alternative meaning to the opponent of the talk. This can be seen from the meaning of the utterance and speech act *just the boiled eggs*. In other words, meaning that it's not an obligation to the opponent of the talk to implement that. So, the utterance and speech act can still keep the image of the opponent of the talk.

The utterance and speech act above contains the friendly, warm, and communicative character. The utterance and speech act above contains the behavior Pn and Mn which keep the good relation in the positive interaction. This is not only happened in the day to day life but also occur in terms of nation and country.

#### B. The Implementation of the Parents' Speech Act Using the Imperative Model

The utterances and speech acts by the parents in the conversation in a family, some are delivered in a quite imperative way. Those utterances and speech acts are used by the parents to ask, order, warn, prohibit, and tell. Those utterances and speech acts is used to state the function of them which is formulated using Bahasa Indonesia with various linguistic variants. The existence of those utterances and speech acts using imperative model tend to show the normal condition but with the different hospitality.

When the conversation takes place between parents and the children. The utterances of the parents with the imperative model are commonly used by the parents to ask something. Those utterances and speech acts are then formulated using informal Bahasa Indonesia. This is indicated by the linguistic variety of courtesy. In this regard, those utterances and speech acts are marked with the linguistic variants such as speech act which is as well indicated as the sign of respect, in form of modality, attempt and sign of the courtesy using the word politely expressed '*Nak*' meaning that '*kid*'.

In the parents' utterance and speech act especially in a family, those utterances and speech acts used are commonly the imperative models with the characteristic considered normal and polite and this is utilized as the means for parents to ask something to their children.

The use of those utterances and speech acts tend to show the creation of harmonious relationship and the mutual understanding achievement. This in shown by the sample below:

2. I: Please give me the bowl! (a)  
 A: Please wait will you? (b)  
 I: Please pour it here, kid!(c) (WTTOT.IMP. Mnr.

Dt 2.) (Context: uttered by the mother to the children when asked to help her when helping her children doing the project)

Those utterances and speech acts by the mother such as in the items 2 (a) constitutes utterances and speech acts with the direct imperative using literal meaning. This is aimed to ask something directly. In this case, the mother used the utterances and speech acts to ask for the child to take the bowl needed in making the project. This is happened as well in the item 2 (c) the mother asked directly to the child to pour out something i.e. the materials for making the project in the place told by the mother.

In a family context, the use of those utterances and speech acts are typically imperative and considered normal. Meaning that the mother uses those utterances and speech acts to say the request according to the authorized status, task, and the obligation when being in the family. In this regard, the mother possesses the task and the obligation to help the children in the process of getting the project done. In running the task and the obligation, the mother with higher status than the children is allowed to order something top the children and this is considered normal and usual.

The imperative model of speech act or utterance used by the mother to ask for something is considered polite still. In this regard, those utterances and speech acts are formulated by the parents using informal Indonesian Language which is indicated or marked by the use of trial modality. Just like the utterances and speech acts 9 (a and c) along with the use

of greeting or calling a children 'Nak'. The use of Bahasa Indonesia with those characteristics, utterances and speech acts in imperative model seemingly tries to soften the request. This request is asked by the mother toward the children is considered as the soft and polite request. Thus, the utterances and speech acts with the declarative model of requesting something stated by the parents to the children is deemed polite and soft. Meaning that the use of those utterances and speech acts is profitable, saving the image, or showing the respect to the teachers.

The character values contained in the utterance above is considered creative. It is said so as in the part above the speaker or talkers with the opponent of the talker have done such creative projects.

### C. The Utterance and Speech Act Using the Interrogative Model

In the conversation between the parents and the children in a family atmosphere the utterances and speech acts using the interrogative model is utilized to insist on something. Those utterances and speech acts use the informal Bahasa Indonesia which is identified by the linguistic form empowered by the use of replacing words or family relation identification in form of greeting like we or kid. The utterances and speech acts are accompanied with the polite tone of language.

In a family context, the utterance in an interrogative model with such characteristics is considered normal, common and polite and used by the parents especially the mother to push something to the children. The use of this again, tends to show a harmonious relationship and mutual understanding achievement. This can be seen from the following item 3 as follows:

3. I: What did you buy just now, kid? (a)  
 A: (silent..) (b)  
 I: I said what you bought just now? (c)  
 A: As usual. (d) (WTTOT. INT. Aqd Data 3.)

(Context: the utterances and speech acts uttered by the mother to find out what was purchased by the child in the school, but the child rejected and then the mother pushed and insisted the children to say the truth of what she has bought)

The utterances and speech acts in the item 3 constitutes the utterance in an interrogative way in indirect model meaning in the literal way. The utterances and speech acts are used by the mother to enquire whether the child bought something at school. In this context, the child didn't want to tell the truth about the snacks she bought at school but the mother insisted. This can be proven by the interrogative utterance 3 (a) and (c). The similar meaning of the questions was repeated by the mother twice. However, the answer was not really sportive to tell the truth.

In such conversation, the utterance can mean interrogative which is used to push and insist the child is categorized as normal and usual. Meaning that the mother has shown the attention toward the children. Giving the attention toward the children is indeed one of the duties and responsibilities of the mother.

The utterances and speech acts used by the mother to insist the children are categorized polite. The language used is the informal Bahasa Indonesia indicated by the mark or indication of courtesy or hospitality of the honorific relative relation for instance *ki-* and other like *Nak (Kid)*. This is as well applied to the attitude of the children who didn't answer the question of the mother as what stated in the item 3 (b). Silence is one of the strategies of polite communication. The utterances and speech acts is such an opportunity to create the harmonious relationship, can take or keep the good image of the opponent of the talker, as well as ease us to have mutual understanding.

The values of the character within the utterances and speech acts mentioned above are honesty. It is said so that based on the utterance of the parents it seems that parents requesting the children to say something honest about the things that will be bought in the school.

## IV. DISCUSSIONS

The implementation of the utterances and speech acts by the parents toward the children in the regency of Bulukumba show the pattern of the conversation with the characteristics and the models are as follows: 1) declarative to formulate, declarative to request, 2) imperative to order, and 3) interrogative to insist. This is in line with the statements by Rahim (2008:33) who said that based on the survival or in survival of the communicative action, a sentence can be categorized into 3 (three): 1) declarative, 2) imperative, 3) interrogative.

Based on the data researched it was found that there were 3 kinds of character that the parents will shape based on the speech they utter namely: 1) creative character, 2) friendly and communicative, 3) honest. The utterances and speech uttered by the parents are always hoped or expected to be positive and possess values and character. Kamarudiin, et al (2010, p.74) stated that in order to create a strong nation then education through character education needs to be imprinted in the main character, one of them is friendliness or kindness, tend to try something new perseverance, honest or good judgment.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The implementation of the utterances and speech acts by the parents as the media or means to shape the character of the children is in form of declarative way i.e. to order containing the values of honest character, imperative words and

action, used to express the values of friendly and communicative character, and the utterances and speech acts with the interrogative model in order to push or insist which possess the positive character like being honest

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