The Analysis of Fillers Used in Valentino Rossi's Speech on the Winner Press Conference

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Abstract

Fillers are quite common in all types of spoken communication. They have numerous and non-exclusive functions which are related to interaction management or discourse planning. This study aimed to find out the kinds and the functions of fillers in the selected video of Valentino Rossi speech on the winner press-conference. This research used a qualitative approach with the design of content analysis. The data was analyzed through three stages; 1). Data reduction, 2). Data representation, 3). Conclusion. The result of this study showed there were 61 fillers in the video of Valentino Rossi speech on the winner press-conference. The researcher concludes, based on those data, it explains that fillers are very common expression in speaking. Moreover, fillers have many functions based on the speaker conditions and situations.

Keywords: *kinds of fillers, functions of fillers, foreign language, speech, Valentino Rossi*

Introduction

Language is a special aspect of the human being. By learning, language people can communicate with each other and get information from one to another. Language has a big role in human life to make a relation in their environment (Miranti and Nur, 2018). It indicates that language is very important to be learned in human life.

Learning to speak a foreign language requires a lot of effort, time, commitment, and developing the specific awareness as each language has its own rules of interaction. This condition becomes absolutely true when the learning takes place in a context where the target language is not commonly used outside the foreign language classroom (Santos, Alarcón, & Pablo, 2016).

Moreover, to be able to speak a foreign language or the second language easily, we need to improve our speaking strategies. It goes without saying that all the aforementioned makes us realize that speaking is a very complex skill which needs careful attention in the foreign language teaching and learning process as the rules in every culture as to when it is acceptable to speak, when one must speak and what style of speech is expected (Erten, 2014).

Since speaking a foreign language is not easy, sometimes people make some pauses during the speaking. In fact, many spontaneous speakers of various languages have pauses on their speaking which are taken when needed (Erten, 2014). Depends on this line of thought, it is our intention, in this study, to discuss the issue of the one simple, useful, though neglected

speaking strategy: fillers. We will start from detailing what fillers are based on certain popular scholars. Then, the researcher formulates two research problems: (1) what are the kinds of fillers used in Valentino Rossi speech on the winner press-conference? (2) What are the functions of fillers used in Valentino Rossi speech on the winner press-conference?

Literature Review

Fillers are some discourse markers which speakers use when they think or hesitate during their speech (Erten, 2014). During oral interactions, speakers are highly likely to use expressions such as *well, erm, I mean, actually, you see, you know, let me think* to create a delay that facilitates them to bring on the conversation on the times of difficulty (Richards, and Schmidt, 2012). It is also known as pausing or hesitation atmosphere which are frequently occurring component of natural speech in which gaps or hesitations develop during the production of utterances. The commonest types of pauses are:

a. Silent pauses, is to say, silent interruptions between words.
b. Filled pauses, which are gaps filled by such expression *um, er, em, eh, uh*, etc.

It has been pointed out that people who speak slowly often use more pauses than people who speak quickly. It is also attractive to know that when people speak, up to 50% of their speaking time may be made up by pauses (Richards and Schmidt, 2012). In any research, it is still challenging to determine when a filler is used as a marker for expressing uncertainty or hesitation. This system shows how complicated the brain is and its mechanisms to express meaning in an utterance.

In a natural conversation, people use fillers and hesitations to show a need of a word or simply to plan their next utterance. There are some of discourse markers either the English-speakers or the non-natives use for different purposes. Well, Ehm, Uhm, You know, How to say are only some of them when they want to 'buy time' during their speech (Khojastehrad, 2012). This is part of natural spontaneous speech. Fillers might actually signal that there is a cognitive process in the mind of the speaker, showing that the thinking process can derive in the creation of speech production.

In the other word, the speaker is aware if he/she makes a speech error. Then, he/she wants to correct it. *I mean, um, ehm, uh, huh, ee*, et cetera can indicate the speaker's awareness of the speech error followed by her/his attempt to correct it. In correcting the speech errors, the speakers replace certain old words with new ones, so it indicates that the old words have been misplanned. Sometimes, the speaker also repeats the speech error directly (Kharismawan, 2017).

Moreover, fillers help with the meaning of a vocalization, they are not the meaning itself. Since interpositions lack conceptual meaning, when they appear alone their procedural meaning leads the hearer to activate different attitudinal concepts. Finally, it has been recognized that pause fillers have been long dismissed as swing or informal ways of stalling for time. However, much more recently these "humble pauses" have been the focused of linguist researchers in the Boston area of the United States as their studies have revealed that the elusive and diverse functions of fillers are much wide ranging than thought (Peterson, 2015).

Methodology

To conduct this research, the researcher used design content analysis with qualitative approach. Content analysis is the intellectual process of categorizing qualitative textual data into

category of similar concept, to identify consistent patterns or relationship between variable of themes (Given, 2008).

The object of the study is a video of Valentino Rossi speech on the winner press-conference. Researcher watched through the video then wrote the transcripts. This analysis use three steps, there are; data reduction, data display, or data representation, and conclusion drawing and verification.

In reduction process the researcher chose the video of Valentino Rossi speech on the winner press-conference that retrieved from site https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjH_-lbAN-E. Researcher watched through the video then wrote the transcripts to identify any fillers.

In data representation, the researcher presented the data by classified into the kinds of fillers. After that, the findings of classifications were defined and explained as the possible reasons why Valentino Rossi used those fillers in his speech.

In making conclusion, the researcher drew the conclusion based on the findings in this research.

Findings and Discussions

The Kind of Fillers

This study classified the kinds of filled pauses based on Rose's theory. Based on Liberman (2016), there are two kinds of filled pause; there are a non-lexical filled pause and a lexical filled pause. Chatziioannou and Esposito (2015), non-lexical filled pauses mean non-words filled pauses which speakers use to look for the right term, they plan what to say next or they try to hold the floor. Here were some examples to represent the data:

- ➢ VR: ….because is *ehh* a great feeling….
- ➢ VR: ….faster in some place and the ehh *emm* I'm…

In those two examples from Valentino Rossi speech, there were *ehh* and *emm* which classified as non-lexical filled pauses. It was because those two utterances was not a word and did not have meaning.

Based on Rose (1998), lexical filled pauses are fillers in the form of word or short phrases. Here were some examples of lexical filled pauses:

- ➢ VR: …. *you know*, at the beginning I had….
- ➢ VR: …. *and the* ehh I have to thank you….
- ➢ VR: …. to find the right balance *but* ehh from this….

There were *you know, and the*, and *but* which appeared in Valentino Rossi's speech. *But* was in the form of word and *you know* and *and the* are in the form of phrases. Thus three examples have the meaning but they are still considered as lexical filled pauses because thus words are not important as a part of their sentences. However, whether thus words are in the sentence or not, they would not change the meaning of the sentence.

The Function of Fillers

Fillers have a particularly practical use in daily conversations. For example, I use them, I use short phrases, or I repeat some words, or stretched the last sound of a word like yessss while I am looking for the exact word I want to say or the idea I want to express but I cannot find it quickly. It is a resource, a tool that I use.

Therefore, it probably tends to appear more commonly when interactions are socially rather than task oriented. For what concerns fillers, one possible explanation is that these cues can explain for communication troubles between fully unfamiliar individuals speaking to one another for the first time. (Chatziioannou and Esposito, 2015). Fillers have various functions which depend on the conditions and situations of the speaker. There are at least five functions of fillers which become the focus on this study. They were hesitating, empathizing, mitigating, editing term, and stalling tools. The researcher analyzed the productions of fillers and defined the functions by considering the context of situation from the utterances.

A mark of hesitation as one of the functions of fillers. He also give some examples of fillers as a mark of hesitation, such as *ehh*, *emm*, *err*, *uhm*, *ah*, *hm*, etc. In this research, fillers as hesitation tools appeared the most in the Valentino Rossi's speech video. There are some example of fillers as hesitation devices:

- ➢ VR: …*ehh* I never give up…
- ➢ VR: … *ehh* I always work…
- ➢ VR: … *ehh* ride the race motorcycle.
- ➢ VR: … *emm* I fight with everybody,

Based on the situation, *ehh*, and *emm* were said by adding a slight pause. It meant that those fillers appeared to give the signal attention and encouragement to continue to others. This kind of fillers become the most common fillers which appeared on the Valentino Rossi's speech video. Thus kind of fillers appeared 39 times on that selected video.

Based on (Chatziioannou and Esposito, 2015). Fillers define as a suggestion for the listener to be concerned in what the speaker says. Here were same sample of those fillers:

- ➢ VR: … Ehh *you know* I I I'm happy…
- ➢ VR: … back on the first position or not. *You know* was eh..
- ➢ VR: … *you know* at the beginning I had…

You know fillers indicated that whether the message was received and understood or not. Based to thus three examples, the researcher concluded that fillers as empathizing purpose usually appeared at the beginning or at the middle of a sentence.

Based on (Chatziioannou and Esposito, 2015), fillers can also be used as stalling tools. They stated that the common form of fillers used as the stalling tools is the lexical repetition. Fillers as stalling tools meant that fillers give some time for the speaker to think about what to speak next. Here were some the examples of those filler:

- ➢ VR: … you know **I I I**'m happy but …
- ➢ VR: … **I I I** cannot believe….
- ➢ VR: … Was a **long long** time from spain from 2010…
- ➢ VR: … **in this** ehh **in this** ehh **in this** race …
- ➢ VR: … **was** eh **was** eh a **tough** eh **tough** period …

The first until the third examples indicated single words repetition. It meant that Valentino Rossi repeated a word *I* three times and a word *long* two times. The second example referred to phrase partial repetition where Valentino Rossi repeated a phrase *in this*. However, those two kinds of repetition are to have some times to think what to say next. Fillers as stalling tools were almost same with fillers as hesitating purpose. The different was fillers as hesitating purpose referred to non-lexical filled pauses and stalling tools referred to lexical filled pauses.

Conclusion

Based on thus findings and discussions, the researcher concludes that the result of this study are;

There are two kinds of fillers on the Valentino Rossi's speech on the winner press conference video. The first is non-lexical filled pauses. According on the transcript of the selected video thus kind of fillers show in; *ehh, emm,* and *ehehehe*. The "*ehh"* filler is the most common fillers on that video. It appeared 37 times on thus 1:41 minutes video. Those kinds of fillers include in the non-lexical filled pauses because they are not a word and do not have meaning. The second is lexical filled pauses. Based on the transcript of the selected video thus kind of fillers show in; *you know*, *and the*, *but, I, long, in this, was, tough, in the, this is, I had*, and *I'm*. Some of them appeared in the form of word and the rest in the form of phrase. Thus examples have the meaning but they are still considered as lexical filled pauses because thus words are not important as a part of their sentences.

Furthermore, there are three kinds of function of thus fillers. The first is fillers as a mark of hesitation. Those fillers appeared to give the speaker time to think about what he would say next. This kind of fillers become the most common fillers which appeared on the Valentino Rossi's speech video. Thus kind of fillers appeared 39 times on that selected video. The second is fillers as an invitation for the listener to be involved in what the speaker says. The researcher concluded that fillers as empathizing purpose usually appeared at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. This kind of fillers appeared 4 times on that selected video. The last is fillers as a stalling tools is the lexical repetition. Fillers as a stalling tool were almost the same with fillers as hesitating purpose. The different was fillers as hesitating purpose referred to non-lexical filled pauses and stalling tools referred to lexical filled pauses. According to the transcript of the selected video, thus a kind of fillers appeared 28 times.

Therefore, these discourse considerations also need further inter-feature analysis is necessary to determine whether any other specific kinds and function of fillers simultaneously inform its distinctive usage in a given context.

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Appendix

Transcript of Valentino Rossi's Speech on the winner press conference

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjH_-lbAN-E

Ehh.. you know I…I… I'm happy but ehh…I…I…I cannot believe, eheheh….because is eh..a great feeling to be back on the first position. Was a long .. long time from spain from 2010 and the ..in this eh..in this eh..in this race aehh…I .. I..make to to this eh this questions, I..I can come back on the first position or not. you know..was eh.. was eh a tough eh tough period but ehh…I never give up ehh..I always work about because ehh..this is ehh..this is my passion, I love ride ehh.. ride the race motorcycle. Ehh and the eh.. I have to thank you..the Yamaha for give me another chance, with them one of the factory team. And the eh..you know.. at the beginning I had..I had…I wasn't not confidence with the bike, ehh.. I have to..to find the right balance but ehh..from this ehh.. race ehh.. I have better potential especially because I can ride the bike in the.. in the better way. Ehh and today I..I..before the race eh think ehh I have to try to win because ehh..this is my day and the ehh,, I've also Lorenzo that is injured ehh you know.. I feel good so I try from the beginning and the ehh.. was long ehh emm I fight with everybody, I fight with ehh marquez, I fight with pedrosa, and the..with Carl..but eh I evaluation little bit eh faster in some place and the ehh emm I'm I'm so happy I .. I've to thank you to to all the guys to all the people that ehh… before for make this ehh now we have to continue at this level.