

Componential Analysis of Meaning of the Word “Melihat” In Javanese and English Language

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Abstract

It is a qualitative descriptive study that attempts to depict the componential meaning of the word ‘*melihat*’ or ‘to see’ in Javanese and English and the element of context that may influence the word choice in both languages. By using documentation as method of data collection, it is found that there are many different words having the same meaning to say ‘*melihat*’ in both languages while those words means that anyone doing activities of ‘*melihat*’. In addition, the aspects of intensity, target, distance, and connotative features influence the word choice in either Javanese or English.

Keywords: *Componential Meaning, Melihat, Javanese, English*

Abstrak

Ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif yang berusaha untuk menggambarkan makna komponen pada kata ‘*melihat*’ dalam bahasa Jawa dan bahasa Inggris serta meneliti elemen konteks yang mempengaruhi diksi pada kedua bahasa tersebut. dengan menggunakan dokumentasi sebagai metode pengumpulan data, penelitian membuktikan bahwa ada banyak kata yang berbeda yang memiliki kesamaan makna untuk mengungkapkan kata ‘*melihat*’ pada kedua bahasa. Sedangkan, kata-kata tersebut memiliki arti bahwa pelaku melakukan aktifitas ‘*melihat*’. Di samping itu, aspek intensitas, target, jarak, dan ciri-ciri konotatif mempengaruhi diksi pada bahasa Jawa maupun bahasa Inggris.

Kata Kunci: *Makna Komponental, Melihat, Bahasa Jawa, Bahasa Inggris*

Introduction

Every language has different system that characterizes its use, likewise Javanese and English. To say '*melihat*', for instance, there are many words can be chosen to express speaker's idea. Javanese, as a tool of communication for Javanese generally, have many ways to say that words, such as:

1. Udin lagi *ndelok* TV.
2. Nek mlaku *ndelengi* dalan!
3. Rina *ngamati* gaweane koncone sing lagi digarap.

Those three words have different forms but similar meaning; expressing '*melihat*'. In English, the same thing can be found, for example:

1. My brother is *watching* TV.
2. *Look at* the street!
3. The teacher *observes* the student assignments.

From the above examples, different words which have the same meaning in the sentences called synonymy. The words 'begin', 'start', 'sofa', 'settee', 'adore', and 'worship' are just a few of hundreds words that seem to be frequently interchangeable without loss of meaning. However, they are truly synonymous that they always mean the same and can be substituted one another (Carthy, 1990: 16). Therefore, we need to know the meaning of the word deeply before using it. Sometimes we are confused to understand words we do not know the meanings exactly. Not only in English, in Javanese have we also found the synonymy that shows the richness of word meaning.

Derived from that phenomenon, the writer is interested in conducting the analysis of componential meaning of the word between two languages by addressing following research questions.

1. What are the components of meaning that differentiate between one word to another in Javanese synonym of the word '*ndeleng*'?

2. What are the components of meaning that differentiate between one word to another in English synonym of the word 'to see'?
3. What element of context that may influence the word choice in Javanese and in English?

Semantics

Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. It is a part of linguistics that not only includes meaning but also development and changing (Palmer, 1981: 1). According to Fromkin (1985: 201), it is a study of linguistic meaning of words, phrase, and sentences.

Lexical Relation

In the discussion of meaning, there are many parts to be elaborated; one of them is lexical relation. According to Saeed (1997: 36), there are eight lexical fields in the lexical relation.

1. Synonyms, which are different phonological words which have the same or very similar meaning.
2. Antonym (opposition), words which are opposite in meaning.
3. Homonymy, unrelated senses of the same phonological words.
4. Polysemy
5. Hyponym
6. Meronymy
7. Member collection
8. Portion-mas

Componential Analysis

When people contemplate communication in foreign language, they often reach for dictionary since it provides meanings for words of given language

and labels for concepts that speakers wish to discuss. Then, how does the meaning of words in a sentence contribute to the meaning of sentence? Componential analysis of this kind can reveal a relation among words from the same semantic domain, such as kinship terms. It attempts to describe the systematic ways in which words are alike or unlike (Carthy, 1990: 92). He (1990: 92) states that it is also the way of looking at the meaning of words, describing words in terms of shared and non-shared semantic features, these features themselves being only expressible as words.

Semantic componential analysis is based on the similarities among set of words. The goal of semantic feature (componential) analysis is to discover a set of features that make up the meanings of words. In this analysis, the lexical relation of synonym is important because words related to the ways of sharing features. The purpose of semantic field analysis is to arrive at meaning shared by a group of words in a domain. That, all the words within the field related to each other, yet differs in details, which are captured in the analysis.

The componential analysis can be applied satisfactorily only in certain well-defined semantic domains. In many cases, it is difficult to define the elementary “features” which distinguish the meaning of a word from that of similar ones. For instance, the word ‘chair’ has some similar meaning with bench, davenport, and sofa. But, it is not exactly the same; there are some features differentiate them. It is described as follows.

	Wood substance	Foot	Expensive	Hand
Bench	+	+	-	-
Chair	+	+	-	-
Davenport	-	+	-	-

Those data, then, are analyzed descriptively using the semantic field of the word '*melihat*' or '*to see*'. They are:

1. Intensity

It shows duration of seeing.

2. Target

It means any object used for the purpose of seeing.

3. Crossbeam

Crossbeam refers to something that delays activity of seeing.

4. Distance

Distance shows an interval or space between two objects. It means the distance between the doer and the target of seeing.

5. Connotative

It means implication of a word or phrase in addition to its literal meaning.

To clear the discussion, the data are scrutinized in the Table 1.2. and 1.3.

Table 1.1. Data Presentation

No.	Javanese	English	Meaning	Sentence	
				Javanese	English
1	Mandeng, Kamitenggengen	Behold	to look at with attention, to see	Kowe kok mandeng aku wae, ngopo?	Why do you behold of me in that way?
2	Mentheleng, Mendelik,	Stare, look at	to look with eyes fixed wide open	Bocah kuwi nangis amarga dipenthelengi bapake.	That child is crying because his father stares at him
	Mlolo, Mlorok, Mlelek				
3	Mlilik, Nglirik	Look at	to employ one's vision, to direct the eyes toward an object.	Bocah kuwi miliki dolanan sing dipajang ono toko.	The child descrys the toys in the store.
		Descry	to espy, to see or behold from a distance		
4	Ndeleng	Contemplate	to look at or view with continued attention.	Ibu-ibu podo ndeleng carane nggawe kue.	The women contemplate how to make a cake.
5	Ndelok	See	to perceive by the eye, to look at or behold	Ayo podho ndelok wayang ana alun-alun.	Let's see the Javanese-puppet show in the town.
6	Namati, Nyawang	Regard	to look up on or think of in a particular way	Wong lanang kuwi namati peta pirang-pirang jam.	That man regarded the map for hours.
7	Nonton	Watch	to be or continue without sleeping	Udin lagi nonton TV.	Udin is watching television.
8	Weruh	Glance	to look quickly or briefly	Ibuku weruh gaweane masku.	My mother glimpse at my brother's work.
		Glimpse	a quick, passing view or look, a brief appearance		
9	Ngulatke	Gaze at	to look steadily, intently, to look with eagerness or curiosity.	Wong kuwi ngulatke sapa wae sing teka.	That guy gazes at the guest.
10	Nginjen	Peep	to look through a small aperture of rom a hidden place	Ojo seneng ngjinjen, ora apik!	Don't peep, it is not good!
		Peek	to look quickly or furtively		
		Peer	to look narrowly, as in the effort to discern clearly		

Table 1.2. Componential analysis of meaning of Javanese words

No	Activities of seeing	Intensity	Target	Crossbeam	The Distance	Connotative features
		A	B	C	D	E
1	Mandeng	+	Near	-	+	+
2	Mentheleng	-	Near	-	+	-
3	Mlelek	-	Near	-	+	+/-
4	Mlilik	+	Near	-	+	+/-
5	Nglirik	+/-	Near	-	-	-
6	Mendelik	-	Near	-	+	-
7	Kamitenggengen	+	Near/far	-	+/-	+
8	Ndeleng	+	Near	-	+	+
9	Ndelok	+	Near/far	-	+/-	+
10	Namati	+	Near	-	+	+
11	Nyawang	+	Near/far	-	+/-	+
12	Mlolo	+/-	Near	-	+	-
13	Mlorok	-	Near	-	+	-
14	Nonton	+	Near/far	-	+/-	+
15	Weruh	-	Near/far	-	+/-	+
16	Ngulatke	+	Near	-	+	+
17	Nginjen	+/-	Near	+	+	-

Table 1.3. Componential analysis of meaning of English Words

No	Activities of seeing	Intensity	Target	Crossbeam	The Distance	Connotative features
		A	B	C	D	E
1	Behold	+	Near	-	-	+
2	Contemplate	-	Near	-	-	+
3	Descry	+	Far	-	+	+
4	Glance	+	Near/far	-	-	+
5	Gaze	+	Near	-	-	+
6	Glimpse	+	Near	-	-	+
7	Look at	+	Near	-	-	+
8	Look out	+	Near	-	-	+

9	Peek	-	Near/far	+	+	+/-
10	Peep	-	Near	+	+	-
11	Peer	-	Near	+	+	-
12	Regard	+	Near	-	-	+
13	See	+	Near	-	-	+
14	Stare	-	Near	-	-	+
15	Watch	+	Near/far	-	-	+

Ambivalence

In the table, it is seen that there are words have two signs i.e. (+) and (-) called ambivalence. It means that there are two meanings or purposes from the words depending on the context. Furthermore, such words are elaborated below, based on the componential analysis of meaning.

1. Intensity

In Javanese, *'nglirik'* and *'nginjen'* have two signs of positive and negative. *'Nglirik'* can be high if the doer wants to make long seeing activities. However, it is also can be low if the doer makes it short or just a moment. *'Nginjen'* also has the same thing; the doer can make it either long or short. All of activities depend on the doer. In English, there is no ambivalence of the intensity.

2. Target

In Javanese, *'kamitenggengen'*, *'ndelok'*, *'nyawang'*, and *'weruh'* have near and far object of seeing. In English, *'glance'*, *'peek'*, and *'watch'* have near and far object. It means that the object can be shown as far as the eyes see.

3. Distance

The word '*ndelok*', '*nyawang*', '*nonton*', '*weruh*', and '*kamitenggengen*' in Javanese are used in far or near distance. It means that the doer can be seen at near or far objects.

4. Connotative features

The word '*mlilik*' is the one which has both signs. It shows that '*mlilik*' has two connotative features of meaning. In English, we can see that '*peek*' also has both signs of connotative features.

Actually, there are still many activities of seeing that can interpret the meaning. Like '*ngeker*', it is include of the activities of seeing. But it is not discussed in this research because it needs a tool when such an activity done. What discussed here are the activities of '*seeing*' with bare activities without any tools. Here, the writer used a free translation in each word from the obtained data by trying to use the most appropriate word to the context.

Conclusion

From the study conducted by the writer, there are many different words having the same meaning to say '*melihat*' in both languages. Meanwhile, those words mean that anyone does activities of '*melihat*'. In addition, the aspects of intensity, target, distance, and connotative features influence the word choice in either Javanese or English.

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