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Narrative Structure of Storytelling in Kelantanese Dialect

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ABSTRACT

Human interaction involves a process of sharing experiences, telling stories, and retelling stories in a form of narration. While telling story, the narration is structured in a way to make sense to the audiences.This study examined the narrative structures in Kelantanese dialect used by young female native speakers. The participants were two (2) female Kelantanese students, aged 25 and 27 years old, who have completed their undergraduate studies in local universities. Audio recording and semi-structured interview were two types of instruments used for the data collection. Interview session of 1012 words was analyzed using a combination of the theory of Malay sentence classifications and the theory of narrative structure. The findings of this study reveal that the narration in Kelantanese dialect has a systematic structure which consists of title and elaboration. The title consists of the abstract and orientation, while elaboration includes the four stages of narrative structure which are complication, evaluation, resolution and coda. The findings show that the story is unfolded in a structural manner-which means it has the idea and the elaboration of the idea (the story).

Keywords: Narrative analysis, Kelantanese dialect, storytelling, narrative structures

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Language is important for people. They use it to interact and communicate with each other. While communicating, people use words, gestures and sound repetitively with intended aim-share information, express belief or ideas and give instruction (Widdowson, 2007; see also De Vito, 1996). The intended aim for communication is called genre and genre is defined as goal oriented and purposeful activity (Martin, 1984), with a particular structure in giving information, expressing emotion, or sharing stories for the message to be delivered to listeners without any misunderstanding. Storytelling is a type of genre which gives people opportunity to share their experiences. Storytelling in casual conversation involves representation of words (information about the event- what happen, when it happen) and reaction of the speaker towards the event (Eggins and Slade, 1997). Storytelling texts are categorized into four genres: anecdote, exemplum, recount and narrative (Plum, 1988).

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Table 1 Narrative Structure of Storytelling

	Beginning	*Middle*	*End*
Narrative	(Abstract)^Orientation	^Complication^Evaluation^Resolution^	(Coda)
Anecdote	(Abstract)^Orientation	^Remarkable Event^Reaction	(Coda)
Exemplum	(Abstract)^Orientation	^Incident^Interpretation^	(Coda)
Recount	(Abstract)^Orientation	^Records of Event^Reorientation	(Coda)

(Eggins and Slade, 1997:236)

Table 1 shows Plum's categorization of storytelling that has similar beginning and end part, but different middle portion. According to him, narratives are stories with Complication which increase tension and excitement of the story followed by evaluation stage, when the events of narrative are signified. Toward the end of the story, resolution of the conflict experienced by individual is highlighted. In all, narration illustrates problematic experiences that need to be resolved by the narrator. Anecdote is nearly the same with narrative- focuses on a crisis faced by individual. The only difference is that, instead of the problem being resolved, speakers express their emotion (e.g.: amazement, frustration or embarrassment) regarding the problem. On the other hand, Exemplum notes how the world should and should not be. While Recount involves retelling of events, sequences of time without directly dealing with the problem. In contrary to Plum's categorization of storytelling, Bamberg (2012) simply said that any interaction involving a process of sharing personal or other's experiences are considered narration.

This paper aims to discuss the narrative structure of storytelling using the frameworks of Labov and Waletzky (1967) and Aman (2014). The storytelling analyzed in this current study was categorized as narrative, according to Plum's categorization of storytelling (1988), and the purpose of the study was to determine the structure and elements of storytelling told in Kelantanese Malay dialect.

2.0 THEORETICAL FOUNDATION OF THE STUDY

Narrative analysis is a study of diverse kind of text in a form of story (Riessman, 2001). A story consists of event that was picked and selected with certain consequences, organized according to particular sequence and evaluated to give meaning to audiences. Interview questions are used to collect narration of a specific event about diverse group of people (William, 1984; Carole, 1991) or a specific group of people within a period of time (Myerhoff, 1980; Kipacha, 2005). A meaningful interview question is needed to obtain a structured character, setting and plot of the story. In addition, narrative can be analyzed from four perspectives: thematic, structural, interactional and formative (Riessman, 2001).

Thematic analysis focuses on the content of the story. It is the study to discover people's action within specific event. William (1984) did a thematic narrative analysis to theorize number of cases on illness and alcoholics' common proposition. Labov and Waletzky (1967) did structural analysis on narration of personal experiences and staged narration into Abstract, Orientation, Complication,

Evaluation, Resolution and Coda. In addition, Sutherland, Breen and Lewis (2013) studied the structure of narration in a poem. On the other hand, interactional analysis focuses on the active interaction- dialogic process between speakers and listener within a conversation. It includes the rules of turn taking in the conversation (Bonahet, Kelly and Duke, 2006). Lastly, performative analysis treated narration as a form of social action. Languages are packed with sociological information and enable to portray identity of people (Franzosi, 1998; Bucholtz, 1999).

3.0 NARRATION: A STRUCTURED STORYTELLING

Narration is an action of delivering a story. It shows how a story is structured to demonstrate individual experiences. Asmah (1986) and Zaaba (1958) classify the sentence of the narration into structure and story. Both stated that a story is structured with a focal point of the story and elaboration about it (Idris, 2014). However, they termed the focal point differently.

Table 2 Malay Story Structure

	Theme	Elaboration
Zaaba (1958)	*'Benda'* (Subject)	*'Cerita'* (Story)
Asmah (1986)	*'Judul'*(Tittle)	*'Cerita'* (Story)

Table 2 illustrates the general structure of story outlined by Zaaba (1958) and Asmah (1986). With a similar structure, they used different term to clarify the theme of the story. A detailed structure of narration was outlined by Labov and Waletzky in 1967. According to them, narration has six stages: Abstract, Orientation, Complication, Evaluation, Resolution and Coda.

Table 3 The Stages of Narration

Stages of Narration	Explanation
Abstract	Indicator that a story is going to be told
Orientation	To orient the viewer or listener to people involved, place, time, and behavioral situation of a given story.
Complication	Series of events which includes several circles of narratives
Evaluation	-Attitudes of narrator towards narratives -the clause that emphasized by the narrator over the other -Demonstrates what the speakers actually felt at that time -It is the significance of the story.
Resolution	Result of the narratives.
Coda	Returning to present moment.

(Eggins and Slade, 1997)

In reference to Table 3 according to Labov and Waletzky (1967), a narration starts off with an abstract when the narrator gives clue to listener about the starting of a narrative. Then, he orients the

listener to people involved, place, time and situational behavior of the events. In the complication stage, the narrator tells series of events including problematic events that happened. The narrator continues with his own evaluation on the events and resolute the whole story. In the end, the narrator reorients the listener to the present moment in the coda stage.

Table 4 Comparison of Narrative Structure

	Subject	Stories
Asmah and Zaaba	Judul (what story is all about)	Elaboration/Explanation
Labov	Abstract > Orientation	Complication > Resolution > Evaluation > Coda

Table 4 presents a brief comparison of the narrative structure by Zaaba, Asmah and Labov. The title introduced by Zaaba (1958) and Asmah (1986) are the idea about the story. It is parallel with Abstract and Orientation stages of Labov and Waletzky (1967) when speakers give initial information about the story and shift listeners into the story they are going to tell. Later, the elaboration part covers the rest of stages of narrative- Complication, Resolution, Evaluation and Coda.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Data gathering process started off with a purposive sampling method. Given the aim of the current study was to analyze the narrative structure of story told in Kelantanese dialect therefore the participants chosen were two university students who speak in Kelantanese dialect daily and aged between 20 to 30 years old. A semi-structured interview was then conducted to obtain a narration of personal experience in a casual conversation. Interviewer or the researcher asked questions and probed the participants to get the narrations. The session was recorded using voice recorder (MP3). Next, the recorded audio was transcribed for analysis purposes. Later, the transcription was used for the clause ranking process, that is, to break up the narratives into clauses. Clause, according to Halliday (1994), is the highest ranking unit in the grammar and it contains not more than one process. The identified clauses were then used for the narrative analysis, that is, identifying elements and stages of narrative structure (Labov and Waletzky, 1967).

5.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study was conducted to analyze the structure of storytelling in the Kelantanese dialect. The study found that, the narration has a basic structure outlined by Zaaba (1967) and Asmah (1986). It starts with a title – *"tapi hectic week tu hectic week tuh la"*- and continues with elaboration of the hectic

week. In detail elaboration parts cover other stages called complication, evaluation, resolution and coda. It is shown in detail in Table 5.

Table 5 Narrative Structure of Storytelling of IIUM Students (with English translation)

		Kelantanese dialect	**English translation**
Abstract	Indicator that a story is going to be told		
Orientation	Orient the viewer or listener to person involved, place, time, and behavioral situation of a given story.	*17.1 tapi memela..tapi hectic week tu meme hectic week tu laa.*	17.1 but it is.. but that week is a hectic week laa
Complication	Series of events which includes several circles of simple narratives	*17.2 Mulo-mulo keno anta gapoh? Keno anta report..*	17.2 firstly, need to submit what report? Submit report
		19 report expe.. pahtu..	19 expe(riment) report.. then
		38 oh, report expe.. time nok anta report expe tu ya Allah, dengan siap pon last minute, petey tuh siap, pahtu..	38 oh, expe report..prior submitting Expe, o Allah, completed at last minute, completed that evening, then
		41 male tuh ado test clinical	41 that night, there is clinical test
		44 setel hok tuh, clinical pulok keno buat. Tapi hop buat apo, maso nok print expe tuh meme dasyat jugok la. Dah la time tuh hujey, ingat lagi time tuh aku keh..pahtu printer shikin plop buat hal	44 finish that, clinical need to be done. But, do what, when printing expe, kind of formidable. At that time, it is raining. I still remember that moment. Then, shikin's printer not working.
		48 chuda..chuda nak mai print dengan bilik huk aii.. bilik tuu tak yoh nok oyatlah	48 chuda.. chuda comes to print in a room that.. that room, not to mention
		49 meme pressure abihlaa	49 That pressured much
		51 ore tok hanta awal report expe ore sanggup	51 I did not submit expe report early, I am willing
		53 keno deduct mark sebab nok wat molep keh	53 the mark to be deducted, to do it better
		56 pahtu buat-buat tok tido	56 so do it non stop
		58 pahtu sir post laa bulih extend pulok sari..	58 then, sir posted, (the submission) is extended for a day
		66.1 kak yana siap nazar lagih.	66.1 sister Yana made a promise
		70 nok bagi hadioh kedio	70 to give present to him
		91 tuhlaa.. tuh jah laa ceritanya.. lepas setel everything,	91 that's all. That's the story..after finishing

		Kelantanese dialect	English translation
		joli.. sebab exam lambat lagi	everything, festive.. because examination is still far.
Evaluation	-Attitude of narrator towards the narratives. -The clause that emphasized by the narrator over the other. -Demonstrates what the speaker actually felt at that time. -It is the significance of the story.	*95 heh, esemen tuhlaa, lepah hanta, tok tahu nok raso gapo, tiok lana*	95 that particular assignment, after submitting, do not know what to feel, crying.
Complication	Series of events which includes several circles of simple narratives	*101 dayah lagi laa.. lewat doh ni. Memulo pukul 7 kae, deduct one mark. Pahtu hop pukul berapo pulok*	101 dayah is more (worse)..it is already late. At first, at 7, one mark has been deducted. Then what time?
		102 hum, setiap jam meme yo deduct mark	102 yes, every hours, marks is deducted
		103 yo deduct mark, yo deduct mark. Pahtu maso tuh	103 he deduct the marks, he deduct the marks. Then at that time
		105 pukul smiley doh	105 Already at 9
		107 pagi	107 am
		109 maso ni meme banyok doh keno deduct mark kae, dayah dengey tok mandinyo, pakat sauk juboh	109 at that time, many marks has been deducted, Dayah without take bath, wear her 'jubah'
		111 belaari gi anta nok kejar pukul smiley, pahtu	111 running to submit before 9
		117 hehe.. sapa jah muko pintu sir, tolok esemen masuk, terduduk, triok situh slaluh.	117 hehe..after arriving at Sir's room, submit the report, sit there, crying at that instant.
Evaluation	-Attitude of narrator towards the narratives. -The clause that emphasized by the narrator over the other. -Demonstrates what the speaker actually felt at that time. -It is the significance of the story.	*119.1 Sapa tok tahu nok raso.*	119.1 not know what to feel

		Kelantanese dialect	English translation
Resolution	Result of the narratives	*136 tapi markah ok?*	136 but you got a good marks?
		139 ok la kut	139 okay, I guess
		140 lepah laa	140 passed
		141 lepah laa maksudnyo	141 it passed
		147 napok C tuh, syukur	147 seeing C, grateful
		150 tengok result tuh meme intai hop tuh duluh laa	150 looking at the result, seeing that grade first.
Coda	Returning to the present moment		

Table 5 shows that the story starts off with orientation, without any abstract. The complication stage takes place when speakers outline series of event- submitting experiment report, and clinical test with a series of narration about each event. After that, the narrators express their attitudes toward narration, what they actually felt at that time- *"tok tahu nok raso gapo"*(having mixed feelings). In this particular narration, the narrators repeat the complication stage by sharing a friend's story who face the same hectic week with evaluation of the event. In resolution stage, they voice out the result of the narration by saying that they have graduated- pass the subjects with flying colors despite the chaos faced during the event. However, this narration has no coda to reorient the listener to present moment.

This study shows that casual oral narration of personal experiences has a structured feature. However, this data was gathered in an interview of two participants who shared similar experiences. Due to the fact that the narration is a shared experience by both participants, the turn taking process are not well defined. They continuously interrupted one another, resulting incomplete clauses. This create problem during data analysis stage. For future study, it is recommended that the data gathering should be conducted in one-to-one manner with a minimized interruption from the interviewer.

6.0 CONCLUSION

This paper discusses the narrative structure of storytelling in Kelantanese dialect. It is important to note that oral narration has a recognized structural feature Labov and Waletzky (1967) propose that narrative structure has Abstract, Orientation, Complication, Evaluation, Resolution and Coda in order to make sense of the story. It is believed that the study of oral narrative in Kelantanese dialect will trigger future studies on oral narrative in other dialects in Malaysia.

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