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**PROSODY IN MALAY DISCOURSE:
AN ANALYSIS OF BROADCAST
INTERVIEW**

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ABSTRACT

The central objective of this thesis is to present a description of the prosodic features manifested in Malay spoken discourse and the functions they fulfil in their loci of occurrence. To attain its goal the thesis relies on a detailed analysis of transcribed recordings of broadcast interviews.

By adopting a descriptive framework that recognises prosody as comprising such prosodic features as pitch, loudness, tempo and pause, the thesis is able to present a formal characterisation of prosodic realisations in Malay spoken discourse. And by examining these realisations in segmentational, informational and interactional systems in the context of broadcast interviews, the thesis is able to account for the relationship between prosodic manifestations and the functions they fulfil in actual discourse.

Formally, the four parameters identified as significant are pitch, loudness, tempo and pause. Functionally, the three roles of prosody selected for examination are broadly classified as segmentative, informational and interactional.

In examining the issues of segmentation in connected discourse, the thesis presents arguments for segmenting discourse into units of speech whose boundaries are defined by audible prosodic cues. The conclusion is that this less restrictive framework enables the identification of the prosodic cues involved in segmentative work and the roles that the segmented chunks play in discourse development.

In Malay, prominence is realised by a combination of such prosodic cues as pitch, loudness and length. The thesis examines the notion of prominence within a framework in which two kinds of context are systematically related: discourse and the structure of information and interaction. Findings from the examination of selected data support the assumption that the assignment of prominence to selected items of information is a consequence of speaker choice. The distinction between "given" and "new" information cannot therefore be based on a fixed relationship that the former is textually or situationally recoverable and the latter is not. The question of what items are assigned prominence and why they are so assigned is adequately explained.

In examining prosody in the context of what conversational analysis calls "conversational management", findings from the examination support the assumption that prosody together with lexical and syntactic cues plays an important role in contextualising talk situated at specific locations as being of a particular activity. Participants in Malay broadcast interviews, use prosody as one of the cues to indicate their wish to continue or give away their turn, to grab the current speaker's turn and to signal that the post interruption is a continuation of the preceding preinterruption or a fresh start.

ABSTRAK

Objektif utama tesis ini adalah untuk mengemukakan satu deskripsi mengenai manifestasi ciri-ciri prosodi di dalam wacana pertuturan Melayu dan fungsi-fungsi yang dipenuhi di lokasi di mana ianya berlaku. Untuk mencapai objektif tersebut, tesis ini telah melakukan analisis terperinci rakaman temubual penyiaran radio.

Dengan menggunakan kerangka deskripsi yang menganggap prosodi sebagai merangkumi ciri-ciri prosodi seperti nada suara, kekuatan suara, rentak dan jeda, tesis ini telah berupaya mengemukakan bentuk formal realisasi prosodi di dalam wacana pertuturan Melayu. Dan dengan mengkaji realisasi ini di dalam sistem segmentasi, informasi dan interaksi di dalam konteks temubual penyiaran, tesis ini berupaya menunjukkan hubungkait di antara manifestasi prosodi dan fungsi-fungsi yang penuh di dalam wacana yang sebenar.

Di dalam membincang isu-isu segmentasi di dalam wacana yang bersambung, tesis ini mengemukakan argumen untuk memecahkan wacana ke dalam unit-unit pertuturan *speech units* yang bahagian luarannya ditentukan oleh ciri-ciri prosodi yang nyata. Kesimpulannya ialah kerangka yang kurang restriktif ini membolehkan pengkaji mengidentifikasikan ciri-ciri prosodi yang menjalankan kerja-kerja segmentasi dan peranan-peranan yang dimainkan oleh unit-unit pertuturan di dalam perkembangan wacana.

Di dalam bahasa Malaysia, "*prominence*" direalisasikan oleh campuran ciri-ciri prosodi seperti nada suara, kekuatan suara dan kepanjangan. Tesis ini melihat prosodi di dalam kerangka jenis konteks yang berhubungan secara sistematik: wacana dan struktur informasi dan interaksi. Dapatan dari analisis data yang dipilih memberi sokongan kepada andaian bahawa pemberian "*prominence*" adalah akibat pemilihan penutur. Perbezaan di antara informasi "*baru*" dan "*lama*" tidaklah boleh didasarkan kepada hubungan yang tetap bahawa "*baru*" bermaksud boleh didapati secara tekstual dan situasi, sedangkan "*lama*" bermaksud tidak boleh didapati dengan cara ini.

Di dalam meneliti prosodi di dalam konteks yang dikenal sebagai "*pengurusan pertuturan*", dapatan dari penelitian tersebut menyokong andaian bahawa prosodi serta isyarat leksikal dan sintaksis memainkan peranan penting di dalam mewujudkan konteks untuk menyifatkan sesuatu ujaran itu sebagai aktiviti tertentu. Peserta didalam temubual penyiaran menggunakan prosodi sebagai salah satu isyarat untuk menunjukkan kemahuan mereka meneruskan atau menyerahkan giliran, mengambil giliran peserta yang sedang bercakap, dan untuk memberi isyarat bahawa ujaran selepas selaan adalah sambungan kepada ujaran sebelum celahan atau pun adalah permulaan baru.

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