

# STUDY OF PHATIC COMMUNION IN COUCHSURFING APP

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## ABSTRACT

This research studies phatic communion used by speakers in the application of Couchsurfing (Couchsurfing app). Couchsurfing application is an application that is connected to backpackers with local guides. The application provides a message feature for stay requests and is widely used by westerners backpackers who want to travel to Indonesia. The study is focused on the forms and functions of phatic communion used by the speakers. The aims of the study are to find and describe the forms and functions of phatic communion. To get reach the aims of the study, the study applies a qualitative method based theory of phatic communion. The results of the study are that the speakers use various forms of phatic communion in English.

**Keywords** : *Phatic communion, Couchsurfing app, Backpacker*

## INTRODUCTION

Phatic communion is a form of language which is frequently used by people in daily communication either in spoken or written form. The talk is a part of language that is used as a medium of communication. Language in everyday social life both spoken and written appears in two modes – thinking mode and social mode, the utterances do not convey meaning (proportional content), but rather for effective values that give meaning to build or maintain social relations between speech participants [1]. Interest in this research emerged from discussing the problem of Indonesian language culture in the environment, both oral and written. now there are many communication access to send messages to each other, such as whatsapp, line app, email, messenger etc. In this study the author wants to research about an application called the Couchsurfing application, this application is an application that is connected to a backpacker with a local guide. Couchsurfing app is followed by people form various countries in the world. Because of coming from different countries, the people have other different national languages, rather than English

## METHOD

The study applies a qualitative method based theory of phatic communion. Qualitative research should produce explanations or arguments, rather than claiming to offer mere descriptions [2]. The data source is taken from the stay request message feature in the Couchsurfing application by way of screenshots, which are not only from the author's personal account, but also from several accounts of the author's acquaintances who are also users of the Couchsurfing application. The author focuses on data that ranges from 2019 to 2020, then the author will analyze word for word what was sent by tourists for study using the phatic communion theory. Phatic communication is a language used to build and maintain social relationships between speakers [3].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the data that has been examined, researchers can find that there are 20 women and 30 men from 19 different countries, including several couples that are recorded as dominant in France and Bratislava. According to the data obtained, most backpackers in the 2019-2020 interval came from residents of France, Morocco and Turkey, even tourists from Indonesia

themselves also use this application for vacations out of town, uniquely they use English which is commonly used in the couchsurfing application. So it can be concluded that the use of this application is not only used by backpackers from outside Indonesia, even local residents can use it, but many of them use English. The forms of phatic communion in this study refer to the forms of speech act (utterances) as stated who gave examples of unnterances in English such as “Nice day!”, “How are you”, “You are looking smart today”[4]. The utterances do not convey meaning (proportional content), but rather for effective values that give meaning to build or maintain social relations between speech participants [5]. Referred to speaker’s purpose to speak, phatic communion speech is used in four types; to conveying information (assertive), to make a request (directive), to make a commitment (commissive), to create a new state of affairs (declaration), and to express an emotion (expressive) [6]. Phatics Functions: Breaking the silence, Starting a conversation, Making small talk, Making gossip, Keeping talking, Expressing solidarity, Creating harmony, Creating comfort, Expressing empathy, Expressing friendship, Expressing respect, Expressing politeness. The speaker uses the forms of phatic comunios, “Hello, apologize, and have a good day”. The forms in the text used by the spekaer are the language forms in social mode. Language in social mode is language which emphasizes social function of language rather than delivering information [7]. Language or forms of social mode is so-called phatic communion [8]. The forms of “Hello, apologize, and have a good day” are phatic communions because information is not more significant (important).

Some Examples Of Data				
No	Kind of the data	Form of the Data	No of the data	Function of The Data
1	Hey, Hi, Hello	Greeting	Almost all of data	Starting a conversation
2	How are you?	Addressing	Data 1	Making small talk
3	I apologize for ...	Apology	Data 2	Expressing empathy
4	Thank you for ...	Thank	Data 2	Creating respect
6	Have a good day	Hope	Data 2	Expressing solidarity
5	Oo im sorry to hear that ...	Apology	Data 5	Expressing empathy
6	All the best	Hope	Data 5	Expressing respect
7	Sorry slow	Apology	Data 5	Keeping talking

	responds			
8	Thank you for replay ...	Thank	Data 7	Expressing respect
10	Looks like you are doing a great work there	Compliment	Data 9	Making small talk

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From these data researchers can find various forms of phatic communion, such as phatic communion greeting "Hi, Hi, Hello" can be found in almost all opening stay request messages sent by tourists. It's the same with the phatic communion "How are you", this form is stated as phatic communion because tourists use to build social relationships with local guides, not to get information from the local guide. Phatic communion is a language used to build and maintain social relationship between speaker [9]. In addition, there are many other forms of phatic communion that have been found by researchers in this application

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