

AN ANALYSIS OF JARGON USED BY ASIAN COMIC WRITERS

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out the jargon used by comic writers as a social group. This research was applying the qualitative descriptive method to collect data. The method used to analyze the meaning and function of jargon is descriptive analysis which is visible in each paragraph. Collecting data was carried out by finding out the jargon on Asian comics such as manga, manhwa, and manhua on the website. The results of this research show the meaning and function of jargon used by comic writers. Jargon is a variety of language which is used by certain social groups or professions and is not understood by other groups. Research regarding the use of jargon in Asian comics can be conclude that jargon is used by comic writers to describe their work. The jargon found is in the form of words, phrases, acronyms, and abbreviations. The function of jargon used by comic writers is to identify and describe the word. This research proves that the use of jargon is not only in other communities but also in the comic writing community. The weakness of this research is that some comics still use Chinese, Korean, and Japanese terms. This is because there are no equivalent English words that is suitable to describe it. The words are dantian, qi, and mana. Researcher hope this writing can be a reference for future researchers to do a researching in other aspects of comics relate with linguistics or language learning media.

Keywords: Asian Comics, Comics Writer, Jargon, Language Variety, Sociolinguistic

INTRODUCTION

As human beings, we cannot be separated with communication from other people. In daily social life, people need to interact with others to share ideas, minds, and thoughts. Through communication or interact, people can change their mind, intentions, and ideas. In linguistics, this process is sociolinguistic. Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that learn how language has a relationship with socio-life. Socio

factor like age, education level, gender, and economic status, has influences when they use language.

Paul and Peter Burgelih (2005) assume sociolinguistics is a branch in linguistics that consist of learning about language and social connection. Jargon, is a term in sociolinguistic branch that describes a language style in a social group. Jargon is a language style that is used in a group and people in outside that group do not know about the meaning. Kridalaksana (1993: 181) says that sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that learns the relationship between language act and social act.

According to Kridalaksana in Mulyadi (2009: 2) language of a system of arbitrary sound symbols that is used members of social community to cooperate, identical, and interaction. Language reflects the culture. When a member of a language society uses the language and the others understand the meaning, it is a called speech community. According to Labov in Wardhaugh (2006: 121), speech community is not defined by any marked agreement in the use of language elements, so much as by participation in a set of shared norms. Made Indrawan (2006:28) classifies language variety into; individual and societal language varieties, regional and temporal language varieties, native and non-native language varieties, spoken and written language varieties, formal and informal language varieties, standard and non-standard language varieties, upper and lower class language varieties, women and men language varieties, restricted and elaborated language varieties, ethnic language variety, professional field language varieties, and secret language variety.

A comic writer is a social group who uses jargon to describe a term on their work to readers, whereas common people do not know the meaning of that term or word. M S Gumelar, on comic making (2011) describes that comic is an organized sequence picture with the author's aim and philosophy so the value can deliver to readers. Ade Mustajab (2011) divides comics into cartoons, comics strip, annual comics, web comics, and comic books. Jargon usually used on Asian comic such as manga from Japan, manhwa from Korea and manhua from China. Kaneko (2008) *manga* as a visual media to observe conversation and situation. Sindo News on their article has describes the difference between *manga*, *manhwa*, and *manhua* characteristic. Manga has a characteristic where we should read from right to left. It is white and black in colour. *Manga* usually has a reflection on culture in society. *Manhwa* and *manhua* have different styles. They have colour and depict a realistic character. *Manhua* tells about *wuxia* or martial arts and *manhwa* sometimes recounts about beauty to describe their culture.

The application of jargon on social groups has some aim. Chaika (1982, p. 122) gives the opinion that some important of jargon functions: to exclude lay people, to

identify social identification, to serve the purpose of bonding friendships, and to communicate more effectively and efficiently. Zuhroh (2017) has a different view about jargon function. It is based on contextual speech. These functions are; inform function, invitation function, question function, compliment function, advice function, joking function, and last function is talking about someone bad.

Besides function, jargon has some types. Halligan (2004) divided jargon to four types; words, phrases, abbreviations, and acronyms. Jargon words are terminology of the characteristic idiom or special activity of a group in obscure and often pretentious language marked by circumlocutions and long words (Webster, 1991). According to Finch (2000:112), phrases are syntactic units that usually consist of more than one word and are intermediary words and level clause in a sentence. When a member of society wants to make a phrase jargon, it needs more than one word. Halligan (2004) says abbreviation is a shorter form of words or phrases by using the first letter of these words. The last type is acronyms, it is an abbreviation that is formed from the initial letters of another word or syllable and is pronounced as a word. According to Bauer (1998: 39), acronyms are words that are created from the initial letters of words in abbreviations which are formed by taking the initial sounds (letters) of the words from a phrase and putting them together into a pronounced word.

Researchers found some previous research about jargon, that is written by Kurnia (2013) with the title "*Penggunaan Jargon Oleh Komunitas Chatting Facebook Di Kalangan Mahasiswa Univeristas Negeri Padang*". The second writing "*An Analysis of Jargon Used by Receptionists in Front Office at Asa Bali Luxury Villas and Spa Seminyak*" who written by Yudha (2016). Yudha describes about linguistic form, meaning and form of jargon that used by receptionist. The third writing is "*Penggunaan Jargon Oleh Komunitas Chatting Whatsapp Grup*" who written by Wulandari (2016). The writer made the research on whatsapp group that used by Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta student. The writer found 54 jargons where 17 Indonesian jargons, 24 jargons on English and other language. Researcher also found a writing about comic with title "*Hubungan antara minat terhadap Komik Jepang (Manga) dengan Kemampuan Mengenali Emosi Melalui Ekspresi Wajah*" that written by Nian Astiningrum. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to do researching jargon in Asian comics. The researcher assumes that this topic is unique and interesting because comics themselves are very close to the lives of young people and adults. The researcher assumes that comic has influenced their lifestyle where they should spend money to follow the latest comic chapters on an application, such as webtoon, web comic or buy a comic book. The people who like comic wear jewelleryes and clothes like the characters on comic. In specific case, they use jargon or term on

comic and express it in their conversation. Based on the assumes, researcher want to doing research about the jargon in comic.

Asian writer is a social group that using jargon as way to describe term and word that they use on their work or comic. Researchers investigated the types of jargon used by Asian comic writers. Therefore, the focus of this study is to identify what type and meaning of jargon that used by Asian comic writer in their work. In other hand, researcher want to deliver the idea and thought about jargon that using by comic writer to comic readers or future researcher to help them to find the meaning and function.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Language cannot separate with human society. Language makes people can understand the meaning of each other. It is a reason why language and social connection should be studied in sociolinguistic field. Based on Chaer and Agustina view, sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary science between sociology and linguistics, two fields of empirical science that are closely related. Sociology is a study which is objective and scientific about human society, and regarding the institutions and social processes that exist within public (Adawiyah, 2021) Meanwhile, linguistics is a field of science that studies language, or a field of science that takes language as its material of study. Thus, it can be said that sociolinguistics is a field of science interdisciplinary studies of language in relation to use language in society.

Jargon can be a language variety that use by speaker of a specific group. These group can be professional group, the people with same age, same sex, or same social background. Jargon on this particulars group is only understood by member of these group who in doing same activities. Chaer and Leonie Agustina define jargon as a social variation that is used in a limited way by certain social groups (Subhan, 2018). Gorys Keraf (Adawiyah, 2021) says that jargon contains several meanings. It means jargon contains the meaning of a language, dialect, or speech that is considered strange or impolite. But the term is also used to refer to something like a hybrid language or dialect that arises from the mixing of languages.

Mc. Cloud says comics are defined as images presented in sequence intended to convey information and produce an aesthetic response in the viewer. Comics are also used to entertain or convey information (Matuk, et al. 2019).

METHOD

A descriptive qualitative method was used as a research method in this study. Research design is a procedures plan for research to detail methods of data collection and analysis. In qualitative research, there are several types of approaches, namely

ethnography, case studies, document or text studies, and historical study approaches. This research uses a document or text study approach where the researcher finds the jargon on conversation in comics that is used by writers. Data sources are anything that can provide information about data of fact. Data sources are divided into two types, primary data sources and secondary data sources. This research uses a document or text study approach because in this research the material studied is a web comic. This method is used because its application is by the objectives of this study where it explores and explains the jargon used by comic writer in their work. The focus of this research was to give in-depth explanations related to the information that appears discussing the meaning and function of jargon. Researchers have collected various sources that are considered relevant, such as books, articles, and others in the last five years to find the meaning and function of jargon, although there are some that have a time span of more than five years, but the credibility of these sources has been confirmed.

In data collecting, the researcher started by observing the Asian web comic to find the jargon as the data. In the second stage, researcher reads the comic and finds the jargon. After that, researcher identified the meaning and function of jargon in comic. The third stage, research puts the data on a sheet and analyzes it.

FINDING

Based on the research, researchers found that comic writers use four types of jargon: words, phrases, acronyms, and abbreviations in their work.

Meaning of jargon word types

The research found the jargon that used by comic writers. There are; gates, dungeon, items, cultivator, window, guardian, meridian, and buff.

Based on the literal meaning, these words have different meanings in real life and the meaning in comic. Researcher finds these words in comic *solo leveling* and *ranker's return* the manhwa from Korea, *martial peak* from China, *ore no genjitsu wa renai game?* and *hitoribocchi no isekai kouryaku*, manga from Japan.

Gate (in Indonesian *gerbang* or *gapura*) as a word jargon has different meanings on comic. "*So that monster of the gate will open in few days?*" (*solo leveling*, chapter 156). Gate means a black hole or door in the sky to the spatial world. It has different natural conditions where has monsters, beasts, or ghosts. The gate is the place to get items or artefacts, increase levels of character, and do a mission. Gate has a specific color to show the rank, from white, black, green, and red, the most dangerous rank. Gate has function as a connection door to other spatial worlds.

The word jargon cultivator has another meaning in comics. In literal meaning, cultivator means a person or farmer who doing cultivates or grows crops in land. Research found the word cultivator has other meanings on Asian fantasy comics. A cultivator is a person who does asceticism to get magical power. *“The ten treasures soup seemed to be able to develop the physical of the cultivator and temper the cultivator quality”* (martial peak, chapter 1646). Cultivators should do an asceticism on a cave or mystical place to acquire magical powers. After doing an asceticism, the character will get items or equipment such as weapons, rings, magic books, or gloves. Asceticism may take some time frame with the trial to prove as a proper man to get the magical power. The popular hero, Gatot kaca is an example of a cultivator.

Dungeon means the same as gate but has a little different. It is like a cave on a hill or forest. In literal meaning, a dungeon is an underground prison. Based on the Cambridge dictionary, a dungeon is a strong underground prison cell in a castle. *“This dungeon is the only place where I can get the final ingredients. Who are you?”* (ranker’s return chapter 2). On the comic, a dungeon has monsters that will drop items or artifact if a character kills it. The character should kill the whole of the monsters and the boss to clear and get the item. If they do not clear it, monsters will go out and kill the citizen.

As we know, the window is a part of the house that has function of air circulate. In Asian fantasy comics, a comic writer uses this word to show a character’s detail. Window means a panel where the front's eyes. Window has the aim to describe information or character’s statistic. It contains the amount of magic, strength, health, skills, and intelligence of the character. The window has a function to give information to the character about her statistics or information about her mission or task. *“What the hell this is? There is something in corner of my eyes? It opened? Now there is a larger window? My name on this bar”* (ore no genjitsu wa renai game? chapter 1).

Item is a word jargon too. It means goods or product that is dropped by monsters on a dungeon or gate. The character should clear the gate, and kill all monsters to get items. The weapon, core, ring, rune, shoes, earring, staff, and skill book including the item dropped by monsters. The character can use that item to upgrade their power or attribute. *“Hyung, what should we do about the items that dropped? The black magician dropped a staff and a magician’s skill book”* (ranker’s return chapter 20)

Meridian is a word jargon used by manhua comic writers. It is a part of bodies which known as the center for storing magical power. A cultivator should consume the medicine or use the artefacts to get the magical power. Party is word jargon too. Party means a team where they have some purpose to clear a gate or dungeon. They consist some jobs from mage, guardian, knight, assassin, or tank.

The other word jargon is buff, whereas in the Oxford dictionary it means a person who is very interested in a particular subject or activity and knows a lot about it. Buff in comics has a means to grant additional powers to a character for a certain period of times. *“I get it, so buff me. You received spirit bear, constitution has increased, strength has increased”* (ranker’s return chapter 20).

The last jargon word is guardian. Based on the Oxford dictionary, a guardian is a person who is legally responsible for the care of another person, especially a child whose parents have died. On comic, the guardian has meaning as a job or occupation. It is like a knight but they work in church to guard and to escort the representative of the goddess. As a guardian, they get the holy powers from the goddess.

Meaning of phrases jargon

The researcher found some phrases jargon in Asian comics. There are; magic circles, sword master, and holy powers. The magic circle is a magic circle that has several curses or blessings that are used to attack or defend when dealing with monsters or other characters. the character must draw a picture or say a few sentences to activate it.

Sword master is a character who masters several sword skills and use them when dealing with monsters. In some comics, a character can be a sword master when he can use sword aura. Sword aura is channeling magical power through the sword. The last phrases jargon is holy power. Holy power is a blessing given by the goddess to a guardian, magician, or knight. When someone want to get the blessing, they should pray to the goddess or receive blessings from the goddess' messenger.

Meaning of abbreviation

Researcher finds one abbreviation in Asian comics. It is PK which has meaning player killer. The player killer is someone who kills another character to get their item, increase the level and power, or fulfill their desire (ranker’s return chapter 6).

Meaning of acronym

The acronym is exp which means experience. Exp likes a point of character’s level (ranker return chapter 6). The character should kill the monster or other character to get the exp.

The function of jargon on Asian comic

Jargon has a function to convey the author's thoughts or ideas in written form. As for. The function of this jargon is to facilitate communication between writers and readers to explain the meaning of the intentions conveyed by the writer. Apart from that, jargon adds new vocabulary for comic readers.

DISCUSSION

Based on the results of research by researchers, Asian comic writers use jargon to describe the terms that do not exist in formal language. The terms used are usually absorbed from English, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese. This term is used to describe conditions or situations that are difficult for modern thinking or rational thinking to understand. The author's background also influences the writing style and absorbed language that will be used. Usually, comic writers use this jargon or term to describe supernatural situations.

CONCLUSION

The author concludes that linguistics is the science of language. Language is a tool for Communication has many varieties, one of that is jargon. Jargon is a variety of language that is used by certain social groups or professions and is not understood by other groups. Research regarding the use of jargon in Asian comics can be conclude that jargon is used by comic writers to describe their work. The jargon found is in the form of words, phrases, acronyms, and abbreviations. The function of jargon used by comic writers is to identify and describe the word. This research proves that the use of jargon is not only in other communities but also in the comic writing community. The researcher hopes that readers can understand the meaning of the jargon that has been explained when reading the comic. Sometimes writers forget to explain the meaning of the jargon. The weakness of this research is that some comics still use Chinese, Korean, and Japanese terms. This is because there is no equivalent English word that is suitable to describe it. The words are *dantian*, *qi*, and *mana*. This research has other weakness where some jargons have not function. Researchers hope this writing can be a reference for future researchers to do research on other aspects of comics related to linguistics or language learning media.

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