

## INTERJECTION *HE SOAYA LE...!* IN NIASNESE: A NATURAL SEMANTIC METAFUNCTION APPROACH

VIVI NOVALIA SITINJAK<sup>1</sup>, NENCY ANGELITA GEA<sup>2</sup>, TRISMAN NDURU<sup>3</sup>, WIDYA  
CHRISTINA HUTASOIT<sup>4</sup>, YANTHY PURBA<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup> UNIVERSITAS METHODIST INDONESIA

### Abstract

*This study explores the interjection of He Soaya le...! in Nias language using a descriptive qualitative method. Words that denote reactions or spontaneous expressions are interjections. The Nias language has an interjection that is similar to the exclamation of oh my God, namely He Soaya le...! Where this interjection is one of the quite iconic interjections in the daily conversation of the Nias people. This research aims to know the meaning of the Interjection He Soaya le...! . In this paper, researchers identify Nias interjections in the Nias language using the Natural Semantic Metafunction approach. The method used in this study is a qualitative research method, namely research that uses written and oral data sources. The data is taken from a dialogue in the comedy-drama series entitled Abunawa. Distribution and contextual methods are the methods used in this study to obtain data. From the results obtained in this study, there is one meaning of the interjection He Soaya le...! Namely shock, fear and panic, and emotional expressions that can be formed through physiological changes in humans. In Nias language, it is also expressed in two semantic aspects of its metafunction, namely emotive and cognitive aspects. From the results of this research, it is hoped that it can become a source of knowledge and understanding for other people of different ethnicities from the people of Nias and can avoid misunderstandings about a language.*

**Keywords:** *Comedy-drama, Interjection He soaya le, Natural Semantic Metafunction, Niasnese Language*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Literature such as comedy-drama works by linguistic means. Klarer (2004:1) says that literature is referred to as a written expression, and has the limitation that not all written documents can be categorized as literature. In the sense that not everything that is written is literature, but literary works must be written. Prose, poetry and drama are literary genres. According to Abrams (1988, p.45) drama is a literary work that is formed to be used as a theatre, where the role of the characters utters a dialogue and performs the actions shown. In the Age of Aristotle (c. 335 BC) the term drama emerged from the Greek 'dran' which means "to do or act".

Drama was created for a performance or theatrical staging, designed for acting on stage. In general, drama is presented and explored through dialogue in a script, which is developed with character, setting, situation. Drama is also one of the most popular literary genres because in drama there is the development of situations and characters through words and actions. Drama is a composition or literary work that reflects human activity and life by showing various actions and dialogues between a group of characters. Drama can also provide innovation and inspiration to the author to produce a scene or tragedy that can awaken the reader or viewer that the story that occurs is a reflection of real life, is human in nature which represents a feeling, desire and change.

There are four types of drama such as, comedy, tragedy, tragicomedy, and melodrama. In the 5th century BC, the comedy genre was invented in Athens, Greece. There are several works of the famous Athenian comedian Aristophanes is the beginning of the extant comedy literature, and played a notable role in shaping some of its characteristics. This is the first time that the classic concept of comedy appears in the form of a drama. Drama that is synonymous with fun, entertainment and laughter is a type of comedy drama. In comedy, drama has a happy ending. Comedy is also divided into satire, jokes, insults and so on. The most famous comedy drama is William Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing'. Each literary work conveys its concept through explicit and implicit cues. Each of these words, including interjection, appears with its function.

The interjection is used to construct and decipher between interactions or among competitors. The primary goal of this article is to present a systematic discussion of English interjections and a possible interpretation of their significance within the language system. Language is a systematic means of communicating ideas or feeling by the use of conventionalized sign, sound, gestures, or marks having understood meanings. One of the functions of language is to convey feelings through interjection. This is consistent with the definition given by Alwi et al. (2003) of interjection, which states that one of an interjection word's purposes is to convey the speaker's emotions, such as admiration, sadness, surprise,

and disgust. Meanwhile, Wierzbicka (1992) defined the speaker's spontaneous thought or action is required for an interjection to function as a linguistic sign that can stand alone in expressing a particular meaning without being included in other signals, or as a homophone with other lexical forms that are semantically linked.

Interjection has mostly lost favor in the study of linguistic theory (Ameka, 1992; Goddard, 2014; Jovanovic, 2004). However, interjections are necessary to convey regional values, customs, and interpersonal communication in social life (Ameka, 2006). Interjections, from a semiotic standpoint, have an expressive function rather than the representational or symbolic function that ordinary words and sentences have; interjections show rather than say (Goddard 2014:54). Numerous scholarly works on the subject of interjections are proof that linguists are currently being urged to concentrate and pay close attention to this area. The distinctions between cognitive, cognitive-evaluative, emotive, emotive-evaluative, and volitional interjections have been covered by Parsieva and Gatsalova (2020). They looked at interjections in spoken language, where interjection types are differentiated by things like gender and age.

The case was found in one of the serial comedy dramas i.e., *Abunawa* in the Kurir season broadcast by Nias TV in 2020. This serial was spoken in the Nias language. The interpretation of *He Soaya le...!* is indeed not fully understood by most people, especially non-ethnic Nias people. To understand this interjection, the listener needs accurate information from the indigenous people of Nias because this interjection is related to the regional language system itself. If we explore deeper, no one has researched the meaning of the interjection *He Soaya le...!*

Therefore, this study will only examine one interjection in Nias, namely, *He Soaya le...!* The meaning of *He Soaya le...!* According to native speakers of the Nias tribe is *O my God*. This interjection is used to express a situation or condition of being shocked, panicked, and afraid. Interjection can be used to convey certain emotions or certain attitudes, including emotions with the types of anger, disgust, fear, joy, pain, happiness, surprise, curiosity, pride, and others (Vladimir Ž. Jovanović). Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting research on the analysis of the meaning of the interjection *He Soaya le...!* which is also the focus of this research using the Natural Semantic Metafunction approach.

## METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative research where the focus of this research is centered on the interjection of Nias in the Nias language and identifying the true meaning of the injection of *He Soaya le...!* Qualitative research is research that is packaged in words or actual circumstances without any other additions such as symbols or numbers and

generally, the main purpose of a study is to find and uncover an unknown problem in a systematic, well-organized, and accountable manner by the researchers themselves. Bogdan and Biklen (1992) state that qualitative research has the following characteristics:

- a. Qualitative research has a natural setting as a source of direct data and the researcher is a key instrument,
- b. Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected is in the form of words rather than numbers
- c. Qualitative research is related to processes, not just results or products, qualitative research tends to analyze data inductively, and
- d. 'Meaning' is very important for qualitative research

### **Data and Data Sources**

Interjection *He Soaya le...!* is the main data of this research, in which the data is obtained from dialogue excerpts from the comedy-drama series released by the Nias Tv channel. In this study, the writer analyzes the interjection based on the context of the dialogue as a whole. Researchers use several reference sources such as previous research books and online journals which contain several theories related to this research topic. It is used by researchers to achieve research objectives.

### **Data Collection**

There are several steps taken by researchers to collect the necessary data. The first step is to watch the comedy-drama series Abunawa: Kurir Episode. Second, the researcher identified the interjections contained in the comedy-drama series Abunawa: Kurir Episode. In the third step, the researcher seeks and studies reference sources related to interjections, especially interjections in Nias language. The final step is to group data based on research topics and record important parts related to the research.

### **Data Analysis**

After all the data is collected, the researcher performs the following analytical steps: The researcher identified and then studied the interjections of the Nias language, namely the interjections of *He Soaya le...!* The presentation of data in this study is by describing and analyzing data such as meaning and examples. The display of data in this study is in the form of a description. The data that has been selected is then analyzed based on theories related to the research topic. After the analysis is carried out, the researcher draws conclusions after all relevant data answers the research problem.

## DISCUSSIONS

*He Soaya le...!* is an interjection in the Nias comedy drama entitled Abunawa. There is 1 data that the researcher distributed at the beginning of the drama series. The data collected is classified based on its meaning, as follows.

### 1. *He Soaya le = Shock*

According to the Online Oxford Learner's Dictionary (2020), the word shock is a feeling that expresses a feeling of shock caused by something unexpected, generally, this word refers to something unpleasant. *He Soaya Le*'s explanation is as follows:

*He Soaya le...!*

I just know it.

I didn't expect this.

I can't believe what happened.

I couldn't have thought this could happen.

There is one utterance expressing shock found in *Abunawa* comedy-drama series. The analysis of each sentence is as follows:

1. "*He Soaya le...! kelompok ma ya ha 2 menit te labörö taigö*". (min. 1:30)

[*He Soaya le...! it's our group's turn, starting in 2 minutes*].]

In the morning, Abunawa's friends took online classes. Abunawa's condition at that time was still asleep. A few minutes after Abunawa's friend joined class, Abunawa woke up and asked his friend why he was wearing a school uniform. Abunawa's friend explained that he took an online class today and asked Abunawa if he was taking a class too. Abunawa was shocked and panicked at that time and said "*He Soaya le..! kelompok ma ya ha 2 menit te labörö taigö*". *He Soaya Le...!* interjection shows how shocked he was when he just found out that the Abunawa class would start in a minute with an expression of shock.

### 2. *He Soaya le = Fear*

According to Dr. Gail Gross (an expert on human behavior), the emotion of fear is a living, basic trait embedded in the human species. The New Oxford American Dictionary defines fear as an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that something is happening and dangerous that causes pain, worry, or a threat. *He Soaya le...!* explanation is as follows:

*He Soaya le...!*

I am not sure.

I don't want this.

I cannot do it.

There is one expression of fear found in the comedy-drama series Abunawa. The analysis of the sentence is as follows:

1. *"He Soaya le...! group ma ya ha 2 minutes te labörö taigö". (min. 1:30)*  
*[He Soaya le...! our group's turn, starts in 2 minutes".]*

The expression in the sentence that was conveyed by Abunawa above concerns feelings of fear, which means fear of being scolded by the teacher, fear of not being allowed to enter online classes, and fear of not being accepted by group assignments. Those feelings and emotions surfaced when he accidentally woke up late the day he started school.

### 3. *He Soaya le = Panic*

The definition of panic according to The American Psychological Association (APA) is a feeling of anxiety that is unreasonable and sudden, which causes several physical symptoms such as faster breathing, racing heart, and sweating. When a person experiences panic attacks, fear and anxiety arise and become a physical disturbance. Below is *He Soaya le...!* explanation as follows:

*He Soaya le...!*

I am very worried.

I don't believe in this.

I can't reach it.

There is one expression of fear found in the comedy-drama series Abunawa. The analysis of the sentence is as follows:

1. *"He Soaya le...! group ma ya ha 2 minutes te labörö taigö". (min. 1:30)*  
*[He Soaya le...! our group's turn, starts in 2 minutes".]*

The panic in the sentence delivered by Abunawa is an expression that creates anxiety and fear in it. Panic because he woke up late and had no preparation to take online classes, which showed that there were only 2 minutes left for the online classes to be started by the teacher.

As mentioned, interjections are often used in everyday communication to express feelings of surprise, confusion, and fear. Interjections are used to claim something but not to describe something (attitude, reaction to a situation, action, emotion, or mental state). Interjections only claim what a player wants, thinks, believes, feels, or knows at a certain time (Goddard, 2014). According to Ameeka (1992:113-114), interjections can be classified into three classifications, namely expressive interjections, conative

interjections, and phatic interjections. Expressive interjections are divided into two, namely emotive interjections and cognitive interjections. The interjection *He Soaya le...!* can be expressed in an emotional feeling of shock and panic. The word *He Soaya le...!* can be categorized in one aspect of the semantic metafunction, namely the emotive aspect. The emotive aspect, which is a person's expression at the time and place where the speaker's incident occurs, is directly related to emotions and sensations. The interjection *He Soaya le...!* can also be expressed in another emotional feeling, namely, fear. Emotional feelings of fear can be categorized in the Cognitive aspect. According to (Wierzbicka 1992, p. 119) cognitive is an aspect that has meaning components 'I think something' or 'I know something' and 'I feel something' and volitional components such as 'I want something' do not have an emotive component. Interjection can refer to a feeling to express emotion (Goddard, 2014). Feelings or emotional expressions also usually appear spontaneously or are even difficult to control. This can be seen from the changes that arise as a result of a reaction to an event that causes internal and external emotions. Expressions are displayed in the form of voice expressions, facial expressions, behavioral expressions or body gestures, and so on. When saying the interjection *He Soaya le...!* body movements or facial expressions change (Wierzbicka, 2003; Ameka, 1992; Wilkins, 1992), such as an open mouth, frowning forehead, and confused facial expressions. The interjection *He Soaya le...!* can be expressing emotional feelings, namely shock, fear, and panic

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the data that has been analyzed, it can be concluded that the comedy drama series Nias: Abunawa only has one type of interjection, namely *He Soaya le...!* with three meanings contained in it, namely shock, surprise, and fear. The researcher uses descriptive qualitative to research and analyze the interjection word *He Soaya Le...!*. The expressions analyzed by the researcher are expressions that appear spontaneously or suddenly and are even difficult to control. Expression of emotions or feelings can be formed through physiological changes in the human body, such as expressions of voice, face, attitude, behavior and gestures. In this study, the interjection of *He Soaya le...!* uses two aspects, namely the emotive aspect from Ameka's theory (1992:113-114) and the cognitive aspect from Wierzbicka's theory (1992:p. 119). Through this research, it can be emphasized that the researcher is trying to categorize the interjections *He Soaya Le...!* which can be considered as a pioneer to introduce the potential and broad language skills from the results of this research. Researchers also reveal and show the function of the interjection. In general, interjections function to define something but not to describe something, such as

attitudes, reactions, behavior towards situations, actions, emotions, and mental states. Changes that arise as a result of a reaction to an event that can cause internal and external emotions.

Interjection *He Soaya le...!* can be considered inherently distinctive and dialogical when it is uttered as a reaction or gesture to something the listener has to express the speaker's attitude, action, mental state, or reaction to a situation. Interjection *He Soaya le...!* has several meanings or meanings such as shock, fear, and panic. The context of these results provides new information for the people of Nias and Indonesia about the meaning of the call *He Soaya le...!* As analyzed, interjection does not have a visual grammatical quality value, but almost everyone always uses the word interjection in everyday conversation (communication). Interjection words also rarely or even do not appear in articles, documents, and journals in essays or academic publications. In general, interjections are expressed spontaneously through everyday conversation (communication). By applying different data collection methods and techniques, the structure and framework of the injection, the results are likely to vary. The components used in each aspect serve to add to the research relations of the meaning of the interjection.

Therefore, this research needs to be further developed to investigate other meanings of *He Soaya le...!* or other interjections in Nias language. The researcher suggests that researching interjections requires studies to deepen and broaden the meanings and functions of interjections so that in future research different meanings and functions of interjections can be found in conversation, because the interjections studied are very iconic in language or everyday conversation. Furthermore, in researching interjections, one should focus on and understand objects from oral and written sources, be it films, film scripts, short stories, etc., so that it is easier to analyze data and contribute to interjections. Lastly, by researching the meaning of interjection, it takes a very long period of time and proper and regular consistency to produce functions, uses, and meanings that focus on interjection.

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