A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY ON YANK'S LANGUAGE USE AS FOUND IN O'NEILL'S THE HAIRLY APE

A THESIS

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ABSTRACT

A STUDY ON YANK’S LANGUAGE USE AS FOUND IN O’NEILL’S PLAY, THE HAIRLY APE.

Since language has an important role in the social context, it cannot be separated from the society because language is part of the society itself. People use language in order to be able to communicate with one to another in everyday life. They also can express their feelings, emotions and thought to others by using language. When people come to think about language and society, they should be remember as soon as they realize that Sociolinguistic focuses on the study of relationship between language and society and its purpose is to get a good understanding of its function as means of communication. (Wardhaugh, 1986: 13). Based on the facts that socilinguistic studies the relationship between language and society, the writer of this thesis wants to analyze the main character’s language as found in O’Neill’s The Hairly Ape, through Sociolinguistic approach.

In this study, the writer focuses her analyzing on: (1) the kind and style of language that is used by the main character (2) the influence of (S)etting, (P)articipant, (E)nds and (K)eys to his language used, and (3) the factors causing the main character to use his language like that.

The theories underlying this thesis are, four components of S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G, namely Setting, Participant, Ends and Keys, and Language and Dialect. Due to the fact that language is unseparable from society, the writer tries to dig up the content of the play to get as much information as she can, in order to be able to know deeper about the main character’s social background which can later be related to the language used by the character.

Using the content analysis, the writer tries to identify and analyze the main character’s language through his dialogues.

After analyzing the content of the play, the writer finds out that:

(1) Yank mostly uses a kind of language which is similar to Black Vernacular English when he speaks to other people. While his style of his language tends to be wild, rough and impolite. Besides he uses a lot of exclamatory and imperative sentences in the beginning of the play to show his power as the leader of firemen; however, toward the end of the play, he uses interrogative sentences. It may indicate that he begins to find his self identity.

(2) The setting, Participant, Ends and Key are able to influence Yank’s language since they are closely related to each other.
(3) There are two factors causing Yank to use such kind of language like that, namely an internal factor and an external factor. For the internal factor, they are divided two reasons, firstly the social and educational background and secondly is Yank’s self confidence and self-pride. For the external factor, Yank’s environment experiences during living and surviving on the steam-boat in where he was isolated from outside the world is the major reason for him to use Black Vernacular English.

The writer realizes that there are shortcomings in her study. Therefore, it is suggested that: (a) the future researches on analyzing main character’s language found in the play by using theory of S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G, emphasized on all those components. (b) The conversation chosen are not only the main character’s speeches but another speaker’s speeches as well.