

Investigating Phatic Particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ Used by the Younger Generation in Lampung

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ABSTRACT

This research is entitled “Investigating Phatic Particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ Used by the Younger Generation in Lampung”. Observations of the spoken variety of Indonesian have not been widely carried out and not as many as observations of the written variety. The particles of geh and weh are widely used in the oral variety, but not many have done detailed research on these two particles. This research aims at investigating (1) in what sentences the phatic particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ are used by the younger generation in Lampung and (2) the functions and positions of the phatic particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ used by the young generation in Lampung. The method used is descriptive qualitative method. Meanwhile, the research techniques used were immersion, recovery, and permutation techniques with the steps as follows: identifying the phatic particles, classifying based on types of sentences, functions, and positions, analyzing the data based on types of sentences, functions, and positions, and concluding them based on the result of analysis. The data are collected from the conversations of young generation in Lampung from social media such as Twitter and Whatsapp. The research shows that these particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ are found in declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences with final and medial positions. The geh particle is not found at the initial position and the weh particle is not found in medial position in imperative sentence. Related to their functions, both particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ have 3 (three) functions when used in conversation such as (1) having the aim of livening up the conversation and atmosphere, (2) generally presenting in the oral (conversation) mode and in the written form which is non-official, and (3) having the function of affirming a word or sentence.

Keywords: Phatic particles, types of sentence, functions and positions

INTRODUCTION

Language is an arbitrary system of sound symbols used by community members to work together, interact, and identify themselves. Indonesian is also a means of smoothing conversation between two or more people. These variations are determined, among others, by the background of the speaker, the media used, and the subject being played.

Along with the development of the times, society and especially young people who live in some cities in Lampung province do not use their local language. Regional languages are considered less slang for young people. The existence of language acculturation is also one of the factors that make the language styles of young people today increasingly diverse.

There is a phenomenon factor that can be called a phatic particle that is often used by young generation. Another example in this event is the use of words such as the words ‘geh’ and ‘weh’. These words are often spoken by the narrative as a form of affirmation of a sentence that is spoken. They used the phatic particles because a particle is an auxiliary word that cannot stand alone in a sentence and has a helping function in the sense of emphasizing something or as a complement to a sentence. The particle position is very important because it serves to determine the meaning of a sentence. They often used the particle of ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ in their daily life. The data are taken from their communication in social media such as *twitter* and *whatsapp*.

Kridalaksana (1994: 97-124) states that phatic particles are subclass elements of task words that have a special form that concise or small (one syllable), and have functions and / or certain meanings. Kridalaksana (2008: 113) also mentions that phatic expressions, especially phatic particles, are found at the beginning of a sentence, in the middle of a sentence, and some are at the end of a sentence.

The particles *geh* and *weh* are used for smoothing orders/prohibition/persuasion. An example of this function is "cariin geh!" (search *geh*!) and "Weh, Kay klarifikasi lu!" (*Weh*, Kay, please...you have to clarify!). This particle is also used for affirming previous statements/words, for example, "Dia *geh* belum" (He is *geh* not

finished yet) and “Aman *weh*” (it’s fine *weh*). The last one is for affirming questions, for example, “Kemana *geh*?” (where are you going *geh*) and “*Weh* katanya Sabtu” (*Weh* you told me on Saturday). In their distribution, particle *geh* usually appear in declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences. While *weh* particles only appear in declarative and interrogative sentences.

Research Questions

The phatic particle is one of the perfect descriptions of the pragmatic phenomenon that occurs in a multicultural society with the context of its use. Here, it is clear that there are differences in the use of language styles used by people from different groups and ethnicities as well as the forms and meanings associated with the context, and the situation of speakers from various backgrounds. The research questions are:

1. In what sentences the phatic particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ are used by the younger generation in the Lampung?
2. What are the functions and the positions of the particles “geh” and “weh” used by the younger generation in Lampung?

Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, the research objectives are:

1. To identify in what sentences the phatic particles ‘geh’ and ‘weh’ are used by the younger generation in the Lampung
2. To describe the functions and the positions of phatic particles “geh” and “weh” used by the younger generation in Lampung.

Research Object And Data Collecting

The object of this research is the phatic particles “geh” and “weh” which are widely used in the oral variety that is widely used by the younger generation in the city of Lampung.

The data are taken from the conversations of young generation in Lampung City in social media such as Twitter and Whatsapp.

METHOD

The research method used is a descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected using observation techniques, literature study, while the research techniques used were immersion, recovery, and permutation techniques with the steps as follows: identifying the particles, classifying based on functions, positions and usages, analyzing the data, and concluding them based on the result of analysis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the science of language that studies the use of language associated with the context of use. The meaning of the language is understandable if the context is known. Pragmatic boundaries are the rules of use language regarding the form and meaning associated with the speaker's intent, context, and circumstances. Yule (1996:3) states that *Pragmatics deals with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by the listener*. Based on what Yule stated (1996: 3), pragmatics is a very important thing when communicating because it has the aim of discussing a meaning conveyed by a speaker and accepted by the listener.

b. Phatic Particles

Phatic particles are one of the many aspects found in oral forms, as Rug and Tomaszewski's opinion (2002:201) in Sutami (2004:124) states that phatic particles are elements in spoken language. It is related to the opinion of Kridalaksana in (1994: 97-124) stated that phatic particles are subclass elements of task words that have a special form that concise or small (one syllable), and have functions and / or certain meanings. The use of particles in a conversation will bring the conversation to life because people can express their true feelings to others by using these particles. The particles are normally found in informal conversation that containing regional elements. The theory for this phatic particles come from Jakobson (1960: 354--7) in Sutami (2004: xiv), which is about language functions. Jakobson stated that in order to understand language functions, it is necessary to pay attention to the factors that shape the language situation. The meaning of particles are not subject to changes in shape and only function to display the elements that accompany them, such as in Sundanese form such as *pan*, *tea*, *ma*, *tamah*, *pisan*, *teuing*, and *soteh*. Djajasudarma in (1993: 12) mentions forms such as *pan*, *tea*, *mah*, *wae* with positional particles as syntactic focus markers.

In the Lampung language itself, there are also some phatic particles that are often used, namely *geh* and *weh*. For example, in conversations like; “Fokus ke tangannya *geh*! hahaha” (Focus on her hands *geh*! hahaha) and “Elu doang *weh*, kita mah enggak hahaha” (it’s just you *weh*, we are not hahaha). In the example sentence above, the particle *geh* is used in imperative sentences or order/instruction sentences, and the particle *geh* in this sentence is used to smooth words and to liven up the conversation to keep the conversation continues. For the example of particle *weh*, the sentence used is a declarative sentence containing a sentence that contains a statement. The particle *weh* in the example above is useful to reinforce the previous statement.

These two particles show that the Indonesian language used by the Lampung people will still be influenced by their own regional language. This is indicated by the presence of *geh* and *weh* particles.

c. Functions Of Phatic Particles “Geh” And “Weh”

The functions of phatic particles in this paper are a task word that has characteristics as follows:

1. has a special form, that is, very concise or small,
2. has the aim of livening up the conversation and atmosphere,
3. generally presents in the oral (conversation) mode and in the written form which is non-official, and
4. generally has the function of affirming a word or sentence.

d. Types Of Sentence

Type of sentence is a specific arrangement of words that, when spoken, conveys an entire thought. There are three types of sentence, Some examples of using the word “*geh*” and “*weh*” can be seen in the following sentence.

- A. **Declarative** : The main goal of this type of sentence is to make a statement. So, in a nutshell, any sentence that tells us something can be attributed to this category. It doesn’t matter what kind of information it delivers, whether it is a proven fact or a theoretical statement, the only thing that matters is if it declares something, and if it does, it is a declarative sentence.
 - (1) Edit manual *geh* cupu amat pake preset huu. (Declarative Sentences)
- B. **Interrogative**: Purpose of Interrogative sentence is to receive information. According to the interrogative sentence definition, any sentence that asks for a question can be attributed to this category and will always end with a question mark.
 - (2) Ya gimana *geh* deres ini?
- C. **Imperative** : The purpose of this type of sentences is to tell others to do something, or, in other words, give a command. Imperative sentences can end with either a period or an exclamation mark.
 - (3) Keteranganannya *weh*!

5. DISCUSSION

In terms of writing, the phatic *geh* particle is separated by the word that follows. Unlike the particles in Indonesia, such as *-lah*, *-kah*, and *-tah* are written in series with the words that follow them. In addition, *geh* particle has informal properties that are often used in conversations between the young generation and are even used by some older people or youth.

The phatic *weh* particle is also separated by the word that follows. Judging by surveys conducted this particle is hardly used by the older generation, Most of them never hear and know the meaning of the *weh* particle. Even for young generation the *weh* particle not used too much or simply it is only used by several groups and individuals. It shows that this particle only used by young generation and depends on the environment they live in.

THE USE AND FUNCTIONS OF “geh” PARTICLE

From the data that collected, ‘*geh*’ particle is found in declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences in final and medial positions. This particle is not found in the initial position.

A. Declarative Sentences

- In The Final Position [--*geh*.]
- (4) “Masih sore *geh*” (Media: Whatsapp 24/09/21)
- (5) “Yah gimana *geh*. Kita orang emang kalo makan anggur enggak suka kulitnya *geh*” (Media: Twitter 05/04/2021)

In the data (4 and 5) ‘*geh*’ particles are in the final position of the sentences. ‘*geh*’ is positioned after noun (sore) in data (4) and ‘*geh*’ in data (5) is positioned after the pronoun (kulitnya). These particles “*geh*” function to serve and provide information to listeners and readers and also have news intonation. There are no question words and no invitation words.

- In The Medial Position [--*geh*--]

(5) “Ini **geh** baru nyampe tempat gawe hehe” (Media: Twitter 19/02/2021)

(6) “Gua **geh** baru otw” (Media: Whatsapp 13/06/2020)

The *geh* particle in data (5) is positioned after the pronoun (ini) and in data (6) the position of *geh* is after the subject which is after (gw/saya).

The ‘*geh*’ particles in those positions have functions as an insert with the purpose of the sentence to provide one-way information so that the expected response is attention and understanding.

B. Interrogative Sentences

- In The Final Position / [-- *geh*?]

(7) “Kapan **geh**?” (Media: Whatsapp 05/04/2020)

(8) “Pake apa **geh**?” (Media: Whatsapp 05/04/2020)

In data (7) and (8), particles ‘*geh*’ are positioned after the adverb (*kapan* and *apa*). They have the functions of affirming a word or sentence.

- In the Medial position / [--*geh*--?]

(9) Lu jam berapa **geh** dari karang? (Media: Whatsapp 15/09/2021)

(10) Jam berapa **geh** ntar? (Media: Whatsapp 10/06/2020)

In data (9) and (10), the particles ‘*geh*’ are positioned after the adverb (*berapa*). They have the function as regional language insertion with the completion of the question statement by asking for information or asking something in a negotiating text

C. Imperative Sentences

The particle *geh* with the final position in an imperative sentence is denoted by [--*geh*!] and the medial position in an imperative sentence is denoted by [--*geh*--!].

- In the final position / [-- *geh*!]

(11) Ayok vonis **geh**! (Media: Whatsapp 11/08/2021)

(12) Jangan **geh**! (Media: Whatsapp 08/08/2018)

The particle *geh* in data (11) is positioned after a verb (*vonis*). Meanwhile, in data (12) *geh* is positioned after a verb negation (*jangan*). Those particles of ‘*geh*’ in data (11) have the function to express the speaker’s order firmly to carry out the verdict, it is seen that in the end of ‘*geh*’ intonation used is in the form of a command. Meanwhile in data (12), it can be interpreted as affirming the sentence in the form of refusal that is quite firm in the form of a command in the intonation ‘*geh*’ at the end

- In The Medial Position / [--*geh*--!]

(13) Ayok **geh** gass! (Media: Whatsapp 18/08/2020)

(14) Ayok **geh** mabar! (Media: Whatsapp 17/04/2020)

In data (13) and (14) particles ‘*geh*’ are positioned in the medial positions. They have the functions of affirming sentences in the form of command based on the speaker’s enthusiasm for the recipient of the message.

THE USE AND FUNCTION OF “Weh” PARTICLE

According to the data that collected, this particle is found in declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences with initial, medial, and final positions.

A. Declarative Sentence

- In The Initial Position [*geh*--]

(15) **Weh** jadi kangen SMA. (Media: Whatsapp 12/09/2021)

(16) **Weh** motor gua dipake semua lagi jon. (Media: Whatsapp 26/05/2021)

The ‘*weh*’ particles in data (15) and (16) are positioned in the initial positions. They have functions presents in the oral (conversation) mode and in the written form which is non-official. It is defined as an expression of greeting, to attract attention, and it similar to ‘uy’ ‘oy’ or ‘woi’

- In The Medial Position [--*weh*--]

(17) “Keren **weh** haha” (Media: Whatsapp 30/03/2020)

The *weh* particle in data (17) is positioned in the medial position. Its function can be used to affirm the

sentence or words.

- In The Final Position [–weh]
(18) Udah mulai **weh**. (Media: Whatsapp 26/03/2020)
(19) Masih pagi **weh**. (Media: Whatsapp 20/03/2020)

In data (18) and (19) the positions of *weh* particles are in the final positions. They have the aim of livening up the conversation and atmosphere so that the conversation is not too official or formal.

B. Interrogative Sentences

- In The Initial Position / [weh--?]
(20) **Weh** Kalian di-read gak sama Pak Machu? (Media: Whatsapp 21/03/2020)
(21) **Weh** kapan aku bilang cantik so? (Media: Whatsapp 26/04/2021)

In data (20) and (21), particles 'weh' are positioned in the initial positions. These particles "weh" in the data above have the aim of livening up the conversation and atmosphere to serves as an exclamation and also clarifies the speaker question with loud intonation. Meanwhile in data (21) it has a function of affirming the sentence or words.

- In the Medial position / [--weh--?]
(22) Apa ini **weh** yang mau ditampilin? (Media: Whatsapp 04/05/2021)

In data (22) particle 'weh' is positioned in the medial position. The *weh* particle rarely used in this position. Particle 'weh' in this sentence has the aim of livening up the conversation and atmosphere as a complement in the middle of the sentence so that the conversation is not too official or formal.

- In The Final position / [--weh?]
(23) Anjir apa ini **weh**? (Media: Whatsapp 03/05/2021)
(24) Iya, ada gempa di mana ini **weh**? (Media: Whatsapp 10/03/2020)

The *weh* phatic particles on the data above are positioned in the final positions. Particle 'weh' have the function of affirming the sentence or words such as to show a startle expression that the speaker had already seen/listened (23) and to emphasize a statement that an event is happened (Earthquake) (24).

C. Imperative Sentences

- In The Initial Position / [weh--?]
(25) **Weh**, gila! (Media: Whatsapp 23/07/2019)
(26) **Weh** covid! (Media: Whatsapp 22/07/2021)

The data show that the particles 'weh' in (25) and (26) are in the initial positions which have the aim of livening up the conversation and atmosphere. It is used to express surprise at an event.

- In The Final Position / [--weh!]
(27) Ujan **weh**! (Media: Whatsapp 21/08/2021)
(28) Bagi stiker **weh**! (Media: Whatsapp 03/08/2021)

The data above show that particles 'weh' are in the final positions. They have the functions of affirming the sentences or words to emphasize a statement that an event is happening (rain), such as in data (27) and to emphasize the request sentence so that the listener gives what he wants like in data (28)

CONCLUSION

This paper attempts to reveal the use of *geh* and *weh* particles used by the younger generation in Lampung, Indonesia. The *geh* and *weh* particles are not used carelessly. There are certain rules in its use. After analyzing the data, it can be concluded that these particles 'geh' and 'weh' are found in declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences with final and medial positions. The *geh* particle is not found at the initial position and the *weh* particle is not found in medial position in imperative sentence. Related to their functions, both particles 'geh' and 'weh' have 3 (three) functions when used in conversation such as (1)having the aim of livening up the conversation and atmosphere, (2) generally presenting in the oral (conversation) mode and in the written form which is non-official, and (3) having the function of affirming a word or sentence.

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