

Linguistic Study: Exploring its Philosophical Underpinnings

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Abstract

Linguistic is an alternate term that is frequently used in the language term. Linguistics is part of philosophy. Philosophy is the central core of all knowledge that human beings learn. Philosophy and language are inseparable units. The term ‘language philosophy’ refers to studying philosophy concerning language or linguistics. This study discovers the language and linguistic issues under the frame of language philosophy. The qualitative approach is employed by conducting critical literature reviews on relevant literature. In critical literature reviews, the writer analyzed the linguistic literature from the perspective of language philosophy.

Keywords: *Linguistics; Philosophy, Language philosophy*

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1. Introduction

The ability to speak a language makes humans different from other creatures, not how well they can think. Language itself is a means of communication or an effort to do so, and it can also be employed to deliver a particular message. In this sense, language refers to symbols or signals like human vocalizations and physical gestures. These are in the context of language is called linguistics.

According to the idea that philosophy is the source of all knowledge, including linguistics study, the relationship between linguistics and language from a philosophical perspective is always of the highest magnitude. A philosopher, not a linguist, conducted the first study of linguistics. This is evidenced by the efforts of many philosophers who used the language analysis approach to address numerous philosophical problems, including those involving

being, existence, reality, shape, the material and immaterial, and other such inquiries (Soejono Soemargono, 2004). All those concerns are fundamental and cannot be explained through language-based data analysis.

The relationship between language and philosophy mentioned above is described by philosophers as analytical philosophy and developed favorably throughout Europe, especially in the UK around the 20th century. All philosophers acknowledged the close connection between philosophy and language, particularly in light of philosophy's fundamental function as an analyst of theories and conceptions. Like a philosopher asking to interpret the meaning of 'What is language,' 'What for is language,' and 'How to use language,' a concept or subject that philosophers are analyzing has a significant impact on the creation of terms in a language context. These queries become the core ideas in language learning.

2. Methods

This study applied the library research method to collect some expert arguments and theories that are directly relevant to the problems of philosophy, linguistics, and language philosophy as the database. At this point, the author selected pertinent works as sources containing the theories and viewpoints of authorities on linguistics and language philosophy in general. This study offers an inquiry that investigates linguistics' philosophical aspects to explore its ontological and epistemological meanings in depth. The author then examined a variety of texts, including books, articles, and literary works, that discuss the study of linguistics and how it relates to language philosophy. Finally, a conclusion includes the linguistics study linked to language philosophy.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. The Definition of Linguistics and Language Philosophy

The Dictionary of Indonesian Language defines linguistics or language as a 'symbol of arbitrary voices, utilized by community members to cooperate, interact, and identify themselves.' (Indonesia, 2009) The term linguistics in English contexts is called 'language' (from the Latin 'lingua' and the Old French 'langage') to denote language, tongue, code, and signs) (Kridalaksana, 2008)

Therefore, linguistics or language is described as a system or structure for interpersonal communication between individuals using body language and mutually understood symbols or signals. A language has two fundamental meanings as something that linguistics studies: a non-standardized theoretical concept and its distinctive system. Talking about language automatically involves an utterance (oral language), gesture/symbols/signs/codes (Body language/written language).

Language philosophy combines linguistics or language study with philosophy. The objective of language philosophy is to investigate the status of a language concerning human actions, whether they be philosophical or otherwise scientific. Language philosophy frequently engages in conceptual and theoretical activities that are found in linguistics. Scientific language and commonly used human languages are also included in language philosophy. To put it another way, language philosophy is a theory that deals with language and were proposed by philosophers to cognitively grasp and learn about the language people use to express and communicate.

3.2. The Origins of Linguistics in the World of Philosophy

According to estimates, there are currently between 6,000 and 7,000 languages spoken on earth, yet this number may rise depending on how each language is used or its dialect changes. Speaking or using signals allows for the detection of known natural language. The stimulation of aural, visual, or tactile stimuli can be used to encode the two natural languages (such as expressive writing, Braille letters, or whistling). As is well known, language can be used to depict cognitive abilities achieved through complex communication systems or even to explain a system of rules that establishes rules (Azhar, 2010).

Natural language, whether spoken orally or through sign language, primarily relates to symbols employed in sequence and referred to as words or morphemes. This morpheme transforms into a system that governs how those words are put together or strung together to produce words or phrases effectively.

Since the time of the ancient Greeks, linguistics in philosophy has significantly advanced. The natural (cosmology), school of philosophy, and the school of Physis explain that language has a natural character (*fisei* or *fisis*) and that it has a connection to or relationship with its origin, which makes it a source of eternal principles and makes it irreplaceable - apart from by humans - and, consequently, ir-rejectable. Nevertheless, Socrates examines themes related to nature from a dialectical perspective and continues to use dialect to advance his theories (Solikhan, 2008).

In addition to naturalism, Hermoganes' teo-centric philosophy stated that language is conventional (nomos). Traditions and tacit agreements (silent agreements) result in language acquisition. Language is a commonality, not a divine gift or gift from God (Kaelan, 1998).

There was a theoretical split at the time regarding how to comprehend the philosophical topics of the cosmos and the language of fusie. Language is the primary tool in philosophy, particularly in logic; it is comparable to the dichotomy between analogy and anomaly, which has evolved into the most fundamental philosophical discourse. According to the logic taught by Plato and Aristotle, humans, as represented by language, and nature, both have well-established order. Accordingly, language is organized and has ordered or even does not have order. On the contrary, the Anomalist group believes that languages lack order. Daily

experience has demonstrated the existence of some words' neutral terms, synonyms, and homonyms. If a language is universal, the disorder may be restored. This viewpoint concludes that language is essentially a natural (Parera, 1991).

The differences in viewpoints on language and many other topics that fall under the same family of languages that philosophers handle significantly impact the advancement of language knowledge. These discrepancies spark discussions, dialogue, and eventually debate. Discussion, talk, and debate certainly give philosophers new life to reform and advance the outdated idea of language. To illustrate these processes, language philosophers will provide examples of their knowledge of and research into the common sense truths of language, its causes, its origins, and its laws, all of which are factors in the development of the language and linguistics (Sallyanti, 2004).

3.3. Linguistics in Philosophy

A human who possesses language certainly has an excellent ability to think. Language becomes a clear distinction between a human and animals. Ernst Cassirer claimed that human is *animal symbolism*, a living creature that uses symbols that generally covers a more enormous scope than *homo sapiens*, a thinking creature (Cassirer, 1944).

Human activity using symbols in thinking is the primary cause. In other words, human beings cannot think logically and methodically without using symbols, in this case, language. Additionally, without language, humans are unable to develop their cultures, which has a direct impact on their ability to extinction from one generation to the next. Without language, humans and animals are identical fields (Huxley, 1962). A human's ability to think clearly and rationally is facilitated by language. Imagine a world without language, inevitably human thinking process would undoubtedly become stale or stalled. The same situation will also impact philosophical and other scientific endeavors. Humans can only share their knowledge with other humans through language.

The language characteristics in the context of philosophy to be discussed are as follows; (1) It has a concatenation of voices which is used as a device for communication. In addition, signs are also used to communicate, but above all, voices remain humans' main communication device. (2) Language is a symbol where a set of voices symbolize a particular object. Humans collect symbols and turn them into words or vocabularies. The words or vocabularies in substance in this term refer to a collection of experiences and thoughts of humans. In other words, throughout the words/vocabularies, humans can communicate everything, such as knowledge, experiences, or thoughts. By utilizing symbols, a human can think and learn well.

The likelihood that humans can think about factual objects cognitively turned into language symbols is very high. Humans can feel about a particular factual thing transforming,

even though the object does not exist there (Suriasumantri, 2017). The existence of language symbols, taken in an abstract sense, may enable continuous thought in humans. As a result, language enables humans to think logically and systematically. Actual objects undergo a transformation process that turns them into abstract symbols that can be represented using words or vocabularies. They are then arranged thus according to grammatical patterns to represent thoughts and feelings.

There are two aspects of language they are the aspect of informative and the aspect of emotive. Those two aspects are reflected in the daily language which humans use. It means that when humans speak, the information delivered contains emotional aspects. On the contrary, if the emotional or feeling is given, it automatically includes parts of information. The two elements, information and emotive, are inseparable and related and exist in the human (Russell, 1948). If the human communication process in philosophy is examined in more detail, it will have three linguistic components; mind, sentiment, and attitude. According to Kneller, language has three purposes in human life: it serves as a symbol, an emotive, and an effective tool (Kneller, 1964). Language's use of symbols in communication significantly impacts philosophy and knowledge. The aesthetic philosophy, often known as value philosophy, is typically influenced by the emotive aspect. Because emotion can constrain rational thoughts and ideas, the use of symbols in philosophical communication is expected to be independent of emotion. As a result, characters are crucial for developing knowledge in language philosophy.

3.4. The Classification of Linguistics in Philosophy

Philosophy frequently considers the human mind as the primary organ of cognition and communication. It also serves as a marker for the distinction between humans and other species. Because humans have minds, they can change and even revolutionize everything in this world. Using philosophy is referred to as thinking as a realization of the mind's functioning process, where human beings may feel because they have minds.

The mind is one of the components of the human being utilized to accomplish the truth; in addition, the heart is used to realize the beauty and the will to do good. However, a person can obtain the absolute truth in the realm of philosophy simply by using their thinking. Philosophical thought is primarily intended for scientific activity and is scientific in nature. Meanwhile, linguistics, often known as scientific language or linguistics, is used in philosophical pursuits (UGM, 2012).

Words, terminology, and syntax are the basic components of linguistics or language. Words and terms represent certain concepts that refer to things, actions, processes, or relationships. Syntax is how words or terms are arranged or connected in sentences to express meaningful meaning. Similar to how a sentence's meaning and purpose determine whether it is significant or not.

That kind of meaningful sentence then is called scientific language or scientific linguistics and is usually used in philosophical activities. In the context of philosophy, linguistics or language is categorized based on the language grouping, explaining the language terms in scientific language.

Linguistics in philosophy can be divided into two types: *Natural language*, the everyday language people use to communicate. The environment and nature have an impact on how the natural language develops. There are two categories of natural language: (1) sign language. This language is used for both general and specific purposes. For instance, they nod the human's head as a sign of agreement and shake the human's head as a sign of disapproval. The public has successfully acknowledged those two signs. But for a specific group, those two indications have a different meaning than what is present in the other community. (2) Common language. This language is used in everyday situations and has a common meaning. In ordinary language, language or sign is referred to as "words" with a well-known and understood meaning. Regular language usage can be broken down into two categories: (a) the use of a specific word with its literal meaning; and (b) the use of a specific word with its non-literal or figurative meaning.

Secondly, invented language, this language is arranged based on thoughts' considerations, and it has a specific meaning and purpose. Word in the invented language is familiarly called 'term', and its meaning is called 'concept'. Invented language is divided into two types; (1) *terminological language*, a language made and formulated based on ordinary language and given a specific meaning. This language stimulates interpretations and definitions based on a word (2) *artificial language*. This is purely an invented language, and it is frequently called symbolic. This type of language consists of words comprises of signs and is commonly used in the context of logical activities (philosophy, mathematics). The difference between natural and artificial language is the conceptual content used for a specific term that needs a further and in-depth definition (Soemargono, 2004).

The use of linguistics in philosophy activity, in general, tends to use invented language or also known scientific language. This is because the scientific language can be formulated, and this type of language is created by philosophers or other scientists based on their expertise. Scientific language primarily uses signs, terms, and symbols representing a certain meaning of a certain thing. This scientific language fundamentally transforms into declarative sentences or stated sentences that measure correct and incorrect, either by using ordinary language as instruction media to deliver research results or by using terms, signs, and symbols conceptually.

The details of natural language and invented language:

Natural language	Invented language
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Between word and meaning is a whole unity due to daily habits which has characteristics as follows:	The intact unity between terms and concepts are relative, depending on the mind and its characters as follows:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spontaneity - Habitual - Intuitives (heart feeling) - Direct expression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on mind - Affected by heart - Discursive (logic, large scope of meaning) - Indirect statement

3.5. The Function of Linguistics in Philosophy

Linguistics has 3 (three) main functions as an aforementioned explanation. The 3 (three) linguistics functions are; (1) function expressive or emotive, (2) function effective or practical, and (3) function symbolic or logic.

The function of expressive or emotive in the linguistics study is clearly shown via a feeling of fear and a feeling of astonishment which is realized by praising or complimenting something. Expressive or emotive regularly appears in the scope of art and aesthetics, whereas in philosophy, it is known as aesthetic philosophy (values philosophy).

Furthermore, the function of affective or practical is used to give psychological effects to people. The impact of this function can stimulate people to do something based on their will. The practical function of philosophy activity is known as human philosophy. The last function is symbolic or logic. Language is viewed as large and deep in this function, known as logical philosophy. This function of symbolism involves the brain or logic, and it is communicative. It means that in symbolic function, symbols are not merely expressing the facts but also delivering a particular message to other people.

Referring to 3 (three) functions based on the perspectives of philosophical study and scientific study, the function of symbolism and logic becomes the main object in linguistics study. This is because philosophical communication or another scientific communication has a similar purpose to delivering knowledge to human beings and to ease the way, so it is understandable and acceptable to human beings. In consequence, the communication or information delivery runs very well. At the same time, the philosophical activity on linguistics function must be free and independent from emotive elements because philosophy is a scientific and productive study and removes multi-interpretation.

The use of language means that meanings inside the words uttered explicitly have the purpose of avoiding different meanings. Thus, in scientific communication, a person is told

a particular definition of words, such as ‘epistemology’ or ‘axiology’. This reality is to remove misinterpretation of the given words.

Using language has the purpose of expressing ideas or thoughts. If we try to understand further, we will find the sentences in philosophical activities or scientific work statements. The statement itself symbolizes a knowledge to communicate to other people. For example, the statement, ‘boiling water will reduce its volume’. The truth of the statement contains an understanding of the relation between cause and effect, namely the relation of cause and effect between boiling water, then the temperature of water increases and it affects decrease the volume of water.

Scientific work principally is a group of statements that give information about knowledge or mind mapping on how to obtain that knowledge. The ability to communicate a statement requires the language’s user to master the language grammar and structures correctly. This is also effectively applied in philosophical activities or any other scientific activities. Charlton Laird explained the meaning from the viewpoint of language grammar and structures. According to him, the meaning based on language structures maximizes using logic and creative thinking to express meaning and emotion using certain rules. (Laird, 1953)

Using language structures correctly and appropriately is an absolute requirement in philosophical study and other scientific studies. A philosopher or a scientist must be able to communicate and master the language very well. It is not only restricted to the communication context but also applicable in writing a scientific article. That’s why they must omit the use of emotive elements. In writing scientific writing, a scientist or a philosopher must use the established language structures based on formulated procedures such as a footnote, references and all of them must be acquired by a scientist in the order they can communicate the information in writing and be understandable by other scientists (Suriasumantri, 2017).

3.6. The Weakness of Linguistics in Language Philosophy

Generally, linguistics and philosophy have the same purpose, namely discussing language issues. But, there are some differences between linguistics and philosophy. Linguistics aims to get the clarity and the truth of language; the final goal of linguistics is at the end of the activity. Meanwhile, language philosophy seeks the substance of knowledge or conceptual knowledge. In language philosophy, language is used as a delivered object to seek knowledge. Finally, in language philosophy, the clarity of substance of knowledge is communicable and well delivered conceptually and orderly.

Linguistics in philosophy itself has some drawbacks. *Firstly*, medium and activity in scientific communication on linguistics have a versatile role, namely medium of emotive, affective, and symbolic. In philosophical activity or scientific activity, it must be organized objectively by symbolic and logical aspects. Nonetheless, the fact is that the movement of

scientific philosophy uses emotive and affective elements. *Secondly*, the weakness of linguistics is in the unclear meaning and certainty found in words developing a language. Moreover, ambiguous terms and inexact words are difficult to define. *Thirdly*, there are many pluralistic words in linguistics. Words in language generally have more than one meaning. For example, the Indonesian word 'bisa' has two meanings: ability and venom. The plurality doesn't only give different meanings, but it also gives the same meaning (Hill, 1958). The characteristic of plurality in linguistics frequently triggers confusion in terms of semantics; when communication happens among speakers using plural words, it creates multiple interpretations. *Fourthly*, linguistics has a circular characteristic, which keeps cycling in defining a word. *Fifthly*, another weakness in linguistics is emotional connotative words.

The issues in linguistics have become objects of in-depth thinking by modern philosophers. The turmoil in philosophy and other scientific activities is probably caused by the failure of philosophers to master the logic of the linguistics (Wittgenstein, 1972). The study of philosophy concentrates on the substance of knowledge, including an analysis of logico-linguistics. Some philosophical schools, for example, analytic philosophy, have claimed that linguistics is not just a tool for philosophical thinking and action but also its foundation and the end of philosophy. Henri Bergson distinguishes between absolute information acquired outside of linguistics and relative knowledge gained through the linguistics (Bergson, 1969). In actuality, intuition must also attain true knowledge, which is vital because the essence of truth or knowledge 'stops behind intuition' (Whitehead, 1958). Scientific knowledge can change due to incorrect and improper language use thereof.

4. Conclusions

Linguistics or language is the most urgent issue for humans. This is so that a language makes a human capable of thinking everything in his mind. Language is the one thing that sets humans different from other creatures. Likewise, language is also necessary for the advancement of knowledge and civilization. As a result, besides the factor of language, a human can think orderly; language also allows humans to express ideas and thoughts and communicate them to other people. Throughout a language, humans can share attitudes and feelings by using sounds people make, particularly their voices. Philosophy also expresses arts and aesthetics, known as aesthetic philosophy and values philosophy. Through linguistics, humans live meaningfully on the earth. In addition, language is another way that knowledge is learned. If humans lack language, they are identical to animals.

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