



The Function of Communication in Human Life

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ABSTRACT

This discussion aims to find out what functions of communication are often carried out or seen in human life. In this discussion, we will explain the various functions of communication through social functions like what and how, then there are expressive and ritual functions like what and how, and then the function of communication as an instrumental function. The purpose of understanding and knowing the functions of communication is so that we can differentiate between one communication and another, and this discussion aims that we did not misuse the communication that we have used, so that good communication can be formed and by the rules that apply in all aspect of life. The method used in this discussion is the description method, where this method provides an explanation based on phenomena that have occurred and are often encountered in human life.

Keywords: Communication Function, Social Function, Expressive Function, Instrumental

INTRODUCTION

In this life we will not be separated from communication because communication plays an important role in every aspect of human life, where communication is always used in all activities and is used in all areas of life, if communication does not exist then human life will not be able to run smoothly and it will be difficult to experience development in all fields without this communication humans will not be able to solve all the problems and problems that exist in their lives, communication is so important in human life and we also have to know the functions of communication itself so that communication runs smoothly.

Communication is a basic human activity. By communicating, humans can relate to each other in daily life at home, at work, in society, or wherever humans are. There is no human being who is not involved in communication. Communication has a very important role in human life, both individually, in groups, and organizations. Ruben (in Muhamad, 2005:3) provides a more comprehensive definition of human communication, namely human communication is a process through which individuals in relationships, in groups, in organizations, and society create, transmit, and use information to coordinating the environment and other people.

Quality communication is effective communication. What this means is how in a communication interaction process, the message by the communicator can be conveyed well, and have an effect on the recipient of the message (communicator). The expected effects of communication include cognitive effects (knowledge), effects on attitudes, and effects on behavior. Through information and messages conveyed through the communication process, someone who previously did not know anything becomes aware, and becomes more understanding of the message conveyed. So, in conveying a message so that it follows the goals of effective communication, communication components such as communicator (*Komunikator*), message (*pesan*), channel (*media*), and communication (Community) must be taken into account so that the communication carried out can have different effects on the recipient.

There are several relevant studies, which are the benchmarks of this research. Humans need communication to help survive, one of which is by using language as a means of communication. Language is the most effective communication tool in conveying messages, thoughts, feelings, and goals to others and allows for creating cooperation between humans. So the role of language becomes very dominant in various human daily activities. The purpose of this study is to describe matters relating to language as a means of communication and communication in everyday life. The method used in this research is the literature review method, the data are collected from relevant literature data. The result of this research and discussion is to explain language as a communication tool which discusses the function of language as a human communication tool which includes five basic functions, namely the function of expression, the function of information, the function of exploration, the function of persuasion, and the function of entertainment. And explain communication in everyday life which discusses why we communicate and the language used when communicating in everyday life. As social beings, of course, humans in their lives need communication to be able to establish

relationships with other humans. Language is the most effective tool or medium for conveying thoughts, with human language being able to interact and talk about anything. For this reason, every human being communicates to get or convey information or messages (Mailani et al., 2022).

Second related research in the implementation of formal education (school education), it is clear that the role of communication is very prominent. The teaching and learning process is mostly due to the communication process, both intrapersonal and interpersonal communication. Therefore, it is important for us to become skilled at communicating, and to know the principles of communication in both education and society. This type of research is library research, which is a series of studies relating to the method of collecting library data, or research where the object of research is explored through a variety of library information (books, encyclopedias, scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, and documents). The research result shows that communication is the process of delivering or receiving messages from one person to another, either directly or indirectly, in writing, orally, or in nonverbal language. Communication in education is a communication or interaction that occurs in the world of education it plays a very large role in determining the success of the education concerned (Mawaddah & Elisa Harahap, 2021).

The third study article discusses the relevance of learning communication with SD / MI teaching materials. Communication occurs in learning that there are educators who deliver learning material to students, students who discuss certain topics that are included in the subject matter, and so forth that involve interactions between educators, students, or the environment. Learning material is a message in the learning communication process that is often considered to be the heart or core of learning activities. This research awaits research library research with a qualitative approach. The conclusion of this research is: that learning communication is a process where educators build effective and effective communication relations with students so that students have the opportunity to achieve high effectiveness in the learning process. The characteristics of the learning communication process are: symbolic, dynamic, understandable, and unique. The types of communication carried out in learning communication are verbal communication and nonverbal communication. Communication styles used in learning are aggressive, manipulative, passive, and assertive styles. Communication models that affect learning communication are Laswell communication models and Schramme models (Parid, 2020).

In a day-to-day spectacle, communication also takes over its functions. There are two studies related to non-verbal communication. The Bilu Mela animated film is a film produced by the State of Indonesia without using sound from human dubbing, especially in dialogue. The audience is required to understand the storyline through the body movements of the Bilu Mela film characters. The Bilu Mela episode nonwater ghost animation, tells about two blue (Bilu) and red (Mela) fish sleeping in their respective aquariums. Then the blue one woke up because he heard the sound of a chest moving from outside the aquarium. Then a genie appeared who came out of the magic teapot and cursed the blue one to become long and the mela to become fat. This genie will lose his body if doused with water, so the mela watered the genie's left hand and the genie's left hand disappeared. When Bilu wanted to wash the genie's body parts, the genie apologized to Bilu not to be doused with water, Bilu agreed with the condition that the genie change their (Bilu & Mela) bodies back to their original shape. the researcher uses the theory of non-verbal communication which can also be interpreted as the creation and exchange of

messages without using words, this communication uses body movements, gestures, intonation (pitch-lowness), eye contact, facial expressions, proximity, and touch–feel (Zaneti & Sari, 2023).

Further research on Grizzy and Les Lemming's animated film is a French computer-animated television series produced by Studio Days with France Televisions and Boomerang. The animation is a silent comedy animation that focuses on a grizzly bear, named Grizzly who is a brown bear living in a tree house. Grizzy always has to deal with a herd of lemmings that always annoy him. Lemmings are a type of mouse that digs holes. They mainly live in the eastern hemisphere. In winter, it is white as snow, and in the warm season, it becomes gray and brown. Grizzy and Les Lemmings Battle Musicale episode 223 animation in this episode of the warm season so the lemmings are gray. This episode, tells the story of a group of lemmings who are dancing and swaying while listening to music from the radio at Grizzy's house. Grizzy also likes the music from the radio, so there is a fight over the radio between Grizzy and a group of lemmings. When the struggle occurred, the radio was damaged so that the chip stuck to a blue parrot which caused the parrot to make a sound like the radio. The researcher uses Nonverbal Communication Theory which means the exchange and delivery of messages that do not use words using more body gestures, expressions, gestures, body movements, tone intonation, eye contact, proximity, and touch. Grizzy also liked the music from the radio, so there was a fight over the radio between Grizzy and a group of lemmings. When the struggle occurred, the radio was damaged so that the chip stuck to a blue parrot which caused the parrot to make a sound like the radio. The researcher uses Nonverbal Communication Theory which means the exchange and delivery of messages that do not use words using more body gestures, expressions, gestures, body movements, tone intonation, eye contact, proximity, and touch. Grizzy also liked the music from the radio, so there was a fight over the radio between Grizzy and a group of lemmings. When the struggle occurred, the radio was damaged so that the chip stuck to a blue parrot which caused the parrot to make a sound like the radio. The researcher uses Nonverbal Communication Theory which means the exchange and delivery of messages that do not use words using more body gestures, expressions, gestures, body movements, tone intonation, eye contact, proximity, and touch (Ramadhani & Lani, 2023).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research method is a regularly arranged technique that the author uses to collect data in conducting research that is tailored to the research object (Jacob et al., 2023). Methodology is also a general approach to studying research topics that are influenced by a theory. A perspective that can be used to conduct research, while a theoretical perspective is an explanatory framework that allows researchers to understand data and relate complex data to other situations or events (Afuddin et al, 2023). The methodology used in this discussion is the descriptive methodology, according to Suharsimi Arikunto (2013: 3) "descriptive research is research that is intended to investigate circumstances, conditions or other things that have been mentioned, the results of which are presented in the form of a research report". In descriptive research, phenomena include forms, activities, characteristics, changes, relationships, similarities, and differences between one phenomenon and another. Sukmadinata (2006: 72) also states that:

“Descriptive research is a form of research aimed at describing existing phenomena, both natural phenomena and human-made phenomena. These

phenomena can be in the form of activities, characteristics, changes, relationships, similarities, and differences between one phenomenon and another”.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Communication in public life

Communication is very necessary in everyday life. Communication can provide information to someone or the public regarding ideas/thoughts, events, or something conveyed by other people. Communication in society has a central role in forming the basis of sustainable social interaction. Through the exchange of information, ideas, and values, communication allows individuals to build shared understanding, strengthen social relationships, and develop shared norms and values.

The function of communication is also manifested in its ability to support collective decision-making, integrate individuals into social networks, and facilitate cultural exchange. In addition, communication plays a key role in social control, ensuring compliance with norms and laws. Overall, communication is a key pillar that shapes collective identity, enriches cultural diversity and helps society function harmoniously and sustainably.

Communication provides the information needed by individuals and groups to make decisions by transmitting data to determine and evaluate alternative options (Robbins, 2002: 310-311). Likewise, individual and external communication. External communication has more functions compared to internal communication. In internal communication, the communication function is generally transactional. This means that generally communication events are intended to convey messages or information, which is generally information related to science and technology.

Communication as a Social Function

Communication as a social function can be the basis for forming an individual's self-concept. With this social function, each individual will receive learning and understanding about everything to help him live his life well and by the norms and rules that apply in his environment. The formation of this self-concept can be obtained from the environment around the individual, for example from the family environment or the community environment and what the environment around him is like and how it is then that is the self-concept that will be embedded in an individual. With communication as a social function, people can work together and interact with each other so that good relationships can be created and harmony can be created in society and the family.

The function of communication as social communication at least suggests that communication is important for building our self-concept, self-actualization, survival, obtaining happiness, avoiding pressure and tension, among other things through communication that is entertaining, and fostering relationships with other people. Through communication, we work together with community members (families, study groups, universities, RTs, villages, ..., the country as a whole) to achieve common goals.

- a) Formation of self-concept. Self-concept is our view of ourselves, and we can only obtain it through information given to us by other people. Through communication with other people, we learn not only about who we are but also how we feel about who we are. You love yourself when you have been loved; you think you are smart if the people around you think you are smart; You feel handsome or beautiful if the people around you also say so. George Herbert Mead

- (in Jalaluddin Rakhmat, 1994) terms significant others (other very important people) as the people around us who have an important role in forming our self-concept. When we were little, they were our parents, our siblings, and the people who lived in the same house as us. Richard Dewey and W.J. Humber (1966) named affective others, as other people with whom we have an emotional bond. From them, we slowly form our self-concept. Apart from that, there are what are called reference groups, namely groups that emotionally bind us and influence the formation of our self-concept. By seeing this, people direct their behavior and adapt themselves to the characteristics of their group. If you choose your reference group, the Indonesian Doctors Association, you use the norms of this association as a measure of your behavior. You also feel like you are part of this group, complete with the characteristics of a doctor according to your perception.
- b) Statement of self-existence. People communicate to show themselves to exist. This is what is called self-actualization or more precisely a statement of self-existence. The function of communication as self-existence is visible, for example in the questioner at a seminar. Even though they have been warned by the moderator to speak briefly and get straight to the point, the questioner or commentator often speaks at length and lectures the audience, with arguments that are sometimes irrelevant
- c) For survival, cultivating relationships, and obtaining happiness. Since birth, we cannot survive on our own to survive. We need and must communicate with other people, to fulfill our biological needs such as eating and drinking, and fulfill our psychological needs such as success and happiness. Psychologists argue that our main need as humans, and to be spiritually healthy humans, is the need for friendly social relationships, which can only be fulfilled by building good relationships with other people. Abraham Maslow stated that humans have five basic needs: physiological needs, safety, social needs, self-esteem, and self-actualization. More basic needs must be met first before higher needs are pursued. We may already be able to meet the physiological and safety needs for survival. Now we want to fulfill social needs, self-esteem, and self-actualization. The third and fourth needs in particular include the desire to gain a sense of belonging and belonging, association, a sense of acceptance, and giving and receiving friendship. Communication will be needed to obtain and provide the information needed, to persuade or influence other people, to consider alternative solutions to problems and then make decisions, and for social and entertainment purposes.

Examples of social communication images:



Communication functions as an expressive function

Apart from functioning as a function to form an individual's self-concept, communication also functions as a medium or way to channel or convey all the feelings and emotions that one has. In other words, communication here functions as a channel for a person's feelings or emotions which are then expressed in non-verbal form, where the expression of what the individual conveys can be accepted or felt by other people, for example, a mother who gives such sincere love to her child that the child feels protection and comfort and affection from the mother.

Communication functions to convey our feelings (emotions). These feelings are mainly communicated through nonverbal messages. Feelings of love, care, longing, sympathy, joy, sadness, fear, concern, anger, and hatred can be conveyed through words but can be conveyed more expressively through nonverbal behavior. A mother shows her affection by stroking her child's head. People can channel their anger by swearing, clenching their fists, and glaring their eyes, students protest the policies of state authorities or campus authorities by holding demonstrations.

Communication Functions as a Ritual Function

It turns out that this communication, apart from functioning as a conveyance of someone's expression, can also function as a ritual which has occurred a lot in society from ancient times to today the function of rituals has an expressive function. has a connection, but in ritual communication the delivery of expression is more. its existence or form is explained by expressing it in the form of very diverse traditional rituals in Indonesia from Sabang to Merauke, one example of which is a ritual held in West Sumatra, the Pariaman area, where the people carry out a traditional ritual that is usually called Tabuik, where this ritual aims to commemorate the death of Imam Husein, Muhammad's grandson, from this example it can be concluded that communication is not only something we say verbally but communication can also be expressed in a form such as a ritual like the example above or can be conveyed in other forms.

A community often performs different ceremonies throughout the year and life, which anthropologists call rites of passage, starting from birth ceremonies, circumcisions, birthdays, engagements, siraman, weddings, and so on. During these events, people say certain words or behaviors that are symbolic in nature. Other rites such as praying (salat, prayer, mass), reading the holy book, going on the pilgrimage, flag ceremonies (including

singing the national anthem), graduation ceremonies, Eid celebrations (Eid al-Fitr) or Christmas, are also ritual communications. Those who participate in this form of ritual communication reaffirm their commitment to a community that often performs different ceremonies throughout the year and life, which anthropologists call rites of passage, starting from birth ceremonies, circumcisions, birthdays, engagements, siraman, weddings, and others. During these events, people say certain words or behaviors that are symbolic. Other rites such as prayer (salat, prayer, mass), reading the holy book, going on the pilgrimage, flag ceremonies (including singing the national anthem), graduation ceremonies, Eid celebrations (Eid al-Fitr) or Christmas, are also ritual communication. Those who participate in this form of ritual communication reaffirm their commitment to the traditions of their family, tribe, and nation. Their country, ideology, or religion. on the traditions of their family, tribe, and nation. Their country, ideology, or religion.



(example of ritual communication image)

Communication functions as an instrumental function

Communication as an instrumental function here means that communication is used as a way or method to provide information or can also be. as a driving force for teaching and even functions to change a person's attitudes and thoughts, where this instrumental function can occur in a relatively short period, temporarily or over a long period.

Instrumental communication has several general goals, namely: informing, teaching, encouraging, changing attitudes, mobilizing action, and also entertaining.

As an instrument, we not only use communication to create and build relationships but also to destroy these relationships. The study of communication sensitizes us to the various strategies we can use in our communication to work better with others for mutual benefit. Communication functions as an instrument to achieve personal and work goals, both short-term and long-term goals. Short-term goals, for example, are to gain praise, create a good impression, gain sympathy, empathy, and material, economic, and political benefits, which, among other things, can be achieved by impression management, namely verbal and non-verbal tactics, such as speaking politely, making promises, wearing dapper clothes, and so on which are basically to show other people who we are as we want.

Meanwhile, long-term goals can be achieved through communication skills, for example, speech, negotiation, foreign language skills, or writing skills. These two goals (short and long term) are of course interrelated in the sense that impression management can cumulatively be used to achieve long-term goals in the form of career success, for example, to obtain position, power, social respect, and wealth.

Regarding the function of this communication, there are some opinions of scientists that, when observed, complement each other [1] For example, Onong Effendy (1994), argues that the function of communication is to convey information, educate, entertain, and influence. Harold D Lasswell (in Nurudin, 2004 and Effendy, 1994:27) describes the function of communication as follows: 1) Surveillance of the information is the disclosure of threats and opportunities that affect the values of a society; 2) Connecting separate sections of a community to respond to its environment; 3) Transferring social heritage from generation to generation.

CONCLUSION

So the function of communication is so varied that it's not just about delivering a message and with that function we can know which communication function we use and often see in society. Communication functions in human life involve the exchange of information, understanding, and social interaction to build relationships, meet needs, and communicate ideas and emotions effectively. Communication also helps in decision-making, building individual and group identities, and facilitating cooperation and coordination in society.

In human life, the function of communication encompasses a broad and profound dimension. Communication is not only a tool for exchanging information, but also a foundation for social interaction, mutual understanding, and the development of interpersonal relationships. In a personal context, communication facilitates self-expression, the exchange of ideas, and the development of emotional closeness. Meanwhile, on a larger scale, communication plays a role in the formation of culture, social norms, and the evolution of knowledge and technology. In conclusion, communication is not only an essential element in everyday life, but also a driving force for change, a unifying society, and a catalyst for human development as a whole.

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