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Epistemic and affective meanings of discourse marker *nih* in colloquial Jakartan Indonesian

One of the discourse markers in colloquial Jakartan Indonesia that is understudied is *nih*. Sneddon (2006) mentioned that *nih* functions to give a stress. There is no detailed explanation on how the speakers use *nih* to build discourse. The present study followed a suggestion by Djenar (2018) to scrutinize discourse markers based on modality meaning. Here, I focused on the epistemic and affective meanings of *nih*. The present study is a discourse analysis that focuses on the sequences of turn taking and the information flow. There are twenty two utterances of *nih* in the present study. The data is taken from the videos of food reviews on YouTube. This genre is getting more popular now. The interactions are between two reviewers or the reviewers and the seller. In the YouTube video, the reviewers are aware that they have audience (video watchers). Thus, they do not only talk to each other but also to the audience.

The speakers build the description by asserting the epistemic and affective meaning first. Usually, the utterance with *nih* is used in initial part of information given. It functions to attract hearers' attentions. As the hearers give more attention, the speakers give more detailed information about the object or actions. Mostly, the speakers use *nih* when they describe the object such as food as in *Ni benar-benar asam manisnya dapat banget nih*. Furthermore, it occurs when the speakers mention actions. The actions could take place at the moment or they are about to do by the speakers as in *Nih gue mau nyobain nih, yang ini*. The speakers try to engage the watchers in the activities of trying the food.

In terms of epistemic meaning, *nih* indicates shared information and feeling. The speakers position themselves as the one who have knowledge and share it to the watchers. Thus, the watchers who are not there receive knowledge from the speakers. *Nih* also delivers the affective meaning in the utterances. By using *nih*, the speakers can pinpoint their attitude towards the object mostly the food more clearly to the watchers who do not taste it. When the speakers shared their feeling, mostly they give assessment about the food.

Nih tends to collocate with demonstratives *nih*, *ni*, and *ini*. With the use of demonstratives, the speakers point the objects. It makes the interlocutors and the viewers pay attention to the same objects. Thus, the speakers want to make sure that they are in the same page. The collocations indicate how the speakers guide the hearers to notice the objects or the actions.

References

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EPISTEMIC AND AFFECTIVE MEANINGS OF DISCOURSE MARKER *N/H* IN COLLOQUIAL JAKARTA INDONESIAN

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INTRODUCTION

- Discussion on *nih* is scarce.
- No information on discourse markers *nih* in the Complete Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI).
- *Nih* functions to give emphasis on predicates (Sneddon, 2006). Sometimes it is spoken as *ni*.

Belum foto lagi ni gua.

Eh, Tina! Lagi makan nih?

(Sneddon, 2006).

THE PRESENT STUDY

- Djenar (2018) suggested to scrutinize discourse markers based on modality meaning.
- Analyze epistemic and affective meanings of *nih* in colloquial Jakartan Indonesian.
- Use only declaratives.

EPISTEMIC MEANING IN DISCOURSE MARKER

- Speakers show that they have more knowledge by applying discourse marker *aiyou* in Chinese. The knowledge is worth to hear. The speakers claim their epistemic primacy (Wu, 2018).
- In Napo Kichwa, speakers use *mi* to indicate their higher knowledge and right to share the knowledge (Grzech, 2020).
- *Wenti-shi* in Mandarin is used to claim speakers' epistemic right (Hsieh, 2018).

EPISTEMIC MEANING

- In Japanese, *yo* is used to mark speakers' epistemic primacy. It is proved by giving detailed information. It functions to indicate that the speakers have direct access to the source of knowledge. It is also used when the speakers claim epistemic primacy that has not been recognized by the interlocutors (Hayano, 2011).

AFFECTIVE MEANING

- Affective: feeling, attitude, value, and evaluation (Biber, 1999).
- Speakers put the object being evaluated in some levels. (Du Bois, 2007; Ionescu-Ruxăndoiu, 2022)

THE DATA & METHODS

- A discourse analysis that focuses on
 1. the sequences of turn taking
 2. the information flow
- Twenty two utterances of *nih* taken from the videos of food reviews on YouTube.

FOOD REVIEW ON THE PRESENT STUDY

- The reviews are taken from YouTube.
- The reviewers live in Jakarta and speak colloquial Jakartan.
- The interactions are between two reviewers or the reviewers and the seller. The reviewers are aware that they have audience (video watchers).
- The reviewers taste the food and give reviews. → They get the 1st hand knowledge.

FINDINGS ON EPISTEMIC MEANING

- Build the review by asserting the epistemic and affective meaning first.
- Usually, the utterance with *nih* is used in initial part of information given in talking about the object (food) . Then, the speakers give more detailed information about the object.

S : Aduh keliatannya enak banget nih.

Dua ribu, guys.

N: Kita makan ya.

- The speaker claim themselves to have epistemic primacy.
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FINDINGS ON EPISTEMIC MEANING

- It occurs when the speakers mention actions. The actions could take place at the moment or they are about to do by the speakers. The speakers try to prepare the watchers for the new food to try in which they give new knowledge.

M: *Trus gua move on nih.*

Telor dadar.

N: *Telor dada ya?*

M: *Ni dia.*

FINDINGS ON EPISTEMIC MEANING

- *Nih* indicates shared information and feeling. The speakers position themselves as the one who have knowledge and share it to the watchers. Thus, the watchers who are not there receive knowledge from the speakers.

FINDINGS ON AFFECTIVE MEANING

- *Nih* also delivers the affective meaning in the utterances. By using *nih*, the speakers can pinpoint their attitude towards the object, mostly the food, more clearly to the watchers who do not taste it.

G: *Nah, ini aku udah penasaran sama sambal mangganya nih.*

- K: *Aku mauocol aja.*

FINDINGS ON AFFECTIVE MEANING

- When the speakers shared their feeling, mostly they give assessment about the food.

N: *Ni benar-benar asam manisnya dapat banget nih.*

Pas pertama masuk mulut manis, begitu after testnya lu gigit-gigit asemnya keluar

M: *Dan rasanya tuh apa ya lembut banget asemnya jadi ngga kaya terlalu asem gitu ya.*

N: *Ya itu dia.*

INTERTWIN OF EPISTEMIC AND AFFECTIVE MEANINGS

Reviews aim to give assessment. Assessment conveys speakers' affective stance. Speakers' attitudes and feelings are realized in the reviews. The speakers may have such attitudes and feelings because they have knowledge about the object.

COLLOCATION

- *Nih* tends to collocate with demonstratives *nih*, *ni*, and *ini*). Seven utterances contain this collocation. It makes the interlocutors and the viewers pay attention to the same objects. The collocations indicate how the speakers guide the hearers to notice the objects or the actions.

K: *Sayurnya, Grat.*

G: *Pake sayur.*

K: *Ini enak nih sayurnya dimakan pake bayamnya.*

Jadi kayak nasi tempong.

CONCLUSION

- *Nih* marks speakers' epistemic and affective stances.
- The speakers position themselves as the one who have knowledge and share it to the watchers.

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