

## **PICKPOCKET DISCOURSE COMMUNITY SEEN IN *OLIVER TWIST* MOVIE**

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**Abstract:** This study is qualitative study and focus on the sociolinguistics which studying language and society of a certain community. The emphasis of this study is discourse community. The discourse community must have all these qualities or it is not a discourse community. Swales definition sets a professional tone to the term discourse community, a central community in *Oliver Twist*, that is Pickpocket community. Thus, this study aiming to analyze further about the pickpocket discourse community seen in *Oliver Twist* movie based on the six characteristics of discourse community defined by Swales.

**Key words:** discourse community, pickpocket, *Oliver Twist*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Charles Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* in order to show what it was like to live in 19th century in London. In the novel, he emphasizes three essential points of this period: The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, The Workhouse system and the criminal environment of the time (Didelyté, 2008). In *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens has successfully showed the reader how it was like in 19<sup>th</sup> century, the cultural aspect is so much influence in this novel.

Language never exists apart from its cultural contexts. Kramsch (2009) stated that culture consist of historical dimension in a group's identity. The exact nature of the relationship between language and culture has fascinated, and continues to fascinate, people from a wide variety of backgrounds. Language is a socio-cultural phenomenon. There is a deep relationship between language, culture, and society. It is in society that people acquire and use language. When we study a language, we have to study its culture and its society. Thus, we have to keep in mind the cultural area in which this language is spoken, the culture and the society in which it is used, the speakers who use it, the listeners for whom it is used, and the purpose for which

it is used, besides the linguistic and the purpose for which it is used, besides the linguistic components that compose it. Only then our study of a language be complete and comprehensive. So we must look at language not only from within but also from without; we should study language from the points of view of both form and functions in culture. One study to overcome both language and culture of a society is Sociolinguistics (Kramsch, 2009). It studies the causes and consequences of linguistic behaviour in human societies.

Social conventions, norms of social appropriateness, are the product of communities of language users. Culture both liberates people from oblivion, anonymity, and the randomness of nature, and constraints them by imposing on them a structure and principles of selection (Kramsch, 2009). People who belong to a certain community of language users, will act based on the rules in that community. Their words and actions create meaning. They will get the same sight about seeing the world. They will also shares interaction and communication with each member of the same community. For further (Kramsch, 2009) states that common attitudes, beliefs, and values are reflected in the way

members of the group use language – for example, what they choose to say or not to say and how they say it.

Language exists as long as it helps communities and individuals establish interpersonal relations. It is a tool for human socialization between different communities, and exists as a subsequent product of the human need to establish interpersonal relations (Jóðar, 2012). Therefore, when we see language we cannot separate it from its discourse community.

Kramersch (2009) defined discourse community to refer to the common ways in which members of a social group use language to meet their social needs. It is not only about the grammatical terms, but also includes all the aspects of language and culture. Such as lexical and phonological features of their language (for example, teenage talk, professional jargon, political rhetoric) (Kramersch, 2009). It also includes the topic chosen, the way presented, and the style used. The use of those notions will differ a certain discourse community with others discourse community. It identifies a group of people who share common language norms, characteristics, patterns, or practices as a consequence of their ongoing communications and identification with each other.

*Oliver Twist*, a story about young orphan attempting to stay good around the society who refuses him. His life has been thrown away from one place to another place till he met Artful Dodger and Fagin, a well-known member and leader of pickpocket community in the society at that time. He then entered the community, refusing his own heart to stay good. Finally, with so many conflicts arouse in the community, he met a generous gentleman, Mr. Brownlow, who at the end of the story help *Oliver Twist* to get out from that community and live in a prosperous way.

In this movie, there is a discourse community playing a major role that is 'pickpocket' discourse community. It is a group of people who group themselves to form a certain community. This community has a major job to pick wallet from people's pocket, in another word they are a thief community. In interacting within the member of the community, each person in pickpocket community will speak and share ideas in the same way. They have shared common ideas and they have the same view of viewing the world within them. Based on Swales (1990) there are six conceptualization of discourse communities:

1. A discourse community has a broadly agreed set of common public goals. (In some instances, but not in many, the goals may be high level or abstract.).
2. A discourse community has mechanisms of intercommunication among its members. (the participatory mechanisms will vary according to the community: meetings, telecommunications, correspondence, newsletters, conversations and so forth.).
3. A discourse community uses its participatory mechanisms primarily to provide information and feedback.
4. A discourse community utilizes and hence possesses one or more genres in the communicative furtherance of its aims. (A discourse community has developed and continues to develop discursial expectations.).
5. In addition to owing genres, a discourse community has acquired some specific lexis. (It is hard to imagine attending perchance the convention of some group of which one is an outsider and understanding every word. If it were to happen then that grouping would not yet constitute a discourse community.).
6. A discourse community has a threshold level of members with a suitable degree

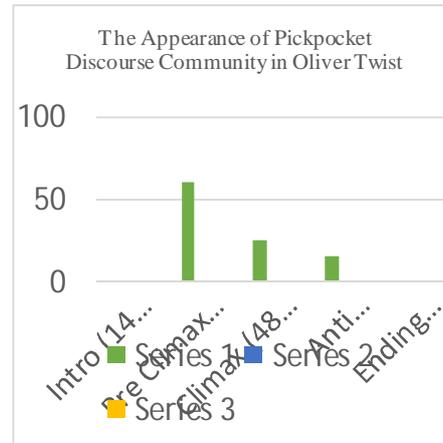
of relevant content and discursal expertise. (Discourse communities have changing memberships, individuals enter as apprentices and leave by death or in other less involuntary ways. Survival of the community depends on a reasonable ratio between novices and experts.).

The discourse community must have all these qualities or it is not a community. Swales definition sets a professional tone to the term discourse community. A central community in *Oliver Twist* is Pickpocket community. This study aiming to analyze further the pickpocket discourse community seen in *Oliver Twist* movie based on the six characteristic defined by Swales.

The method of this study was descriptive qualitative since the researcher tried to describe a certain phenomenon which was the pickpocket discourse community seen in *Oliver Twist* movie. The subject of this study were the pickpocket discourse community described in *Oliver Twist*. Data used in this study were interaction among the member of the pickpocket discourse community. The data were collected through movie and its script. The researcher also provided the data as they naturally occurred in the movie without manipulating them. The data collection were done as follows: first, the researcher watched the movie, second, the researcher read the script, and later the researcher tried to classify and analyze it. The data was then analyzed by interpreting data spoken from the movie and the written data was taken from script of the movie.

The results showed that pickpocket discourse community intensively appeared in the *Oliver Twist* movie. The finding of the results could be seen in the following chart:

**Chart 1**  
The Frequency of the Appearance of Pickpocket Community in *Oliver Twist*



In this study, the occurrence of pickpocket discourse community in *Oliver Twist* movie seen in the three parts of the movie, which were pre-climax, climax and anti-climax. Pre-climax lasted in 30 minutes, climax lasted in 48 minutes, and anti-climax lasted in the last 20 minutes. In introduction and ending parts there was an absence of this discourse community. In pre-climax part, the occurrence rates of pickpocket discourse community reached the highest, it was almost 60 %. It happened because the story of *Oliver Twist* revolved around the story of a young orphan namely Oliver who joined the pickpocket discourse community. Therefore, in this part it mostly told about pickpocket discourse community. It revolved around the detailed description of pickpocket discourse community.

In climax part, the occurrence rates of pickpocket discourse community reached almost 30 %. There was a crash between the pickpocket discourse community and the police officers, therefore its occurrence had decreased. The occurrence of pickpocket discourse community had decreased intensively in the anti-climax part of the movie. It happened because the conflicts arose among pickpocket discourse community and the society were almost resolved. In ending part, there was an

absence of the occurrence of pickpocket discourse community. *Oliver Twist* as the main character in the movie had finally found peace and a good family to live with, he could escape the chain of pickpocket discourse community. It had resulted to the zero occurrence of pickpocket discourse community.

## **DISCUSSION**

Based on the results of the study above, there were six description of pickpocket discourse community that met Swales requirements, they were: a discourse community has a broadly agreed set of common public goals, a discourse community has mechanisms of intercommunication among its members, a discourse community uses its participatory mechanisms primarily to provide information and feedback, a discourse community has acquired some specific lexis, and a discourse community has a threshold level of members with a suitable degree of relevant content and discursal expertise.

### **Swales Requirements of the Pickpocket Discourse Community in *Oliver Twist* Movie**

The different discourse communities (family/home, school, workplace etc.) were characterized by various specific patterns of language use. They could be defined as social groups with common rules for language and its use, but also for the way of approaching problems (Pogner, 2005). For further, Pogner stated that discourse communities affect the way in which their members define problems and formulate solutions, i.e. acquire, transform and produce not only language but also knowledge. The norms, conventions and expectations of a discourse community

enable them to communicate problem, solution and opinion.

Moreover, Swales (1990) offered six requirements in defining a certain discourse community. Through *Oliver Twist* movie, one well-known community having a major role in building up the movie could be identified as Pickpocket community. The community had many members and a leader name Fagin. In general, it was a crime community. The community had a main job to pick a pocket from other people in the market. They sometimes steal food and any other things. Their community had been known through Britain, and the policeman had been looking for them for so long. One major thing to be analyzed was whether the pickpocket community met the six of Swales requirements in defining a discourse community or not. Below was the frequency of the occurrence of six requirements from Swales in defining discourse community:

### **The Frequency of Swales' Requirements occurrence of pickpocket discourse community in *Oliver Twist* Movie**

#### **A discourse community has a broadly agreed set of common public goals.**

Pickpocket community seen in *Oliver Twist* movie could be defined as a crime community, it was a community which had job to pick wallet from other people in the market and moreover they also stole food and any other things. It could be seen from the movie that it was their main way of living. Each of members in that community could steal and it became their way of living in their everyday life. Since it was a crime community, its main public goal was to pick or steal pocket and any other things from other people. *Oliver Twist* as the main character in the movie, was once a good boy who had no idea of stealing from anyone else. However, after joining the pickpocket community, he was taught to

steal. Thus, he finally agreed to the set of rules in pickpocket community, enabling them to become one member in the community.

**A discourses community has mechanisms of intercommunication among its members.**

It was about the participatory mechanisms that vary according to the community: meetings, telecommunications, correspondence, newsletters, conversations and so forth. The pickpocket community communicated over a number of ways and discussion. Based on the description of the movie, they lived in one building, and so their discussion and communication took place in that particular building all day long. When someone went out of the building, they proposed a password to enter:

DODGER: (knocks at the door)

BOY: Now then.

DODGER: Plummy and slam.

It happened when Dodger went out to steal, then when he came back, he was asked by another member the code to enter that is 'Plummy and slam'. This was one way to protect the community and to give a certain identity to each member of the community. The codes were only understood among its member.

**A discourse community uses its participatory mechanisms primarily to provide information and feedback.**

The pickpocket community had a number of sharing with their community to share ideas and formulate plans altogether. Here was one example from the movie:

FAGIN: I hope you've been at work this morning, my dears.

BOYS: Hard. As nails.

FAGIN: Good boys. Good boys. What you got, Dodger?

DODGER: Couple of pocketbooks.

FAGIN: Lined?

DODGER: Pretty well.

FAGIN: Yeah.

(examining the inside) Dodge.

I don't know, Dodge.

Well... not as heavy as they might be, but very neat... and nicely made.

Ingenious workman, ain't he, Oliver?

OLIVER: Indeed, sir.

FAGIN: And, Charley, what have you got, my dear?

CHARLEY: Wipes.

FAGIN: Wipes?

They're very good ones. Very.

... You haven't marked them well.

The marks should be picked out with a needle.

And we'll... we'll teach Oliver how to do it.

Shall us, Oliver?

OLIVER: If you please, sir.

FAGIN: You'd like to make handkerchiefs as easy as

Charley Bates, wouldn't you?

OLIVER: Very much indeed, if you'll teach me, sir.

CHARLEY: I've never met anyone so green.

Those dialogues happened after all the member of pickpocket community stole in the market. They gathered altogether, ate some sausages and discussed everything that they got with their leader, Fagin. All members shared all they got. Fagin then made comment on it, whether he liked it or not. Fagin also gave compliments to all of the members, it was used to encourage them. This was one example of how the community gather information and feedback.

**A discourse community utilizes and hence possesses one or more genres in the communicative furtherance of its aims.**

A discourse community had developed and continued to develop discursal expectations. The pickpocket community has a common interest of stealing. All the member interest in stealing from other people, it was their way of living, since they all lived in poverty and starvation. All the communication among each members would revolve around what had they got and what could they share with other members.

**In addition to owing genres, a discourse community has acquired some specific lexis.**

The pickpocket discourse community would not exist without a way of communication. This was obtained by any discourse community in the world. It was hard to imagine attending perchance the convention of some group of which one is an outsider and understanding every word. If it were to happen then that grouping would not yet constitute a discourse community. The community had specialized terminology and certain code and metaphor to refer to something or someone that can only be understood by the member of the pickpocket community. Here was an example found:

Beak : Magistrate

Trap: Policeman

Both magistrate and policeman were hated by pickpocket community, since they could endanger the life of pickpocket community. Thus, pickpocket community made a metaphor to refer to them by using words that could only be understood by the member of pickpocket community. This lexis would ease them to communicate among member without both magistrate and policeman understood what they were talking.

**A discourse community has a threshold level of members with a suitable degree of relevant content and discursal expertise.**

Discourse communities had changing memberships, individuals entered as apprentices and left by death or in other less involuntary ways. Survival of the community depends on a reasonable ratio between novices and experts. In pickpocket community, without prior training one could not enter the pickpocket community. One could enter this community only if one or several members thought that he worked on similar problems and with shared interests. In another word, someone could enter the community only if he had the same problem, poverty or starving. One example taken from the movie was shown below, it started when one central role in the pickpocket community, Artful Dodger, saw *Oliver Twist*:

(Oliver leans against the front steps of a building)

BOY: Hello, my man. And what's your game?

You're not from these parts? Where you from, then?

OLIVER: I've been walking. Seven days.

BOY: Seven days? Cor. I expect you want grub?

And you shall have it. I'm at a low-water mark meself just at the

moment... but I'll fork out and stump.

Come on, up with you, on your pins.

(cont'd) Oh, by the by... my name is Jack Dawkins,

better known as the Artful Dodger.

OLIVER: *Oliver Twist*. Why are you known as the Artful Dodger?

DODGER: (shows a loaf of bread he has just stolen)

That's why. Got any lodgings? Money?

I suppose you want someplace to sleep tonight, don't you?

VENDOR: Baby newt.

Buy a baby newt, 4 pennies.

DODGER: I expect you walking for so long was a beak's order.

OLIVER: What does that mean?

DODGER: Don't you know what a beak is?

OLIVER: A bird's mouth, isn't it?

DODGER: Cor, you are green.

A beak's a magistrate, my son.

Where you been all your life?

(takes Oliver to his flat in a back alley)

It was clear now that Dodger felt pity on Oliver and he felt that Oliver was actually just the same with him, an orphan boy who was starving without any money and lodgings. Thus, he asked Oliver to join him in his community:

DODGER: (knocks at the door)

BOY: Now then.

DODGER: Plummy and slam.

BOY: There's two of you. Who's he?

DODGER: A new pal.

BOY: Where'd he come from?

DODGER: Greenland. Is the old one there?

BOY: Upstairs, sorting the wipes.

DODGER: This is him, Fagin. My new friend, *Oliver Twist*.

FAGIN: Well, well, *Oliver Twist*. I hope I have the honor of a more intimate acquaintance. We're very glad to see you, Oliver. Very.

Dodger directly brought Oliver to be introduced to another member of community and so to the leader, Fagin. Knowing that there was another boy living unpleasant, Fagin welcomed Oliver warmly and served him sausages. Then, Oliver was taught to steal pocket from other people.

Everyone in community willingly accepted Oliver as a new comer in their community because they thought that Oliver was just like them.

Through all of the occurrence above, it could be concluded that pickpocket community seen in *Oliver Twist* movie met Swales requirements to be called as pickpocket discourse community. In this study, the occurrence of pickpocket discourse community seen in three parts of the movie, which were pre-climax, climax, and anti-climax.

## CONCLUSION

In this study, the discussion of pickpocket community seen in *Oliver Twist* movie has been the main core of the analysis. Based on the results, pickpocket community occurrence seen in the movie has met Swales requirements to discourse community:

1. Since it is a crime community, its public goals is to pick or steal pocket and any other things from other people.
2. The pickpocket community communicates over a number of ways and discussion.
3. The pickpocket community has a number of sharing with their community to share ideas and formulate plans altogether.
4. The community has a common interest of stealing
5. The community has specialized terminology and certain code and metaphor to refer to something or someone
6. Without prior training one cannot enter the pickpocket community

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