
An Analysis of Informative Speaking on Kakenya Ntaiya's Speech:

A Girl Who Demanded School

Renata Kenanga Rinda¹, Wahyu Indah Mala Rohmana², Nodistya Septian Indrastana³

¹Politeknik Negeri Jember; ²Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang; ³Politeknik Negeri Jember
renatarinda@polije.ac.id; malaindah@uin-malang.ac.id

ABSTRACT

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Transferring people idea can be accomplished through informative speaking. There are four types of it which are speaking about objects, processes, events, and concepts. In achieving a good informative speaking, five parameters should be fulfilled which are do not overestimate what the audience knows, relate the subject directly to the audiences, do not be too technical, avoid abstractions, and personalize the idea of the speakers. Dealing with that, this paper aimed at analyzing the types of Kakenya Ntaiya's Speech entitled A Girl Who Demanded School and describing its content with the five parameters of good informative speaking mentioned previously. Descriptive analysis was implemented with video recording transcription as the data source. The findings show that Kakenya Ntaiya spoke about events. By the end, it is concluded that her speech mets the five criteria of good informative speaking.

1. INTRODUCTION

What is public speaking? Public speaking refers to a statement performance of the speaker transferring the idea to the audiences through speech. It is one of the forms of communication that implements spoken performance (Slagell, 2009).

Regarding on Lucas (2008), there are five classifications of public speaking exist. First, speaking to inform that has the main point to give the information about certain thing toward the audiences. Second, speaking to persuade that concerns on convincing the audiences. Third, speaking to a small group that is delivered to a limited number of audiences. Fourth, speaking used in only formal occasion and last, speaking for analysis and discussion.

Moreover, Lucas regrouped speaking to inform into a speech about objects, processes, events, and concepts. Besides, there are five criteria to accomplish a good speech which does not overestimate what the audiences know, relate the subject with the audiences, do not be too technical, avoid abstractions, and personalize the speaker's idea (Lucas, 2008).

Dealing with the above explanation, this paper aimed at analyzing the types of informative speaking and the five criteria mentioned in Kakenya Ntaiya's speech entitled A Girl Who Demanded School in TED video. She is a member of Maasais, tribe in Kenya, that spoke in the international forum in the United States. Her speech concerned on education especially for girls of Maasais. She struggled to inform the audiences about the girls' condition in the family and how society treated them. Through her speech, the information related to Maasais was clearly described.

Furthermore, by giving an analysis on Ntaiya's speech, it is hoped that the finding of this paper would give enlighten to the readers about types of informative speech and the five criteria to meet with a good informative speaking.

2. METHOD

Reflecting on the purpose of this paper, descriptive analysis was implemented as the framework of this paper. The video and its transcription were used as sources of the data. Moreover, in analyzing the data, the video was played three times in order to be familiarized with, and another three times to underline the important points needed. After that, every single word was transcribed then it was rechecked back by rehearing. Last, the transcription was coded, cited, and contrasted with the theory of speaking to information delivered by Lucas (2008).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Types of Informative Speaking

On the first part of the discussion, according to Lucas (2008), there are four types of informative speaking: speeches about objects, speeches about the process, speeches about events, speeches about the concept. After analyzing the Kakenya Ntaiya's speech, it found that speech delivered was about events. Several supporting facts were written in the following paragraphs.

Based on Lucas (2008), the event is anything that happens or regarded as happening. In this case, the speaker was also the person involved in the event she talked about. She took her own life as the topic of her speech: Massais women who needed for education. All her speech contained the facts or realities which truly happened. It was quoted in:

"You might be wondering, who are these people? These are the Maasais. And you know what's cool? I'm one of them".

Second, in speaking about events, speech can be organized in chronological order based on Lucas (2008): having a specific purpose, central idea, and main points. In Kakenya Ntaiya's speech, there was a very specific purpose that she wanted to inform the audiences about the inequality right between man and women in Maasais especially in getting an education. It was stated in her speech when she got a scholarship to the United States, the male members of Maasais felt disappointed since the scholarship was given to a girl instead of the boy. It was stated in:

"But I needed the support of my village, and here again when the men heard and the people heard that a woman had gotten an opportunity to go to school. They said, what a lost opportunity. This should have been given to boys. We can't do this".

Besides, Kakenya Ntaiya's speech also had a central idea which was inequality gender between male and female members of Maasais. She pointed out the practice of genital mutilation for girls that reached puberty. They were forced by the people to join a ceremony to get their clitoris to be cut while boys did not have to do the same. It was declared in:

"And as she carrying a knife, she walked toward me and she held the clitoris, and she cut it off. As you can imagine, I bled. I bled.

Also, another example was found in:

“I learned that my mom had the right to own a property. I learned that she did not have to be abused because she is a woman”

According to the above quotation, Kakenya Ntaiya showed the audiences that in Maasais, women were not allowed to own the property and did not treat well by their husband. She took her Mother as an example that worked so hard without had right to own the property. At that time, questioning her father about that, her mother just got bitten and abused without any reason.

Then, the next criteria for speaking informative about events, it should have a main point. Here, in Ntaiya’s speech, the main point was to inform about the women right. Stated in:

“My mother worked hard on the farm to grow crops so that we can eat. She reared the cows and the goats so that she can care for us. But when my father came, he would sell the cows, he would sell the product we had, and he went and drank with his friends in the bars”

Also, instead of having a specific purpose, central idea, and main points, speaking for informative speaking about the event has its chronological order (Lucas, 2008). It was proven when Ntaiya tried to compare the education condition of girls in Maasais before and after getting an education in her school. Stated in:

“And I looked at her, I remember that day, and I saw something beyond what I was seeing in Angeline. And yes, she is older to be in fourth grade. We gave her the opportunity to come to the class. Five months later, that is Angeline. A transformation had begun in her life.”

Ntaiya chose Angeline as a comparison to show the girls transformation from uneducated to educated one. She told Angeline’s changing to the audiences chronologically. She started with the description of Angeline as an orphan, started apply for school, good education, and made up her dream as a pilot.

B. Five Criteria of Informative Speaking

For the second part, this paper would like to analyze the speech based on the guidelines for informative speaking. Regarding on Lucas (2008), there are five elements needed to be fulfilled by the speaker to achieve a good informative speaking. They are: do not overestimate what the audience knows, relate the subject directly to the audiences, do not be too technical, avoid abstractions, and personalize the idea of the speakers.

Discussing on the first element, in delivering a speech, the speaker is not allowed to overvalue the audiences’ understanding about the content that would be transformed. At this point, the speaker should be acquainted with the audiences stock of information. Also, to cope with the preceding point, the speaker should elucidate the substance of his/her speech clearly, and make sure that the audiences get comprehensible indulgent toward the topic (Lucas, 2008).

Related to the speech given by Kakenya Ntaiya entitled A Girl Who Demanded School, the speaker provided the audience with a stock of information about what she intended to present in the commencement of her speech. As it is quoted:

“There’s a group of people in Kenya. People cross oceans to go to see them. These people are tall. They jump high. They wear red. And they kill lions. You might be wondering, who are these people? These are the Maasais.”

Ntaiya gave the information about one of the tribes exists in Kenya, namely Maasais. She started to bring in the tribe by notifying the audiences about the physical appearance of the Maasais, which is tall. Besides, she told the audiences concerning on what the Maasais’

characters: jumping high and wearing red. Through the previous sentences, she symbolized that Maasais are very active and own very brave soul. Hearing this quotation, the audiences got an understandable explanation of who the Maasais are.

Besides, Ntaiya said:

“The Maasais, the boys are brought up to be warriors. The girls are brought up to be mothers.”

By declaring the second quotation, she struggled to depict on how the Maasais treated the boys and girls into dissimilar ways. Maasais considered boys as a physically powerful creature and girls as powerless expecting mothers. Here, Ntaiya initiated to high light the topic she would like to put in the picture to the audiences which were the existence of gender inequality in Kenya.

Then, the second element of conducting a good informative speech is the speaker must be able to relate the topic with the audiences. This component can be accomplished when the speaker can attract the audiences’ interest and drag them into the body of the speech (Lucas, 2008). Several facts related to it found in the Ntaiya’s speech as it is explained in the following paragraphs.

On the beginning of Ntaiya’s speech, she attracted the audiences’ eyes by opening her coat she wore. At first, she covered herself into it. After that she decided to release it then all the audiences saw her in the red gorgeous traditional dress of Massais. Her action was very brilliant carried on the stage. It was able to congregate all the audiences’ awareness to be centered at her.

Also, Ntaiya was knowledgeable to put the audiences into the body of her speech by delivering questions. After implementing it, her speech seemed to run into dialogue rather than a mind-numbing monologue even though the questions were not directly answered. The example questions delivered are:

” And you know what’s cool?”

The first question was asked when she explained that she was actually part of the Maasais. It was used to generate emotional bonding and linking the speaker and listeners. As an impact of hearing the question, the audiences were amazed and interested to follow the next part of her speech.

Then, the second question was declared when she talked about her arranged marriage: “Cool, yeah?”

The unbelievable part from it was her husband was already passed away before the actual marriage happens. He was too old to be Ntaiya’s husband. Recalling this fact, she was happy instead of sad since she did not wish to be married to the aged men. She expressed it by saying, “Cool, yeah?”. Subsequently, the audiences got entertained at a sudden and were dragged into her speech.

Next, the third guidelines for good informative speech are the speaker is not allowed to be too technical (Lucas, 2008). Here, Lucas asks the speaker to steer clear of the technical words or specific terms that only understood by specific people too. Words in common are suggested to substitute the technical terms to make the audiences easy to grasp the point spoken.

Concerning the previous statement, Ntaiya’s speech was well spoken by using wide-ranging terms that the audiences already knew about. However, on one occasion, she used a specific term of the name of the female body part in:

”And as she carrying a knife, she walked toward me and she held the clitoris, and she cut it off.”

At that time, Ntaiya mentioned clitoris. If the audiences of her speech were children, this term may not be understood. In fact, only the adult attended her speech. It made the use of the specific technical term, clitoris is accepted as a true.

Then, the fourth guidelines for an informative speech are avoiding the abstraction (Lucas, 2008). This can be done in the course of describing and comparing what the speaker is going to talk with the thing that audiences are acquainted with.

In her speech, Ntaiya kept away from abstraction by describing the detail of her talk. Stated in her speech:

” This man was wearing a white t-shirt, jeans, a camera, and white sneakers. .”

At this juncture, she described the man she admired. She told the audiences by explaining what he wore such as the color of his t-shirt, types of his clothes, and the thing that the man hold. Not only describing by the words, but Ntaiya also supported her speech by the men’s picture walking in the village as the background. This, made the abstraction became avoided.

Another example of evading abstraction happened when Ntaiya clarified the economic condition of Maasais. She said:

“As you can imagine, what did I find? I found snow! I found Wal-Marts, vacuum cleaners, and lots of food in the cafeteria. I was in a land of plenty.”

Beyond these statements, she wanted the audiences to discern that Maasais lived under poverty. There was dry land instead of snowy, there was no modern supermarket like Wal-Marts, there was no modern technology used such as vacuum cleaners, and many people were suffering from food in Maasais. She contrasted the condition between Maasais and the United States to give a clear definition and avoid abstraction of the economic condition of Maasais.

Last, the fifth point is personalizing the ideas (Lucas, 2008). To make our speech personal, the speaker should be able to use the individual illustrations that involve the speaker’s experiences. Also, mentioning a specific example becomes another way to deal with it. Based on Ntaiya’s talk, along with her presentation, she always used “I” to make her speech to become personal. As it is quoted:

“And everything I had to for that moment prepared me to be a perfect woman at age 12. My day started at 5 in the morning, milking the cows, sweeping the houses, cooking for my siblings, collecting waters, firewood. I did everything that I needed to do to become a perfect wife.”

Here, Ntaiya made her own experience in preparing to be a good wife to give the detail information about the life of the girls of Maasais. Instead of using “she”, she chose “I” to make the story belongs to her.

Besides, Ntaiya revealed a specific example in:

“Angeline came to apply for the school and she did not meet any criteria that we had.”

She declared that statement to give a case in point of there were many girls of Maasais that needed school. She mentioned Angeline as one of the examples. She explained well who was Angeline before going to school and showed Angeline’s improvement after getting an education. Sharon and Evelyn were the two other names that she pointed out to personalize her speech.

Based on the exceeding analysis, in sum, the five elements of guidelines for informative speaking: do not overestimate what the audiences distinguish, relay the topic with the audiences, do not use a technical term, omit abstractions, and formulate the personal talk was achieved in

Ntaiya speech entitled A Girl Demanded for School. In general, her speech was good since it met the five criteria required..

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings revealed, Kakenya Ntaiya's speech was classified into informative speaking about events since it has specific purpose, central idea, and main points. Also, the speech was spoken in correct order. Besides, the five criteria of good informative speaking do not overestimate what the audiences distinguish, relay the topic with the audiences, do not use a technical term, omit abstractions, and formulate the personal talk was accomplished. Based on the fact, Kakenya Ntaiya's speech is considered as a good informative speaking about events.

5. REFERENCES

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