



## DICTION USED IN SPOKEN LANGUAGE ON DONALD TRUMP'S SPEECH

**Annafi Akbar Rozaq**

College of Foreign Languages Institution STIBA Malang

Email: [afik.annafi@gmail.com](mailto:afik.annafi@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

Diction or choice of words can produce a certain effect either orally or in writing and also Well-chosen words enhance a speaker's ability to pass a message clearly and easily. Poor word choice can cause message misinterpretation by the listeners. In this study, the researcher focused on analyzing the diction used in Donald Trump's speech. It is intended to be used as a reference or additional knowledge and can understand diction in spoken language. To support the research, the theory used diction. A speaker uses diction to communicate concepts that the audience can understand. Diction refers to a speaker's ability to explain simple and complex thoughts using precise and economical words that are appropriate for the intended audience. Researcher uses descriptive qualitative research is a type of scientific study that seeks specific information about a population's values, opinions, behaviors, and social context. Before being analyzed, the researcher used triangulation. In Donald Trump's victory speech, there were many informal diction terms used in spoken language. Because the situation and context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech were not appropriate, the appropriate one should use formal diction. It was supported in the formal situation of the president's victory speech. The result of this research indicated by using informal diction, Donald Trump with his speech caused a lot of controversies, provoked outrage, and many people did not like it.

**Keywords:** diction, spoken language, speech

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In learning a foreign language, especially English, there is important thing that needs to pay attention which covers the entire language, namely diction. Diction or choice of words can produce a certain effect either orally or in writing. (Maharani, 2020) and also diction is very significant in both written and spoken language, because it allows the author to explain and present basic and complicated ideas to the audience by determining precise and economical word choices, (Syafari, Z., Muhaimi, L., & Nuriadi, N. 2021, May). To communicate clearly, effectively, and persuasively without misleading to the audience, the speaker must carefully select words and organize ideas logically. (Phatak, A., & Hudgins, R. R., 1993).

In using diction sentences used need to be considered. If the diction used is not in accordance with the situation and conditions, it can result in the audience misunderstanding the meaning of the speaker. That's way, the diction used in a spoken communication must be appropriate. For example: Mr. Karna Wijaya professor of physical chemistry at Gajah Mada University wrote on the Facebook page "satu persatu dicicil massa". This sentence causes an error in the form of multiple interpretations because there is an incorrect use of the diction, namely "dicicil". The incorrect word has

meaning, first is executed, the second is beaten. As a result, the word becomes controversial and the audience grows noisy.

Based on the example above, diction is very important to study because it can contribute to influence people how to understand diction used in spoken language and also this research can be used as learning material for language education. Mistakes in word choice can lead to misconceptions, controversy and have a negative impact on listeners' or readers' grasp of meaning. In this study, the researcher proves to interpret and observe diction on Donald Trump's speech. It is intended to be used as a reference or additional knowledge and be able to understand diction on spoken language.

The study of diction used on spoken language on Donald Trump's speech will be conducted by the researcher. In order that, the research will find what informal diction used on Donald Trump's speech are and how the informal diction should be used. Especially, this theory is useful for the English students. Because it adds insight into the use of diction while speaking. For the researchers, this research is very helpful because it adds to the results of their research by looking at the reference data from the research results. And for the general readers, this research is very beneficial because it helps them to use diction in spoken language.

In this study, the researcher used some theory that is important. Diction is concerned with the choice of words that should be employed to communicate thought or with the appropriate application of words in sentences. In this research, it focused on searching for formal diction and informal diction or word choice only. (Sardi, A., Haryanto, A., & Weda, S. 2017). Diction refers to a speaker's ability to explain simple and complex ideas using precise and economical words that are appropriate for the intended audience. (Syafari, Z., Muhaimi, L., & Nuriadi, N. 2021, May).

Formal diction and informal diction are two kinds of diction, Formal diction is a word choice used in formal situation such as, educational or business to show a dignity, seriousness and respect for others. On the other hand, Informal diction is a word choice applied in non-formal or non-official situation, when someone has close friends or family, it is appropriate. (Sardi, A., Haryanto, A., & Weda, S. 2017).

## 2. METHOD

In conducting the study, the researcher needed research design. This study is descriptive qualitative method. According to Mach N. et al, (2019a), descriptive qualitative research is a type of scientific study that looks for specific information about a population's values, opinions, behaviors, and social context. Moleong (2017) affirms, that qualitative research is a study that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from observing people or behaviors.

The researcher employed qualitative research to provide a systematic, factual, and accurate description or picture of the facts, properties, and relationships between the phenomena studied, so this qualitative design uses text data to analyze the types of diction used in spoken language on Donald Trump's speech.

In this research, the data source was the speech of the elected president of America, Donald Trump. The data source was taken from the recordings downloaded from the site <https://edition.cnn.com/2016/11/09/politics/donald-trump-victory-speech/index.html>. The data source used the recording of Donald Trump's victory speech on 09th November 2016.

In collecting data, researchers use descriptive qualitative methods. The purpose of data collecting is to obtain the information required to achieve the study objectives. After

getting the data was taken from the site to analyze, researchers used the following steps: a) The researcher watches the video and reads the text carefully in every minutes. b) The researcher signs the words and sentences that contains types of diction used in spoken language on Donald Trump's speech. c) The researcher classifies the data that contains types of diction used in spoken language on Donald Trump's speech. d) The researcher sorts the data which is used and which is not used.

Before being analyzed, the researcher used triangulation that was described as the use of two or more methods of data collection in the study to get validity. The purpose of triangulation is to increase the credibility and validity of the findings. The following procedures followed for checking and cross-checking: a) Cross check with the people research. b) Cross check with the expert or some reseachers who published the data. c) Cross check with your adviser, specifically your supervisor

In analyzing of a qualitative data, the reseachers need an attempt to organize data. There are some steps in doing data analysis as follows. a) Analyze the data based on theory. b) Interpret the analysis results. c) Conclude the research results.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data, the researcher verifys the findings of diction used in spoken language on Donald Trump's victory speech. However, the researcher takes 21 evidences that have informal diction on Donald Trump with his speech.

"I've just received a call from Secretary Clinton. She congratulated us. It's about us. On our victory, and I congratulated her and her family on a very, very hard-fought campaign."

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word "call" is considered informal diction because the word "call" is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump's victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word "call" is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word "telephone" is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word "telephone" conveys a formal diction.

I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be President for all of Americans, and this is so important to me.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word "land" and "important" are considered informal diction because the word "land" and "important" are used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump's victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word "land" and "important" are not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word "lands" and "espouse" are appropriate word to use in this situations. The word "lands" and "espouse" convey a formal diction. The word "land" means ground. The word "lands" means country.

I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be President for all of Americans, and this is so important to me. For those who have chosen not to support me in the past, of which there were a few people.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “chosen” and “support” are considered informal diction because the word “chosen” and “support” are used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump’s victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “chosen” and “support” are not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “elected” and “espousal” are appropriate words to use in this situations. The word “elected” and “espousal” convey a formal diction.

I’ve spent my entire life in business, looking at the untapped potential in projects and in people all over the world.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “looking at” is considered informal diction because the word “looking at” is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump’s victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “looking at” is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “regarding” is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “regarding” conveys a formal diction.

That is now what I want to do for our country. Tremendous potential. I’ve gotten to know our country so well.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “I’ve gotten to know” is considered informal diction because the word “I’ve gotten to know” is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump’s victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “I’ve got to know” is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “I’ve got to know” is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “I got to know” conveys a formal diction.

I’ve gotten to know our country so well. Tremendous potential. It is going to be a beautiful thing. Every single American will have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “realize” is considered informal diction because the word “realize” is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump’s victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “realize” is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech.

Therefore, the word “notice” is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “notice” conveys a formal diction.

The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “no longer” is considered informal diction because the word “no longer” is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump's victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “no longer” is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “not any more” is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “not any more” conveys a formal diction.

And now I would like to take this moment to thank some of the people who really helped me with this, what they are calling tonight a very, very historic victory.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “thank” is considered informal diction because the word “thank” is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump's victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “thank” is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “gratitude” is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “gratitude” conveys a formal diction.

We are going to fix our inner cities and rebuild our highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals. We're going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none. And we will put millions of our people to work as we rebuild it.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “fix” and “rebuilding” are considered informal diction because the word “fix” and “rebuilding” are used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump's victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “fix” and “rebuilding” are not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “arrange” and “reconstruct” are appropriate words to use in this situations. The word “arrange” and “reconstruct” convey a formal diction.

I want to tell the world community that while we will always put America's interests first, we will deal fairly with everyone, with everyone. All people and all other nations.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “tell” is considered informal diction because the word “tell” is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump's victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory

speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “tell” is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “inform” is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “inform” conveys a formal diction.

To Melania and Don and Ivanka and Eric and Tiffany and Barron, I love you and I thank you, and especially for putting up with all of those hours. This was tough. This political stuff is nasty, and it is tough.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “nasty” and “tough” are considered informal diction because the word “nasty” and “tough” are used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump’s victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “nasty” and “tough” are not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “querulous” and “difficult” are appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “querulous” and “difficult” convey a formal diction.

We will embark upon a project of national growth and renewal. I will harness the creative talents of our people, and we will call upon the best and brightest to leverage their tremendous talent for the benefit of all.

The underlined word from the data above, the researcher finds the a word “benefit” is considered informal diction because the word “benefit” is used in formal situations, such as Donald Trump’s victory speech. The context when Donald Trump spoke in his victory speech was not appropriate in formal diction used on spoken language. Based on the evidence data above, the word “benefit” is not appropriate used in formal situations. The word was supported by the context, when Donald Trump spoke in his speech. Therefore, the word “advantage” is appropriate word to use in this situations. The word “advantage” conveys a formal diction.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

From this research on the diction used in Donald Trump's speech, conclusions can be drawn with the following points:

In the formal speech, Donald Trump, actually, are many informal language diction used, as shown in the data of evidence. Because Donald Trump’s goal, in his speech, conveys informal language in order to hear by a whole of groups or listeners. Even, Donald trump looks closer to the people.

With his victory speech, Donald Trump addressed not only in front of the legislature but also in front of the entire globe, in which the diction used can be accepted by all circles.

The usage of informal language diction is not always properly used in the informal situation or in colloquialism when talking with friends or family, but the appropriate or not appropriate the informal diction usage is depending on the purpose.

#### REFERENCES

Syafari, Z., Muhaimi, L., & Nuriadi, N. (2021, May). An Analysis of the Use of Diction on Covid-19 News in Disway. id. In *2nd Annual Conference on Education and Social Science (ACCESS 2020)* (pp. 168-173). Atlantis Press.

Phatak, A., & Hudgins, R. R. (1993). Grand Words, But So Hard to Read! Diction and Structure in Student Writing. *Chemical Engineering Education*, 27(3), 200-209

Pane, M. M. (2019). *Diction and Sentence Structure* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara).

Nur, J. (2019). Errors In Using Diction And Grammar Of Students' final Course Academic Writing Of Department Of English Education At Jakarta State University. *English Language Teaching For Efl Learners*, 1(1), 63-69.

Ünal, F. T. (2018). Chapter Sixteen Voice And Diction In Speech Fulya Topçuoölu Ünal. *The Skill Approach In Education: From Theory To Practice*, 246.

Keraf, A. S. (2010). *Etika lingkungan hidup*. Penerbit Buku Kompas.

Maharani, A. S. (2020). Penyertaan Dalam Delik Jabatan Pada Tindak Pidana Korupsi. *Jurist-Diction*, 3(4), 1311-1330.

Bachtiar, A. (2010). A diction analysis on The Jakarta Post's articles.

Khariani, C., & Nasution, W. N. A. (2018). Hubungan Penguasaan Diksi dengan Keterampilan Berbicara di Depan Kelas Siswa Kelas X. *Jurnal Komunitas Bahasa*, 6(2), 98-103.

Moleong, L. J. (2017). *Qualitative research methodology (Rev. ed.)*. Bandung: PT. Remaja Rosdakarya.

Cohen, A. (2000). Wavelet methods in numerical analysis. *Handbook of numerical analysis*, 7, 417-711.

<https://www.ldoconline.com/dictionary>

[www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american\\_english](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english)

<https://m.apkpure.com/id/formal-informal-english-dictionary/com>