Phatic Communion Analyses as the Portrayal of the Real Life Communication in Letters to Juliet Movie

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ABSTRACT

Many occurrences in daily life have long been the interesting topics for movie makers to transform them to the big screen. Thus, many movies were made to depict the real life events as well as its’ style of communication. Here the style of communication in the movie is the researchers concern. To see if movie can portrait phatic communion along the scenes to that of the real life. One kind of communication aspects is phatic communion. Phatic communion applied in daily communication. Phatic communion is a simple utterance to break the silence and to maintain the “smoothness” of communication. This study intends to investigate phatic communion used by the main characters in Letters to Juliet movie. A drama by Lise Friedman and Ceil Friedman, which chronicles the phenomenon of unanswered letter writing to the loved one, inspired by Shakespeare’s most famous romantic heroine Juliet. There were two aimed in this study. The first was to find out the types of phatic communion that is used by the main characters in Letters to Juliet movie and the second was to find out the possible reasons the main characters of Letters to Juliet movie used phatic communion in such communication. This study used qualitative approach. The researchers used three steps. First, the researchers classified the utterances performed by the main characters which include the types of phatic communion based on Aitchison’s theory. Second, the researchers categorized the utterances which include the types of phatic communion and classified them and presented them into a table form. The Last, the researchers analyzed the possible reasons of the main characters used such phatic communion. This study reveals that there were 194 utterances to meet the types of phatic communion based on Aitchison’s theory. It divided into four types; 46 utterances of ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, 70 utterances of standard topic of conversation, 53 utterances of supportive chat and 25 utterances of meaningless or misunderstood words. Moreover the reason certain types of phatic communion used by the main characters were to break the silence, and to strike up the relationship with others. Both phatic communion types chosen and possible reasons reflected the phatic communion applied in the real life daily conversation.

KEYWORDS: Phatic communion, Movie, Letters to Juliet Movie.
People communicate in everyday life do not realize that actually within their talks they perform what a linguist has proposed as a type of Phatic Communion. Phatic communion usually does by human in their communication as a part of their natural conversations. This utterance which is simple form but can break the silence or discomfort happens in conversation. Moreover, it is also can be used as the prolog in communication. The utterances such, ‘hello’ or ‘how are you?’ are the common examples of phatic which are common in such communication. The using of phatic communion itself is very useful to build a good relationship among the speakers. According to Malinowski (1923, cited in Wardhaugh 2006 p.286), “phatic communion is a type of speech in which ties of union are created by a mere exchange of word”. It means that phatic communion has an important function in maintaining and establishing social relationship among the people. In phatic, it is also shown that the function of language is not just conveying the real information, but it is also used for making a good solidarity among the speakers in life.

Aitchison (1996) develops his idea about phatic communion in his book entitled “The seeds of Speech”. He classifies phatic into four types there are ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat, and meaningless words or misunderstood words. Thus, the researchers are interested in conducting this study with movie as the object of the study. Movie is a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story, shown at the cinema or movie theater (www.oxforddictionaries.com). The story that shows at movie itself is usually adapted from the phenomenon that happens in real life. On the other words, movie is a reflection of human’s daily life. Many movies were made to depict the real life events as well as its’ style of communication.
Therefore, there are so many phenomenon of phatic communion that can be found in movie. In this study, the researcher chooses to study the phenomenon of phatic communion in *Letters to Juliet* movie to see if this movie can portrait phatic communion along the scenes to that of the real life. There were two aims in this study. The first was to find out the types of phatic communion that is used by the main characters in *Letters to Juliet* movie and the second was to find out the possible reasons the main characters of *Letters to Juliet* movie used phatic communion in such communication.

*Letters to Juliet* movie is chosen by the researchers as the object in this study. This movie was the final work of director Gary Winick which realized on May 14, 2010. A Drama by Lise Friedman and Ceil Friedman, which chronicles the phenomenon of unanswered letter writing to the loved one, inspired by Shakespeare's most famous romantic heroine Juliet. It tells about an old woman who tries to find her first love. The problem is starts when a young girl replied an old letter and it spirits an old woman (the owner of the letter) to find her first love.

The researchers interested in conducting research in phatic communion since it has important role in maintaining solidarity in social interaction. By using phatic in communication, it is not just can break the silence but it is also used as the opening or the ending in conversation. Moreover, the chosen *Letters to Juliet* movie as the object were based on the following reasons. First, the genre of this movie is romantic drama, and life itself is drama in every sense. Drama genre allows the characters in the movie to have more talks compared to let’s say an action genre movie. Therefore the possibility to examine the talks which contain phatic communion in a drama movie is wider. Based on the story itself this romantic drama shows the sweet story when an old woman has a big spirit and determination to find her first love though they live
separately in far different places and have not met each other for about 50 years. The journey of finding the lost loved ones begin when she believes that love has no expiry date.

The second reason, this movie shows some characters who have not known each other before. They have different social background including age, status, gender, culture which influenced them to use certain style of communication. The characters in the movie of course do not realized that they actually applied particular type of communication so called phatic communion, since the talks was a part of movie script that depict a natural setting of communication. Instead this is the part of the researchers’ aims to identify any type of phatic used by those main characters.

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The phatic’ function, is the most important in sociolinguistic perspective since it conveys an affective or social message than the referential one (Holmes, 2012). Phatic communion is one type of speech that has function in establishing solidarity among the people. The phrase ‘phatic communion’ is actually closely associated with ritualized aspects of social interaction. The utterance such as “hi”, “how are you?” are shows the expression of phatic in communication. Thus, the function of phatic itself is not just to convey information but it rather than to fulfill the social function. Moreover, Aitchison (1996) develops his idea about phatic communion in his book entitled “The seeds of Speech”. In his book, he divides the types of phatic communion into four ways. The first is ritual words that are exchanged when people meet which are including greeting such as ‘hi’ and ‘how are you?’. The second is standard topic of conversation which the standard topic that people usually use as phatic such as talking about weather or time. The third is supportive chat. It includes the form of complement, repetition, both self-repetition and other-repetition in aimed to express someone’s feelings in
empathy and solidarity. The last is meaningless words or misunderstood words. Here, meaningless or misunderstood words are used as phatic to make the conversation keep going.

**METHODODOLOGY**

The researchers used qualitative approach as the design of the research, since the data in the form of utterances spoken by the main characters in *Letters to Juliet* movie. In this study, the researchers were the main instrument in collecting the data. The data were the utterances which contained phatic communion performed by the main characters in the movie. The researchers decided to analyze 10% of the data since the number of the data that found in this study was more than a hundred as it is proposed by Arikunto (2008) on how to get the sample selection.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The researchers categorized the entire main characters dialogues in *Letters to Juliet* movie. After analyzing the data, the researchers found 194 utterances, which can be classified into four types, there were 46 utterances of ritual words that are exchange when people meet, 70 utterances of standard topic of conversation, 53 utterances of supportive chat and the last 25 utterances of meaningless or misunderstood words. The Aitchison’s (1996) theory was used to analyze the phatic communion, which classifies phatic communion into four types they are ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat, and meaningless or misunderstood words.

All types of phatic communion proposed by Aitchison were found throughout the talks in *Letters to Juliet* scenes. This table represents the findings, however not all the findings are going to be analyzed for this paper. There will only be the representations of each type of phatic communion.
Table 1
Phatic Communion in *Letters to Juliet* Movie

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Datum</th>
<th>Utterances</th>
<th>Types of Phatic Communion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Sophie: “Victor, Victor, can I just say something? We’re living in 1-2 hours and you haven’t packed for Verona.”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Victor: “At all. Yeah, that’s right, that’s right. Yeah, I get to carried away. Do we clean this up?”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Victor: “Sophia! Sophia! wherefore art thou, my sweet Sophia? I love this place. I love. Right?I have to show you the most beautiful..”</td>
<td>RW, ST, SC, MW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>43.</td>
<td>Victor: “Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey.You know 120 kilometers each away and I’m still beating you?”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Victor: “What yeah what? I mean how was Verona? How was it without me? empty? half-empty? completely empty?”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>60.</td>
<td>Victor: “Okay. Just say no, just say no, and I won’t really do it, really. I mean, I’m dying to do it, but I won’t.”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>76.</td>
<td>Victor: “Good. I’m glad.”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>77.</td>
<td>Sophie: “How was Angelina?”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>80.</td>
<td>Victor: “Yeah. Yeah, I think I can learn a lot from her. But, no, no, no, you first, sorry. no, just real quick. I just... Mmm-mmmm?”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>91.</td>
<td>Charlie: “Excuse me. I’m sorry to interrupt, but are you the Secretaries of Juliet?”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>128.</td>
<td>Claire: “Okay, darling. Have a good sleep.”</td>
<td>RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Datum</td>
<td>Utterances</td>
<td>Types of Phatic Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>Claire: “Well, he thinks it's a big mistake. <em>Sophie, my dear.</em> Good night. Thank you so much.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>Charlie: “Come with us? What about this fiancé of yours? You're in the city of love and you want to come with us?”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>Claire: “I'd love to have you with us.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>Claire: “Wow.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>Claire: “That sounds fun.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>Charlie: “You're very welcome. Right. Well. <em>Should we hit the sack? Sorry. I guess I... Well, as much as I’d love to sit here and drink the whole bottle of Caparzo.</em>”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>Charlie: “Yes, well, I don't know what it is, but you seem to bring out the very worst in me. Somehow it's my fault. All of this is your fault. You wrote that blasted letter. Nonetheless, may I walk you to your room?”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>Claire: “Good morning”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>Sophie: “Is she okay? I mean, does she need anything?”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>Sophie: “I'm sorry. God, I'm sorry.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>Sophie: “Mmm.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>Sophie: “It’s time to go. <em>Goodbye, Charlie. I'll miss you.</em>”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>Claire: “Yes. Of course. So, where's Charlie? We'll give you a drive there straight away.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>Claire: “And you're leaving? An angel brought you to me. Thank you. Thank you. I'll be eternally grateful. Thank you.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>Claire: “Thank you so much. You're always welcome here. Thank you.”</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Datum</td>
<td>Utterances</td>
<td>Types of Phatic Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>331.</td>
<td>Victor: “Hey, how's your day been?”</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>347.</td>
<td>Victor: “Saturday? This Saturday? Yeah?”</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>373.</td>
<td>Sophie: “I hope so. How is... How's our great Lorenzo? Is he as amazing as ever?”</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>375.</td>
<td>Victor: “Yeah?”</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>378.</td>
<td>Charlie: “It's great to see you.”</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
RW: Ritual Words that are exchanged when people meet
ST: Standard Topic of Conversation
SC: Supportive Chat
MW: Meaningless or Misunderstood Word

**Ritual Words that are Exchange when People Meet**

Ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, is one type of phatic communion based on Aitchison (1996) theory. Phatic that is concluded to this type is any kind of greeting. It can create the situation among the people better. It is because greeting is not just said to break the silence, but it is also used as the opening or ending in such communication. In *Letters to Juliet* movie, the researchers found some examples of this type, such as:

**Datum 13**

Victor: “Sophia! Sophia! wherefore art thou, my sweet Sophia? I love this place. I love. Right? I have to show you the most beautiful..”

In the utterance above showed that Victor called Sophie. This utterance was one type of phatic communion in Ritual words that are exchanged when people meet.
since it included greeting. The greeting in this utterance showed when Victor called Sophia’s name. He tried to attract her attention by calling the name at first, before he opened the conversation. Moreover, he continued his conversation by saying “wherefore art thou, my sweet Sophia?” He said it with smile with happy face while he hugged Sophie to make the situation comfortable for both sides. Here, that question was not the real question that was needed the real answer since it just said as greeting (phatic). Here, phatic is used by Victor to build the good atmosphere among the counterpart as the opening to begin a conversation.

Datum 43

Victor: “Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey. You know 120 kilometers each away and I’m still beating you?”

The utterance that uttered by Victor above belongs to one types of phatic communion called ritual words that are exchanged when people meet. In this case, Victor tried to greet by saying Hello. By saying “Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey” repeatedly at first, he tried to break the silence and to get the listener’s attention. He said it with smile, and acted as if he is interested to ask the listener in order to create the good atmosphere among the speakers. It continued with saying “You know 120 kilometers each away and I’m still beating you?” That question was not really to ask, because here Victor just tried to greet the listeners by showing his attention. Here phatic is used to build the good atmosphere among the speakers and the listeners.

Datum 91

Charlie: “Excuse me. I’m sorry to interrupt, but are you the Secretaries of Juliet?”

Here, Charlie wanted to get the attention from the listeners by using phatic at first. He tried to greet and get attention from the listeners by first saying “Excuse me”.

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His face looks smile. He was also nodding his head in order to appreciate the listeners since they have not met each other before. Here, phatic is used to make the situation among the speakers better by greeting at first. He continued his speech by saying “I’m sorry for interrupt,” to avoid being awkward, because he did not know the listeners before. In this case, phatic is used for greeting as the opening before he opened the conversation.

**Standard Topic of Conversation**

Standard Topic of Conversation is one type of phatic communion. It usually happens when the speaker who wants to break the silence in many situations. The topic that being discussed for these situations is very standard. Talking about time, weather, relatives or health are the most common example. Besides, this type of phatic also opens the social channel which makes the conversation continue to the other following topics. There are some cases related to this type of phatic that was found in movie entitled *Letters to Juliet*.

**Datum 77**

Sophie: “How was Angelina?”

Phatic that spoken by Sophie was the standard topic of conversation. According to the explanation before, standard topic of conversation is mostly talking about health (someone condition). Here, it showed when she talked about Angelina’s condition by asking “How was Angelina?”. The function itself was to make the situation among the speakers better by showing she cares about someone’s condition. Moreover, it is also completed with Sophie’s concern expression toward Angelina’s condition. Furthermore, asking someone’s condition can bring their relationship closer.
Datum 117


In this case, Claire did one types of phatic called standard topic of conversation. At first, she tried to ask about a letter from Juliet and continued by thanking. She said “Letter? From Juliet? Goodness! Thank you” in order to open the conversation by referring to a particular letter. After asking about the letter and saying thanks to the listener, she did the standard topic of conversation by being curious on how Sophie found her by saying “But however did you find us?”. Claire’s expression looked happy and curious when she was looking at Sophie. This question uttered by Claire in order to make the situation better.

Datum 215

Charlie: “Yes, well, I don't know what it is, but you seem to bring out the very worst in me. Somehow it's my fault. All of this is your fault. You wrote that blasted letter. Nonetheless, may I walk you to your room?

The utterance above belongs to one type of phatic communion called standard topic of conversation. It happened since the utterance showed phatic which discussed the standard topic in conversation by offering something. Here, phatic was shown from the last utterance. After discussing something, Charlie tried to offer to escort the listener to her room. His expression showed that he kept eye contact with the listener completed with his smile and moved his hand to welcome the listener. Furthermore, offering something is one of the standard topics to discuss. Doing this phatic and completed with his expressions, here phatic is used in aimed to build a good atmosphere among them.
Datum 258

Sophie: “Is she okay? I mean, does she need anything?”

The utterance that given by Sophie above is one type of phatic called standard topic of conversation. The topic that uttered by Sophie above is discussing about someone’s condition. It can be seen from the utterance “Is she okay?”. It showed that she asked about someone condition. It continued by saying “I mean, does she need anything?” to complete her conversation. She was keeping eye contact at the listener to show that she concerned with sombody’s condition. Thus, it showed that phatic was applied here with the purpose to build a closer the relationship among the speakers.

Supportive Chat

In this type of phatic, supportive chat carries not much information. It commonly occurs in the form of complement, empathy or solidarity, and repetition. In the movie, this type of phatic communion was found. For example as follows:

Datum 76

Victor: “Good. I’m glad.”

According to what have said by Victor, phatic that was used belongs to one type of phatic communion called supportive chat. In this case, victor tried to show his feelings to the listener by saying “Good. I’m glad”. According to this statement there was no significant information given, since the purpose was simply to show his feelings in order to strike up the solidarity. Moreover, it was also supported by his happy face as he was truly glad responding the listener statement.

Datum 80

Victor: “Yeah. Yeah, I think I can learn a lot from her. But, no, no, no, you first, sorry. No, just real quick. I just... Mmm-mmm?”
The utterance spoken by Victor above belongs to one types of phatic communion called supportive chat. Since the utterance above showed solidarity to other. In this case, it seemed that Victor wanted to share something. He just started it, but he did not finish it. His expression looked confused as if he regret earlier. He also moved his hand to please the listener. He said “But, no, no, you first, sorry.no, just real quick. I just... Mmm-mmm?” to show his solidarity with others. Thus, it could promote a good atmosphere among the speakers.

Datum 157

Claire: “I'd love to have you with us.”

The utterance by Claire above belongs to one type of phatic called supportive chat. She tried to show her solidarity to the listener. It showed from her utterances “I'd love to have you with us.”. Her expression showed that she was happy with her smiles in order to show that she accepted the listener. It used to make the situation comfortable. Furthermore, it could also strike up the solidarity with others.

Datum 178

Claire: “That sounds fun.”

The utterance above belongs to one type of phatic communion called supportive chat. In this case, there was no new information given by speaker. The purpose was just to show her comment (as a complement) to the listener, rather than silence. Moreover, it was used as a sign that she was interested to what the listener had said.

Datum 267

Sophie: “I'm sorry. God, I'm sorry.”

The utterance that given by Sophie above is one type of phatic called supportive chat. She said “I'm sorry. God, I'm sorry.” to apologize to the listener.
This apologize was used in order to show her empathy to the listener. It was completed with her expression of regretting toward the thing that his listener might feel. She tried to apologize by keeping eye contact while speaking, hold her hands in front of her chest. Furthermore, apologizing was proposed to show Sophie’s concern and to maintain a good relationship among the speakers.

**Meaningless words or Misunderstood Words**

Meaningless words or Misunderstood Words is one type of phatic communion. The function of this type of phatic is not just to break the silence that happens in such conversation, but also keep the conversation going. In this movie, it happens in some of the following data:

**Datum 26**

*Victor: “Really?”*

The question that was given by Victor above was just for giving a comment rather than clarifying for the truth. But it was rather a form of phatic communion. Moreover, his expression was excited. This utterance was meaningless because there was no definite meaning from the utterance. The purpose was just to make the conversation keep going (complete the conversation) rather just being silence.

**Datum 176**

*Claire: “Wow.”*

In this case, Claire gave her expression upon the listener’s saying. By saying “Wow,” she tried to use phatic in conversation to show her interest. She was enthusiastic by raising her eyebrows and gawked to the listener. In this case, there was no definite or important meaning of her response, because it proposed to give a response as a sign that she listened to what the listener had said.
Datum 375

Victor: “Yeah?”

Phatic that used by Victor above belongs to one type of phatic called meaningless word. There was no definitely meaning of his response rather than just phatic. By saying “Yeah?”, he did not really want to ask question, but it rather than phatic which did not need required the true answer. His expression showed that he concerned to the listener’s saying. Furthermore, phatic that is used by Victor had a function to maintain the conversation to run smoothly.

The Possible Reasons for Certain Types of Phatic Communion Used by the Main Characters in *Letters to Juliet* Movie

Employing certain types of phatic communion, the characters may have certain reasons. In the first type of phatic which is known as the ritual words that are exchanged when people meet, there were some possible reasons that made the characters used phatic in such conversations. The first, it is because by using this type of phatic it could break the silence that happens in such conversation. The second, this types of phatic is used because it could be the opening or ending in such conversation. The last reason, this phatic is used because it could build the good atmosphere among the speakers. It was showed on datum 13 when Victor said “Sophia! Sophia! wherefore art thou, my sweet Sophia? I love this place. I love. Right? I have to show you the most beautiful.”. It proposed to greet Sophie by calling her name first, and continue by saying “wherefore art thou, my sweet Sophia?” to make the situation friendly. The first type of phatic communion was the most dominant types found throughout the movie. It included the type of phatic which were commonly discussed such as talks about health, condition, time, or offering something and etc.
For the second types of phatic called standard topic of conversation. This type is used by the main characters to make the conversation go through to the other topics so silence can be avoided. Besides, it is used because it could strike up their relationship with others. It showed on datum 43 “Victor: “What yeah what? I mean how was Verona? How was it without me? empty? half-empty? completely empty?” Here, phatic that uttered by Victor is included standard topic in conversation. In this case, he tried to make the conversation keep going and continued to the other topics. The second dominant type of phatic in this study was supportive chat. Supportive chat can be in the form of compliments, empathy and solidarity, apologizing and repetition. For example, in this movie, the data number 157, showed that Claire wants to show her solidarity by saying “I’d love to have you with us” in order to make the situation comfortable. Moreover, on the data number 267 Sophie did this type of phatic by apologized to the audience in aimed to make the relationship better. She said “I’m sorry. God. I’m sorry.” when she knew that her new friend’s father passed away. She said sorry at twice, because it would be the sensitive things and because she has not met the audience before. So, she decided to apologize to her friend. Moreover, her expression also support her phatic. She looked regretly by staring at the audience eyes while speaking; hold her hands in front of her chest. According to this type of phatic, showing empathy can build the good relationship among them though they have not met and known each other before.

In the third type of phatic which is called as supportive chat, there were also some reasons that influence the main characters to use it. The first reason, it used as a tool for showing concern or solidarity through others. By showing empathy or solidarity it means that they care with others. The second reason why this type is used by the main characters is because it could build the relationship among them better. It
showed on the data 157 and 267. On the data 157, Claire said “I’d love to have you with us.”. Here phatic is used to show her feelings, and strike up the solidarity to the listener. On data 267, Sophie said “I’m sorry. God, I’m sorry.” for showing her empathy to the listener by giving apologize. Furthermore, phatic is used to build a good atmosphere during the conversation.

In the fourth type of phatic this is known as meaningless or misunderstood words. The main purpose was to maintaining the conversation runs well. There are some possible reasons why the characters used them in such conversation. In example from datum 313, Sophie said “Mmm..”. The first reason is that she wanted to maintain and keep the conversation going. By using this type of phatic, she wanted to make the conversation runs well rather than just remain silence. She said “Mmm” to give a sign that she learned what the listener said. Furthermore, the reason of using this phatic in conversation was to maintain mutual understanding within the conversation.In this movie, for example the data number 176, phatic communion that uttered by Claire was included by this type. His utterance “wow!” was meaningless or had not specific meaning. This expression given by him in order to appreciate his fiancée speech or to give a sign that he was excited or interested with what she said.

The researchers revealed that those main characters of Letters to Juliet movie used all the types of phatic communion. Those main characters performed certain types of phatic communion in their utterances in order to break the silence even happened in such communication. It also used by the main characters in aimed to maintain social relationship with others. Using phatic communion in communication has an important function in social life. Phatic communion itself is a simple utterance but can break the silence that happens in communication. It is reflected not only from the utterance, but also from the expression or gesture that people used to complete phatic performance
in communication. It can strike up the solidarity with others and share mutual understanding to the context. It is one of sociolinguistics perspective, since it related with how the function of languages in relation to society. Nevertheless, this study showed how phatic communions are well applied throughout the communication by the main characters in *Letters to Juliet* movie. Thus it indicates that this movie could portray how the real communication style of that of the real life.

**CONCLUSION**

The researchers made a conclusion that there were 194 utterances which contained phatic communion used by the main characters in this movie. Those utterances classified into four ways, there were the ritual words there are exchanged when people meet, standard topic of conversation, supportive chat, and meaningless or misunderstood words. There were some reasons the main characters in *Letters to Juliet* movie used certain types of phatic. It was to break the silence in such conversation, and built the good atmosphere or relationship with others. Furthermore, their expression and gestures also supported their phatic performance. Moreover, in relation to the theory of phatic communion proposed by Aitchison (1996) supported the researchers to analyze the data. There was relation between the theory and this study. All of the types of phatic communion were found in *Letters to Juliet* movie and applied by the main characters in *Letters to Juliet* movie.

**REFERENCES**


