



The Use of Structures and Functions of Lexical Bundles in Conversation Texts in *Bahasa Inggris Textbook* Published By Kemendikbud

Inaroh Inaroh[✉], Abdurrachman Faridi, Sri Wuli Fitriati

Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

Article Info

Article History:
Accepted 27
September 2020
Approved 21
December 2020
Published 15 March
2021

Keywords:
Structures,
Functions, Lexical
Bundles,
Conversation Texts,
Formulaic
Competence

Abstract

This study investigated the use of structures of lexical bundles, functions of lexical bundles, and the relationship between structures and functions of bundles in conversation texts. For the purposes of the study, the *Bahasa Inggris* textbook, published by the Ministry of Education and Culture (2018), was chosen to be analyzed. In the process of collecting the data, a set of tables was used. The first table was used to collect data to analyze structures of lexical bundles based on Biber's (2006) theory. The second table was used to collect data regarding Biber and Conrad's (2005) theory for functions of lexical bundles. Procedures for analyzing data consisted of steps, including reading, categorizing, and analyzing. This study revealed that, firstly, personal pronoun + lexical VP (e.g. we are going to) identified as the most frequent structure of bundle appeared in the conversation texts. Secondly, stance expression had a high proportion of the most recurring function of the bundle. They are used for expressing desire, intention, ability, obligation, and showing certain and uncertain feelings. Moreover, there were relationships between the functions of bundles with particular structures. In conclusion, improving the teaching quality can be built based on the appropriateness of the textbook. The teacher needs to pay attention to the English book that they will use, especially those that provide enough materials for enhancing students' formulaic competence.

[✉]Correspondence Address:
Donorejo, Demak, 59561
E-mail: ina120h@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

As the primary goal of English learning, communicative competence can be developed through some competencies. One of them is formulaic competence. Celce-Murcia (2007) defines it as fixed and prefabricated chunks used frequently in actual conversation among English native speakers. It can be said that it is the ability to using many expressions which are occurred commonly in English native speakers' interactions. This research focused on lexical bundles in terms of structures and functions categories as one kind of formulaic competence.

Biber et al. (1999) said that "producing natural English is not just a matter of constructing well-formed sentences but of using well-learned lexical expressions in appropriate places." Therefore, fluent speakers of a language draw on the lexical expression of the target language as often as they use systemic linguistic knowledge. Further, introducing many formulaic expressions to the students can also help students create cohesive and coherent texts. Lewis (2008) explains that language consists do not only consist of grammar and vocabulary but also formulaic expressions such as lexical bundles that can produce a coherent text when they are combined. It can be said that the formulaic expressions enable students to create a cohesive text easily when they have many prefabricated chunks.

Since lexical bundles play an essential role in achieving communicative competence, it should be introduced to the students in the classroom. By introducing appropriate lexical bundles to the students, the students are expected to use appropriate utterances in their interaction. However, as a fact, in EFL contexts, it is not easy to equip learners with lexical bundles because, in EFL settings, English is taught as a foreign language, and most often, the students do not use English in their daily lives.

Their exposure to the English language is limited to their English classes with non-native teachers and the textbooks authorized by the

Ministry of Education. Therefore, as Razmjoo (2007) asserts, books are a necessary resource for foreign language learning that has the primary role in teaching and learning a foreign language. However, as Gholami, Rimaninikou, and Souldanpour (2012) claim, no textbook can be perfect; hence, the teachers should select the textbook appropriately to clarify the sources' suitability and find the best one, as well as in selecting English Textbook.

There are many studies of lexical bundles and English textbooks on the various contexts such as lexical bundles on the written register (Cortes, 2002; Cortes, 2004; Scott and Tribble, 2006; Biber and Barbieri, 2007; Mahlberg 2007a, 2007b; Biber and Jones, 2009; Kim, 2009; Lee, 2013; Djiwandono, 2016; and Islami, Fitriani, and Mujiyanto, 2019), comparing ESL and EFL students' use of lexical bundles (Cortes, 2004; Cortes, 2006; Ädel and Erman, 2012; Karabacak & Qin, 2013).

Another context is lexical bundles on the spoken register (Darweesh and Ali, 2017; and Colle and Fitriani, 2018) and the study of the cognitive skill of English textbook has been done by Hayati, Djufri, and Fitrawati (2012), Yati (2014), and Muchlis (2015). However, studies of lexical bundles in an English textbook, especially the Bahasa Inggris textbook published by the Ministry of Education and Culture in Indonesia, have not much done yet. Whereas, knowing the quality of English textbooks that are used as the role models for students in learning English as a foreign language in the classroom is very important.

Thus, in this study, I chose Bahasa Inggris textbooks because the Ministry of Education and Culture published and used them at senior high schools in Indonesia, which apply the 2013 curriculum. One effective way to know what is being conducted in current English classrooms in Indonesia through the analysis of the authorized textbook, which is created according to the Ministry of Education's guidelines. The books contain examples of conversation texts, and they are used as role models for students in English

teaching and learning. For this reason, the conversation texts should reflect the natural spoken language produced by native English speakers or native-like.

METHODS

This study analyzed the manifestation of lexical bundles' structures and functions in the conversational text of the BahasaInggris textbook as one of the students' language models in the classroom in learning English. To accomplish those objectives above, I used discourse analysis since it attempts to explain the use of lexical bundles in the conversational text of BahasaInggris textbook, published by the Ministry of Education and Culture and used at senior high school. The unit of analysis in this study was clauses and clause complex. In line with the research design, I was a data reporter where I reported the investigation results regarding the structures and functions of lexical bundles found in conversational texts of the BahasaInggris textbook.

In the process of collecting the data, a set of tables was used. These tables were arranged from the framework used to analyze the data. The first table was used for collecting data to analyze structures of lexical bundles based on Biber's (2006) theory. Moreover, the second table was used to collect data regarding Biber and Conrad's (2005) theory for functions of lexical bundles. A document was used as the method of collecting the data. The document was taken from the English Textbook, "BahasaInggris" for Senior High School, written by UtamiWidiati, ZuliatiRohmah, and Furaidah. Some procedures in analyzing data were done, which would be described further as follows: Reading, Categorizing, Analyzing. In this study, I asked one of a lecture at a local university in Semarang to judge the data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

These results and discussion were divided into three parts. First, the use of structures of lexical bundles in conversation texts in English textbooks. Second, the use of functions of lexical bundles in conversation texts in English textbooks, and the last the relationship between the functions and structures of lexical bundles in conversation texts in English textbooks.

The Use of Structures of Lexical Bundles in Conversation Texts in *BahasaInggris Textbook* Published by KEMENDIKBUD

Bundles in conversation are the most common parts of declarative clauses and questions, and personal pronoun + lexical VP accounted for the highest number of lexical bundles that appeared. The manifestation of personal pronoun + lexical VP could be seen in the excerpt 1:

Excerpt 1

- Bayu : What about you, Riri? What would you like to do on the long weekend?
 Riri : I have made a plan with my mother about what to do on this long weekend. We are going to practice baking cookies.
 Santi : That sounds like a very good plan!
 Bayu : Are you going to bake chocochips cookies like the last time?

From excerpt 1, Riri used the personal pronoun + lexical VP bundle, namely, we are going to ... this bundle carries Riri's prediction concerning her plan on that long weekend where she and her mother are going to practice baking cookies.

This result had a similar result to previous studies in the spoken setting. Kashiha and Chan (2013) explored the use of frequency, structure, and function of lexical bundles in spoken discourse, namely academic lectures from British Academic Spoken English (BASE). The result revealed that the bundle we are going to (personal pronoun + lexical VP) was the most frequent lexical bundle in the corpus, and the second-placed bundle was I am going to (personal pronoun + lexical VP). Since

speech relies heavily on a more direct physical context to deliver the meaning or message, lecturers chose those bundles as the preferred simple and straightforward structures to convey their disciplinary lessons.

Aini, Faridi, and Fitriati (2018) compare the lexical bundles' frequencies in conversation texts between two English textbook books. The result revealed the conversation texts more frequently in using the lexical bundles that incorporate with verb phrase fragments. In order words, they used a lot of 1st/2ndperson pronoun + VP fragments. Then, Colle and Fitriati (2019) explained the realization of actional competence which proposed by Celce-Murcia et al. (1995) and formulaic competence based on the Biber et al.'s. (2004) theory in teachers' talk. It also explained the relationship between those competencies.

The study's result related to the formulaic competence in terms of lexical bundles showed that English teachers used most frequently 1st/2ndperson pronoun + VP fragment such as You don't know, I think, I want to you. Then, Lorena, Fitriati, and Widhiyanto (2020) evaluated lexical bundles that occur in non-native and native English teachers' talk. The lexical bundles that happen in the talk are classified according to their structures and functions using the structural and functional taxonomies proposed by Biber et al. (2004). Non-native English teachers used more 1st/2ndpersonpronoun+VP fragments.

Meanwhile, Preposition + NP fragments and NP with post-modifier fragments accounted for the uncommon structure in conversation text on English textbooks. These structures are mainly used in the written register, as mentioned in some researchers such as Bal (2010), Islami, Fitriati, and Mujiyanto (2019), and Wachidah, Fitriati, and Widhiyanto (2020).

Bal (2010) identified Turkish scholars' structural and functional features' lexical bundles, who are non-native speakers of English. The academic texts used for the study were published research articles in international journals from six different academic disciplines

written by Turkish scholars. This study also showed that the most significant part of the lexical bundles comprises prepositional phrases (PP). The forty-eight lexical bundles in this group were made up of prepositional phrases followed by thirty-three lexical phrases made up of noun phrases.

Examples of these prepositional phrases are in the context of, at the time of, in this study, in line with the, in terms of their Lexical bundles that are formed by noun phrases (NP) are expressions such as the aim of this study, the results of this study, an increase in the, the second half of, and others. Verb phrase (VP)-based bundles are relatively rare. Islami, Fitriati, and Mujiyanto (2019) analyzed lexical bundles manifested in 20 Chapter II, Literature Review of students' final projects. The results revealed that the lexical bundle's most structural form in written discourse was a noun phrase with the of-phrase fragment.

It consisted of bundles, such as the result of the, the meaning of the, the purpose of the, the average score of, the objectives of the, the aim of the, and the goal of the. A recent study by Wachidah, Fitriati, and Widhiyanto (2020) analyzed the lexical bundles used in findings and discussion sections of graduate students' thesis in terms of structures and functions. There are 74 lexical bundles found in the students' texts, and the findings revealed that the most dominantly used as a noun phrase with the of-phrase fragment.

The Use of Functions of Lexical Bundles in Conversation Texts in *Bahasa Inggris* Textbook Published by KEMENDIKBUD

Stance Expressions

The table1 provides the analysis of the function of lexical bundles in terms of stance expressions.

Table 1. Stance expression

Stance expression	Results
Epistemic stance	I believe ..., sure, please!, I'm not sure ..., I'm sure she would be ..., I'm afraid not ..., I still have to ..., I hope you will ..., I Do you have any plans?,Are you going to go ...?, Would you like to come ...?
Attitudinal stance lexical bundles	Desire
	Obligation/directive
	Intention/prediction
Ability	You should ..., we have to ..., We are going to ..., we will also try to I will be able to ..., I won't be able to ..., I can't go to ...

Discourse Organizers

Table 2. Discourse organizers

Discourse organizers	Results
Topic introduction lexical bundles	What do you think? Did you know that...? You know what? I didn't know that ..., I thought that ..., I heard that you will be ..., I agree with what you are ..., I know that you're ...
Topic elaboration lexical bundles	Just let me know if ..., If you don't put ..., your.... will ...,

The lexical bundles in this group introduce a topic, elaborate/clarify, or condition. The lexical bundles found were used for introduction were *What do you think? Did you know that...?You know what? the expression for elaboration purposes was I didn't know that ..., I thought that ..., I heard that you will be ..., I agree with what you are ..., I know that you're ..., and*

condition lexical bundles used were *Just let me know if ..., If you don't put ...*

Referential Expressions

Table 3. Referential expression

Referential expression	Results
Identification	one of the
Intangible	in case of

Referential expressions play an essential role in the identification of functions of lexical bundles. As Biber et al. (2004) state, the bundles in this category "generally identify an entity or single out some particular attribute of an entity as especially important" (p.393). This group has four sub-categories, namely, identification, intangible, tangible, and time reference. Moreover, this study's result showed that only two referential expressions were used, namely identification (one of the) and intangible (in case of).

Special Function

Table 4. Special function

Special function	Results
Politeness	Thanks a lot, thank you, thanks, thank you very much, thank you for saying so, thanks for inviting.
Request	Please accept my
Offer	What can I do for you?, May I help you?, Would you need my help?, Would you like ...?,

Table 4 showed, the categories of this bundles occurred were politeness such as Thanks a lot, thank you, thanks, thank you very much, thank you for saying so, thanks for inviting, the request was Please accept my ... and offer were What can I do for you?, May I help you?, Would you need my help?, Would you like ...?.

The data analysis showed that stance expression performed a high proportion of lexical bundles used in the textbook. They are

used for expressing desire, intention, ability, obligation, and showing certain and uncertain feelings. As the names suggest, these lexical bundles express personal attitudes. Related to this result, as Biber and Barbieri (2007) noted in their research, showed that stance expressions as lexical bundles occurred more frequently in conversations. Kashiha and Chan (2013) explored how lexical bundles are used in 24 academic lectures of hard and soft sciences taken from the British Academic Spoken English (BASE) corpus to see the possible variations in their frequency, structure, and function. Stance expressions accounted for over 60% of the bundles in their corpora because one of these characteristics commonly observed in academic lectures is the frequent use of self-reference markers to express the lecturers' attitude, including the expression of certainty/uncertainty.

It seems to be in line with the previous study by Biber et al. (2004), who found that most epistemic stance bundles in spoken registers, such as conversation and classroom teaching, are used to show personal rather than impersonal engagement. Then, Kwon and Eun's (2014) research findings seem to be shared in a variety of spoken registers research, as Biber et al., (2004), Biber and Barbieri (2007), Kashiha and Chan (2013). All of the researchers reported that in spoken register relied heavily on a narrow range of functional categories, namely, stance expressions, where more than 50 percent of the key lexical bundles were observed. It seems that the high frequency of the stance expressions shows that the teacher talk corpus has the features of the conversational discourse.

A recent study by Lorena, Fitriati, and Widhiyanto (2020) also showed that non-native English teachers performed lexical bundles as stance expressions the most. They frequently played lexical bundles in showing ability. The teachers mostly used the bundles to express their intention, especially when explaining the materials, showing obligations that students have to do, and expressing ability.

The Relationship between the Functions and Structures of Lexical Bundles in Conversation Texts in Bahasa Inggris Textbook Published by KEMENDIKBUD

In some cases, there were relationships between the functions of bundles in that particular structures were used to serve a specific purpose. For instance:

Stance (ability) and personal pronoun + lexical VP

Table 5. Stance (ability) and personal pronoun + lexical VP

Functions of lexical bundles	Clauses	Structures of lexical bundles
Stance: ability	<i>(replies with a happy tone)</i> Thank you. <u>I cannot</u> forget your collaboration with me, and I will still need your help.	Personal pronoun +lexical VP

Table 5 showed I cannotwas pronoun + lexical VP structure, which was used to produce ability expression.

Stance (desire) and Yes-no fragments

Table 6. Stance (desire) and Yes-No fragments

Functions of lexical bundles	Clauses	Structures of lexical bundles
Stance: desire	Oh, Rahmi, <u>can I ask you</u> something?	Yes-no fragments

Yes-no fragments structure can be used to form stance bundles as showed in a clause *can I ask you something?*.

Discourse organizers (topic introduction) and WH-question fragment

Table 7. Discourse organizers (topic introduction) and WH-question fragments

Functions of lexical bundles	Clauses	Structures of lexical bundles
Discourse organizer: topic introduction	Yes. Come to my room. Look at this. <u>What do you think?</u>	WH-question fragments

The use of topic organizers as a kind of discourse organizers bundles could be seen in the clause *what do you think?* as served in table above. This function bundle was served in the structure of the WH-question fragments.

Discourse organizer (topic elaboration) and Personal pronoun + lexical V

Table 8. Discourse organizer (topic elaboration) and personal pronoun + lexical V

Functions of lexical bundles	Clauses	Structures of lexical bundles
Discourse organizer: topic elaboration	Really? <u>I didn't know that</u> she was that age. I thought that she was still around 60. She looks much younger.	Personal pronoun + lexical VP

Clause *I didn't know that she was that age* was constructed by Personal pronoun + lexical VP to perform topic elaboration bundles.

Special function (politeness) and (aux+) active verb (+)

Table 9. Special function (politeness) and (aux+) active verb (+)

Functions of lexical bundles	Clauses	Structures of lexical bundles
Special function: politeness	<u>Thank you</u> very much. This is because you always help me.	(aux+) active Verb (+)

Thank you very much could be categorized as (aux+) active Verb (+) structure bundles to perform politeness function bundles.

From those examples, lexical bundles found have structural correlations and strong functional features that help construct the discourse. Lorena, Fitriati, and Widhiyanto (2020), in their research, also claimed that there was a close relationship between structures of functional bundles and the functions, as supported earlier by Biber et al. (2004) and Heng, Kashiha, and Tan (2014). Lorena, Fitriati, and Widhiyanto's (2020) study gave an example of the relationship between structural and functions of lexical bundles where non-native English teachers performed lexical bundles as stance expressions in showing ability by using bundles personal pronoun + lexical VP such as *you can make ...*, *you can use ...*.

Another research that supported this result is Colle and Fitriati (2019). In their research showed that lexical bundles are realized in the language functions. For instance, "1stPP + fragments structure such as *you'd better + ...*, it usually used to perform language function of giving a suggestion. Then, Yes-no question fragments, such as *could you ...?could* perform the language function of requesting. Thus, it can be concluded that there is a close interrelation between structural categories and functions bundles.

CONCLUSION

Bundles found in conversation texts are the most common parts of declarative clauses and questions, and personal pronoun + lexical VP accounted for the highest number of lexical bundles that appeared, such as *we are going to ...*. Further, the most functions of the bundle in conversations texts use were the high proportion of stance expression. They are used for expressing desire (*I can't wait to*), intention (*we will also try to*), ability (*I will be able to*), obligation (*you should*), and showing certain and uncertain feelings (*I believe*). Moreover, there were relationships between the functions of bundles in that particular structures were

used to serve a specific function. For example, the pronoun + lexical VP structure was used to produce an expression of ability.

It is suggested that other researchers in the future can conduct a similar study in spoken discourse. Moreover, future research focuses not only on lexical bundles as part of formulaic competence but also on formulaic competence, such as idioms. Then, to improve the teaching quality, it can be built based on many aspects such as the matched textbook with curriculum or the appropriateness of the textbook. Therefore, the teacher needs to pay attention to the English book that they about to use.

REFERENCES

- Ädel, A., & Erman, B. (2012). Recurrent word combinations in academic writing by native and non-native speakers of English: A lexical bundles approach. *English for Specific Purposes*, 31, 81-92.
- Aini, N., Faridi, A., & Fitriati, S. W. (2018). The comparison of lexical bundles in conversation texts between four corners and English intensive course books. *English Education Journal*, 8(4), 445-451.
- Bal, B. (2010). *Analysis of Four-word Lexical Bundles in Published Research Articles Written by Turkish Scholars*. Thesis, Georgia State University,
- Biber, D. (2006). *University language: A corpus-based study of spoken and written register*. John Benjamins.
- Biber, D., & Conrad, S. (1999). *Lexical bundles in conversation and academic prose*. In H. Hasselgard & S. Oksefjell (Eds.). Rodopi.
- Biber, D., & Barbieri, F. (2007). Lexical bundles in university spoken and written registers. *English for Specific Purposes*, 26, 263-286.
- Biber, D. E., Conrad, S., & Cortes, V. (2004). If you look at ... Lexical bundles in university teaching and textbooks. *Applied Linguistics*, 25(3), 371-405.
- Biber, D. & Jones, J. (2009). Quantitative methods in corpus linguistics. In A. Ludeling & M. Kyto (Eds), *Corpus linguistics: An international handbook*. Walter de Gruyter.
- Celce-Murcia, M. (2007). Rethinking the role of communicative competence in language teaching. In E. A. Soler & M. P. S. Jorda (Eds.), *Intercultural language use and language learning* (pp. 41-57). Springer.
- Colle, A. T. L. A., & Fitriati, S. W. (2019). Realization of actional and formulaic competences in teachers' talk in English language class. *English Education Journal*, 9(1), 41-55.
- Cortes, V. (2002). Lexical bundles in freshman composition. In R. Reppen, S. M. Fitzmaurice & D. Biber (Eds.), *Using corpora to explore linguistic variation* (pp. 131-145). John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Cortes, V. (2004). Lexical bundles in published and student disciplinary writing: Examples from history and biology. *English for Specific Purposes*, 23, 397-423.
- Cortes, V. (2006). Teaching lexical bundles in the disciplines: An example from a writing intensive history class. *Linguistics and Education*, 17, 391-406.
- Djiwandono, P. I. (2016). The lexical richness in academic papers: a comparison between students' and lecturers' essays. *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 5(2), 209-216.
- Gholami, J., Niko, F., & Soltanpour, A. (2012). A retrospective-comparative evaluation of textbooks developed by native and non-native English speakers. *Journal of Academic and Applied Studies*. 2(11), 35-42.
- Hayati, S., Syahrudin, J., & Fitrawati, F. (2012). Level of question used in English textbook. *Journal of English Language Teaching*, 1(1), 119-128.
- Heng, C. S., Kashiha, H., & Tan, H. (2014). Lexical Bundles: Facilitating University Talk in Group

- Discussions. *English Language Teaching*, 7(4), 1-10.
- Islami, S. A. D., Fitriani, S. W., & Mujiyanto, J. (2019). Structure and function of lexical bundles in the literature review of undergraduate students' final projects. *English Education Journal*, 9(1), 62-73.
- Kashiha, H., & Chan, S. H. (2013). An exploration of lexical bundles in academic lectures: examples from hard and soft sciences. *Journal of Asia TEFL*, 10(4).
- Karabacak, E., & Qin, J. (2013). Comparison of lexical bundles used by Turkish, Chinese, and American university students. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 70, 622-628.
- Kim, Y. (2009). Korean lexical bundles in conversation and academic texts. *Corpora*, 4, 135-165.
- Kwon, Y. E., & Eun-Joo, L. (2014). Lexical bundles in the Korean EFL teacher talk corpus: A comparison between non-native and native English teachers. *Journal of Asia TEFL*, 11(3).
- Lorenna, M., Fitriati, S. W., & Widhiyanto, W. (2020). The comparison of lexical bundles in EFL teachers' talk between non-native and native English teachers. *English Education Journal*, 69-75.
- Lee, C (2013). Using lexical bundles analysis as a discovery tool for corpus-based translation research. *Perspectives: Studies on Translatology*, 21(3), 378-395.
- Lewis, M. (2008). *Implementing the lexical approach: putting theory into practice*. Heinle.
- Mahlberg, M. (2007a). Clusters, key clusters and local textual functions in Dickens. *Corpora*, 2(1), 1-31.
- Mahlberg, M. (2007b). Corpus stylistics: Bridging the gap between linguistic and literary study. In M. Hoey, M. Mahlberg, M. Stubbs & W. Teubert (Eds). *Text, discourse, and corpora: Theory and analysis* (pp.219-242). Continuum.
- Muchlis, M. (2015). An analysis of thinking order of reading comprehension questions in an English textbook for young foresters of Forestry Vocational School of Samarinda. *Journal Nalar Pendidikan*, 3(1).
- Razmjoo, A. (2007). High schools or private institutes' textbooks? Which fulfill communicative language teaching principles in the Iranian context? *Asian EFL Journal*, 9(4), 1-16.
- Scott, M., & Tribble, C. (2006). *Textual patterns: key words and corpus analysis in language education*. John Benjamins BV.
- Wachidah, W. D. N. A., Fitriati, S. W., & Widhiyanto, W. (2020). Structures and functions of lexical bundles in findings and discussion sections of graduate students' thesis. *English Education Journal*, 131-142.
- Yati, S. (2014). The analysis of the reading task in "Look Ahead" textbook for tenth-grade Senior High School based on Bloom Taxonomy. *Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris*, 2(3).