

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE KUMAYL PRAYER (ISLAM) AND
THE ROSARY PRAYER (CATHOLICS): A PRAGMATIC APPROACH**



Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Besides believing in God, people also believe in the essence of prayer. Some people may think that prayer is needed when they have no hope anymore for something they are unable to achieve in their lives. But in fact prayer is as crucial as the sun that brightens the world, the air that they breathe, the water, and everything God created for human being. People realize that they have the spirit to love because of the prayer they conduct. With prayer, they will have the faith that God will grant their wishes. Prayer is the reflections of the hope they have. When people have faith that God will grant their wishes, they feel that their lives are worth living. People pray anytime, when they wake up in the morning, when they go out of the house, when they eat, when they work, when they are on the street, and when they do every activity. Without prayer, they will lose hope and it is possible that they end up wanting to finish their lives because they no longer have something to hold on.

When people communicate with human beings, they always try to use the best language they could use. Because, the language they use is the reflection of their character.

When people pray, they communicate with God Almighty, the most Supreme Ruler, the Creator, the Glorious and the Invisible. In praying, they ask for something. When people ask for something from other human being, they

suppose to use polite requests, the bigger the things they ask for, the more polite the language they use. Hence, in praying, they sometimes forget with whom they are communicating. Some prayers they recite consist of directive language form. They tend to direct God to do certain things for them. They even use command forms.

That is the main reason why the writer is interested in doing a kind of research concerning the forms and function of the prayer used by the Moslems and the Catholics. The writer chooses the Kumayl Prayer primarily because the Kumayl prayer has specific characteristics which are different from the other prayers in Islam. It has certain language features that are different from the features of language used in communicating with other human being. And the reason of choosing the Rosary prayer is that the prayer is commonly used by Catholics.

B. Previous Study

A certain research that relates to the pragmatics analysis of prayer had been done by Silverstein (1981), entitled *The Religious Language*. In the research paper, he stated that ritual speech is persuasive in part because of the mutually reinforcing ways in which its form, at multiple linguistic levels, serves as a metapragmatic figure for the accomplishment of the successive stages of the action being undertaken.

Another research conducted by Abdul Karim Bangura (2007) from the School of International Services & Center for Global Peace American University

entitled “Gandhi’s *Satyagraha: A Pragmatic Linguistic Analysis of Its Meaning*”. He stated that Gandhi’s Satyagraha has the Commissive type of Speech Act. These speech acts seek to get one to commit himself/herself to have faith in God, to believe in truth and non-violence, to have faith in the inherent goodness of human nature, to evoke truth and love through suffering, to live cast life, to be willing to give up his/her life and possessions for the sake of his/her cause , to be a habitual khaki (a cloth of dull brownish-yellow color) -wearer and spinner, to be a teetotaler, to be free of all intoxicants, to be willing to obey all rules of discipline, to obey jail rules that are not devised to hurt his/her self-respect.

Here, the writer wants to write about a comparative study between the Kumayl prayer (Islam) and the Rosary prayer (Catholics) using pragmatics approach to give more references about the pragmatics analysis of prayer which are not many in number.

C. Problem of the Study

1. What are the linguistic forms of the Kumayl prayer and the Rosary prayer?
2. What are the linguistic functions of the Kumayl prayer and the Rosary prayer?
3. What are the differences and similarities of the form and function in the Kumayl prayer (Islam) and in the Rosary prayer (Catholics)?

D. Objective of the Study

1. To classify the linguistic forms seen from the type of the sentence and the number of predication of the Kumayl prayer (Islam) and the Rosary prayer (Catholics).
2. To describe the linguistic functions of the Kumayl prayer (Islam) and the Rosary prayer (Catholics).
3. To compare the differences and similarities of forms and functions used in the Kumayl prayer (Islam) and in the Rosary prayer (Catholics).

E. Limitation of The problem

The writer realizes that it is impossible to analyze the pragmatic in all prayers used in Islam and in Catholics so the writer intends to analyze the linguistic forms and functions used in the Kumayl prayer (Islam) and in the Rosary prayer (Catholics). The writer chose the Kumayl prayer and the Rosary prayer because both prayers have unique language characteristics and the writer is sure that it will be interesting to analyze and compare those two prayers.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that this research will contribute some benefits to the readers both in theory and in practice

1. Theoretical benefit

Related to this research, the writer hopes that this research will provide some information to other researchers who want to conduct research about pragmatics and the pragmatic of prayer.

2. Practical benefits

Practically the writer hopes that the research:

- a. Will enrich people's knowledge about the language of prayer in Islam, in this case the Kumayl prayer.
- b. Will enrich people's knowledge about the language of the prayer in Catholic, in this case the Rosary prayer.
- c. Will help people to be aware more about using a better language in communicating with God while praying.
- d. Will make people realize that praying is not only a matter of asking something from God but it is a kind of communication which needs a sophisticated language as communicating with the "owner" of the universe is not the same as communicating with human being.
- e. Will help people to more deeply believe that praying will make their faith getting stronger because with praying they use their faith that God is always there for them and He will always grant their wishes.

(D2/RP/78)

“Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us”

(D2/RP/79)

“Queen of the family, pray for us”

(D2/RP/80)

“Queen of peace, pray for us”

(D2/RP/81)

“Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, o Lord”

(D2/RP/82)

“Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord”

(D2/RP/83)

“Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us”

(D2/RP/84)

“Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us, so that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ “

(D2/RP/85)

“O God, who’s only begotten son by his life, death and resurrection, and who has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation, grant, we pray and meditate upon these mysteries in the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise through the same Christ, our Lord. “

(D2/RP/86)

“May the divine assistance remain always with us.”

(D2/RP/87)

“May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

(D2/RP/88)

“May the blessing of Almighty God: Father, son and Holy Spirit, Descend upon us and remain with us always.”