

**CONDOLENCE UTTERANCES OF THE DEATH  
OF KOBE BRYANT IN TWITTER**



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## CONDOLENCE UTTERANCES OF THE DEATH OF KOBE BRYANT IN TWITTER

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengenali dan mendeskripsikan strategi-strategi dan jenis-jenis ucapan belasungkawa yang ada di twitter terkait dengan meninggalnya pemain bola basket profesional dunia yang bernama *Kobe Bryant* pada 26 Januari 2020. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif sedangkan untuk teknik pengumpulan data yaitu observasi dan dokumentasi di twitter terkhusus *hashtagKobeBryantRIP*. Teknik analisis data yang digunakan peneliti yaitu dengan memisahkan ucapan belasungkawa sesuai kategori jenis dan strateginya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada 40 ucapan belasungkawa yang termasuk dalam tujuh strategi belasungkawa. Jumlah yang mendominasi strategi belasungkawa adalah *offering condolence*. Ini menunjukkan bahwa orang-orang mengekspresikan belasungkawa umumnya memberikan belasungkawa. Temuan dari jenis-jenis belasungkawa menunjukkan 40 ucapan belasungkawa. Jenis yang mendominasi adalah *classical stock condolence utterances*. Selain itu, memberikan ucapan belasungkawa bisa menggunakan berbagai strategi disesuaikan dengan jenisnya.

**Kata kunci:** Tindak tutur, ekspresif, ucapan, belasungkawa

### **Abstract**

This research aims to identify and describe the condolence strategies and the types of condolences in twitter related to the death of worldwide professional basketball player, Kobe Bryant on Sunday of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The researcher employs descriptive qualitative method while the data collection techniques was observation and documentary in twitter especially hashtag *KobeBryantRIP*. The techniques of analyzing data used by the researcher were by classifying the condolence utterance related to the types of condolence and the condolence strategies. The result of this research shows there are 40 condolence utterances which related to the seven condolence strategies. The dominant number of condolence strategies is offering condolences. It concerns that people express condolences commonly offering condolence. The finding of types of condolences shows 40 condolence utterances. The types that dominant is classical stock condolence utterances. Besides, giving condolence utterances can use various strategies according to its type.

**Keywords:** Speech Act, Expressive, Utterances, Condolences

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Kobe Bryant was a worldwide professional basketball player, he spent his entire 20-year career with Los Angeles Lakers in National Basketball Association, America. He died in January 26,2020 because of the helicopter crash. His sudden died makes many people especially twitter users sent their condolences to Kobe and family.

Reflecting from the impact of social media, people are free to express anything such as opinion about some news, critical thinking and also about the feeling. Instant communication, twitter become a key source on a wide personal range and social practices around the world (Weller et al., 2014). The reason why twitter becomes chosen social media is that twitter can be used by the user can follow any news or public figure they like to be the data source of the whole update information and the twitter users can show their criticism or sympathy through the up line news.

Showing sympathy means sharing of unhappiness of suffering to other people. An acknowledgment of death, expression of concern, absolution seeking from God are the expression of sympathy in condolences (Rahayu, 2018). As high intensive care morality, death is a subject of major concern for intensive. Most of people have the strong feeling of being depressed when their beloved ones leave them away because the end of life such as family, close friend, neighbor, teacher, and etcetera. When the family already passed away, people will truly feel of being lost his big role.

A letter of condolence officially define an opportunity to acknowledge a cause of someone's death (Kentish-Barnes, Chevret, & Azoulay, 2016a). People can understand the name of the deceased and the dead cause.

All situation cannot be generalized to the same kind as the finding for one kind of condolence (Al-shboul, 2013). People have different culture to write and express their condolences response to an obituary then it is more difficult for someone who want to find information on how to write an obituary.

Furthermore, various researches focus on condolence studies, Lerner, (2016) states that sending a condolence card can bring a small amount of peace.

Lotfollahi & Eslami-Rasekh, (2011a) revealed that cross-cultural has significant effect on the frequency of speech act in different situation on offering condolence. Putri & Muhlisian,(2010) stated that the faith of condolence giver influence in expressing condolences. Kuang, (2015) found that the art of writing condolence is important skill that needs to be developed because even good intentions can be misunderstood.

The depressed of being lost also happened addressed to the death of worldwide professional basketball player, Kobe Bryant and his second daughter, Gianna Bryant in helicopter crashed on Sunday of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in California, United States of America. It make a lot of people in the world shocked because of this thing, so many people from different culture write and express their condolences to this tragedy. Various people give condolence of the death of American basketball player, Kobe Bryant. For example:

@USEmbassyAthens (twitter, 27 January 2020) said NBA legend #KobeBryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna were lost Sunday, along with seven other passengers, in a tragic helicopter accident. Our deepest condolences to their family and friends #KobeBryantRIP.

The condolence utterance in the example above is underlined. This called condolence utterance because the utterance of US Embassy Athens showed the expression of sympathy in the words “Our deepest condolences to their family and friends”. This utterance is one of the condolence strategies in offering condolence to the death of Kobe Bryant and his daughter in twitter.

Based on the example above, Condolence is one kind of speech act in pragmatic studies. According to (Francisco, 2013) Pragmatics is a field of the study about the relationship between the form of language and the forms users.

The researcher intends to describe and identify the types of condolence utterances of the twitter user sending condolence utterances through the comment in Twitter in expressing the condolence to the death of Kobe Bryant as a worldwide professional basketball player.

## 2. METHOD

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative research as the type of the study to collect and analyze the data, because the researcher will seek information about the condolence utterance express for the death of Kobe Bryant as a worldwide professional basketball player. The study will focus on the use of condolence in expressing of grief. So, descriptive qualitative research will be suitable for this study.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher explains the research findings and research discussion. The data analysis is related to the problems to answer the research questions. The research findings provide the result of analysis of the data. The discussion explains about the results found in findings.

### 3.1. Condolence Strategy

After analyzing the condolence strategy found in Twitter comments of the death of Kobe Bryant, the researcher found 40 data that classified into six strategies. The result of the condolence strategies can be seen in the table as follow:

No	Condolence Strategy	Example	Σ	%
1	Praying for God's mercy and forgiveness to be with the deceased	1. "RIP Kobe Bryant and his beautiful daughter" 2. "Rest in peace Kobe!" 3. "I pray that they can eventually find peace" 4. "Rest in peace Kobe, your daughter Gianna, and all the other victims of this crash" 5. "R.I.P Idol Kobe Bryant" 6. "I am praying for him and his family. May he rest in peace and may our blessed Mother Mary Bring	12	30



		<p>comfort to his loved ones.”</p> <p>7. “REST in peace Kobe Bryant”</p> <p>8. “May god rest your soul and your daughter’s in peace, and to those who lost their lives”</p> <p>9. “May their souls rest in peace”</p> <p>10. “RIP Kobe Bryant and his beautiful daughter”</p> <p>11. “Rest in Peace to the last basketball player I tuned in to watch”</p> <p>12. “Rest in peace Kobe and Gianna”</p>		
<b>2</b>	Recitation of Qur’an verses		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3</b>	Enumerating the virtues of the deceased	<p>1. “What a legend you were and will remain”</p> <p>2. “Undoubtedly the best basketball player for me and He was an inspiration and For 2 decades he enthralled us all with his talent on the court”</p> <p>3. “Mamba Legend is gone forever”</p> <p>4. “a five-time NBA champion &amp; Basketball legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter dies in helicopter crash”</p>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	Expressing shock and grief	<p>1. “What terrible news”</p> <p>2. “Shocked at the death of Kobe Bryant”</p> <p>3. “Oh no. That’s terrible. R.I.P. #GiannaBryant as well”</p>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

		4. "What terrible news to wake up to"		
<b>5</b>	Offering condolences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Our deepest condolences to their family and friends"</li> <li>2. "Deepest condolences to the Bryant family for this huge loss, and to the families who lost their loved ones today in this crash"</li> <li>3. "Praying for Kobe's wife, children, &amp; families of the other passengers"</li> <li>4. "So very sad to hear the news of #KobeBryant's tragic death this morning"</li> <li>5. "Very sad for the wife and surviving daughters"</li> <li>6. "With our deepest heartfelt condolences to @BD_babydanielle and the family of #KobeBryant and also to the families of those also lost in the helicopter crash"</li> <li>7. "My heart and prayers go out to this beautiful family"</li> <li>8. "Prayers to his family and everyone else involved in the crash"</li> <li>9. "my sincere condolences"</li> <li>10. "It's truly heart wrenching to hear the news about @KobeBryant and his daughter Gianna"</li> <li>11. "Our deepest condolences to their family and friends"</li> <li>12. "My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends &amp; fans across the</li> </ol>	<b>15</b>	<b>37</b>

		globe.” 13. “My Condolences to his family, friends and fans across the world” 14. “Oh god please give strength to his family and all the fans out there” 15. “So sorry for the tragedy with him and his daughter”		
<b>6</b>	Realizing that death is a natural part of life	1. “We have absolutely no control over death”	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7</b>	Using proverbs and saying	1. “Life is so unpredictable” 2. “Tomorrow isn’t guaranteed” 3. “Dreams cut short in a blink of an eye” 4. “Life is unpredictable!”	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 1. Condolence Strategy**

From the data above, the researcher found 40 condolence utterances in the twitter about the death of Kobe Bryant. It consist of 12 (30%) Praying for God’s mercy and forgiveness to be with the deceased, 4 (10%) Enumerating the virtues of the deceased, 4 (10%) Expressing shock and grief, 15 (37%) Offering condolences as the dominant number of condolence strategies, 1 (3%) Realizing that the death is a natural part of life, 4 (10%) Using proverbs and saying, while recitation of Qur’an verses is not found in the analysis. Based on the presentation of data, it shows that offering condolences is the dominant number of the condolence strategies.

The finding of the condolence strategy is in line the theory by Zunin & Zunin in (Al-shboul, 2014) whose stated that there are seven strategies of condolences; 1. Praying for God’s mercy and forgiveness to be with the deceased, 2. Recitation of Qur’an verses, 3. Enumerating the virtues of the deceased, 4. Expressing shock and grief, 5. Offering condolences, 6. Realizing that the death is a natural part of life, 7.

Using proverbs and saying. The finding of the condolence strategy is also supported by (Putri & Muhlisian, 2019), (Murad, 2013).

Comparing with several previous studies, there were some differences and similarities with this research. The differences study about condolence proposed by (Putri & Muhlisian, 2019) the study about expressing condolences to obituaries. It is focuses on the study of the condolence utterances using pragmatics analysis. He stated that to be an essential as good intentions may be misunderstood so that people need to know the art of writing a condolence. It should be understandable to send the deep message as a condolence for any subject.

Murad (2013) has observed about Condolence strategies used by lecturers who are native speakers of Arabic L1 toward their colleague who is native speaker of Hebrew in Hebrew L2. He revealed that the religion expression used as the main condolence strategy. Sending any condolences can be effected by various ways of religious factors. Some people shows a condolence utterance based on how their religion belief. He found that female initiated more condolence utterance than male in the same response. The difference of the previous research is that the present research study the strategies and type in different object.

Based on the table 4.1 condolence strategy, this research using Zunin&Zunin theory in (Al-shboul, 2014). The researcher found 40 condolence utterances in the twitter about the death of Kobe Bryant. It consist of 12 (30%) Praying for God's mercy and forgiveness to be with the deceased, 4 (10%) Enumerating the virtues of the deceased, 4 (10%) Expressing shock and grief, 15 (37%) Offering condolences as the dominant number of condolence strategies, 1 (3%) Realizing that the death is a natural part of life, 4 (10%) Using proverbs and saying, while recitation of Qur'an verses is not found in the analysis.

Based on the presentation of data, it shows that offering condolences is the dominant number of the condolence strategies. This researcher found that there were six out of seven strategies used by people to send their condolence utterances in their twitter. It shows that the finding is relatively in line with the theory of Zunin & Zunin in (Al-shboul, 2014).

### 3.2. Types of Condolence

After analyzing the types of condolence found in Twitter comments of the death of Kobe Bryant, the researcher found 40 data that classified into four types. The result of the types of condolence can be seen in the table as follow:

No	Types of Condolence	Example	Σ	%
1	Classical stock condolence utterance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Our deepest condolences to their family and friends”</li> <li>2. “Deepest condolences to the Bryant family for this huge loss, and to the families who lost their loved ones today in this crash”</li> <li>3. “Praying for Kobe’s wife, children, &amp; families of the other passengers”</li> <li>4. “So very sad to hear the news of #KobeBryant’s tragic death this morning”</li> <li>5. “Very sad for the wife and surviving daughters”</li> <li>6. “With our deepest heartfelt condolences to @BD_babydanielle and the family of #KobeBryant and also to the families of those also lost in the helicopter crash”</li> <li>7. “My heart and prayers go out to this beautiful family”</li> <li>8. “Prayers to his family and everyone else involved in the crash”</li> <li>9. “my sincere condolences”</li> <li>10. “It’s truly heart wrenching to hear the news about @KobeBryant and</li> </ol>	15	37

		<p>his daughter Gianna”</p> <p>11. “Our deepest condolences to their family and friends”</p> <p>12. “My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends &amp; fans across the globe.”</p> <p>13. “My Condolences to his family, friends and fans across the world”</p> <p>14. “Oh god please give strength to his family and all the fans out there”</p> <p>15. “So sorry for the tragedy with him and his daughter”</p>		
<b>2</b>	Condolence utterances considering someone’s religious beliefs	<p>1. “RIP Kobe Bryant and his beautiful daughter”</p> <p>2. “Rest in peace Kobe!”</p> <p>3. “I pray that they can eventually find peace”</p> <p>4. “Rest in peace Kobe, your daughter Gianna, and all the other victims of this crash”</p> <p>5. “R.I.P Idol Kobe Bryant”</p> <p>6. “I am praying for him and his family. May he rest in peace and may our blessed Mother Mary Bring comfort to his loved ones.”</p> <p>7. “REST in peace Kobe Bryant”</p> <p>8. “May god rest your soul and your daughter’s in peace, and to those who lost their lives”</p> <p>9. “May their souls rest in peace”</p> <p>10. “RIP Kobe Bryant and his beautiful</p>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>

		daughter” 11. “Rest in Peace to the last basketball player I tuned in to watch” 12. “Rest in peace Kobe and Gianna”		
<b>3</b>	Condolence utterance as quotes	1. “Life is so unpredictable” 2. “Tomorrow isn’t guaranteed” 3. “Dreams cut short in a blink of an eye” 4. “Life is unpredictable!” 5. “We have absolutely no control over death” 6. “What terrible news” 7. “Shocked at the death of Kobe Bryant” 8. “Oh no. That’s terrible. R.I.P. #GiannaBryant as well” 9. “What terrible news to wake up to” 10. “What a legend you were and will remain” 11. “Undoubtedly the best basketball player for me and He was an inspiration and For 2 decades he enthralled us all with his talent on the court” 12. “Mamba Legend is gone forever” 13. “a five-time NBA champion & Basketball legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter dies in helicopter crash”	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>

<b>4</b>	Condolence utterance containing the condition of the deceased		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2. Types of Condolence**

From the table above, the researcher found 40 condolence utterances in the twitter about the death of Kobe Bryant. It consist of 15 (37%) Classical stock condolence utterances, 12 (30%)Condolence utterances considering someone’s religious beliefs, 13 (33%) Condolence utterance as quotes, while condolence utterance containing the condition of the diseased is not found in the analysis.Based on the presentation of data, it shows that classical stock condolence utterances is the dominant number of the types of condolence.

The finding of the condolence strategy is in line the theory by Smith in (Shaimaa & Muhammed, 2013)whose stated that there are four types of condolences; 1. Classical stock condolence utterances, 2. Condolence utterances considering someone’s religious beliefs, and 3. Condolence utterance as quotes, 4. Condolence utterance containing the condition of the diseased.

Comparing with several previous studies, there were some differences and similarities with this research. The difference study about condolence proposed by Kentish-Barnes, Chevret, & Azoulay, (2016b) the study had been observed about the Impact of the condolence letter. They studied the impact of the condolence letter based on the experience of bereaved families after a death and follow-up with grieving families essentially concerns deaths in oncology units and in hospital care. They focus on the protocol for a controlled randomly trial of the condolence letter. The difference of the previous research, the present research is using different objective study and different object.

(Behnam, Hamed, & Asli, 2013) have observed about *An Investigation of Giving Condolences*. Sending a condolence utterance is important to understand how people show their sympathy when they got a bad news. People send various



condolences in any ways as their sympathy. They found that the Persian give condolence message more direct and short and relate their religious cultures. The similarity of the previous research is the study of strategies in condolence utterances. The difference for the previous research is about the object.

Based on the table 4.2 types of condolence, this research using theory by Smith in (Shaimaa & Muhammed, 2013). The researcher found 40 condolence utterances in the twitter about the death of Kobe Bryant. It consist of 15 (37%) Classical stock condolence utterances, 12 (30%) Condolence utterances considering someone's religious beliefs, 13 (33%) Condolence utterance as quotes, while condolence utterance containing the condition of the diseased is not found in the analysis.

Based on the presentation of data, it shows that classical stock condolence utterances is the dominant number of the types of condolence. This researcher found that there were three out of four types of condolence used by people to send their condolence utterances in their twitter. It shows that the finding is relatively in line with the theory of Smith in (Shaimaa & Muhammed, 2013).

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The researcher describes the conclusion based on the correlation between research question in chapter one, the findings and discussion of chapter four as follows:

The researcher found 40 condolence utterances in the twitter about the death of Kobe Bryant. It consist of 12 (30%) Praying for God's mercy and forgiveness to be with the deceased, 4 (10%) Enumerating the virtues of the deceased, 4 (10%) Expressing shock and grief, 15 (37%) Offering condolences as the dominant number of condolence strategies, 1 (3%) Realizing that the death is a natural part of life, 4 (10%) Using proverbs and saying, while recitation of Qur'an verses is not found in the analysis.

The researcher found 40 condolence utterances in the twitter about the death of Kobe Bryant. It consist of 15 (37%) Classical stock condolence utterances, 12 (30%) Condolence utterances considering someone's religious

beliefs, 13 (33%) Condolence utterance as quotes, while condolence utterance containing the condition of the diseased is not found in the analysis.

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