Language Style Analysis in The Hunger Games Movie

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Abstract

This study analyzes the language style used in the utterances of the main characters (i.e., Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark) in The Hunger Games Movie. The relevant data were obtained using a qualitative method, especially the documentation method. This study also presents the language style most often used by the main characters, focusing on the five language style features and functions proposed by Martin Joos (1976): formal style, consultative style, casual style, intimate style and frozen style. Overall, we found that the casual style is more often used than the other language styles. More specifically, there are 70 data that convey particular language styles, the distribution of which is as follows: 1 frozen style data, 18 formal style data, 10 consultative style data, 27 casual style data, and 14 intimate style data.

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the important medias in everyday life. With language, everyone could say whatever they want to say. The activity of transferring conversations, ideas, views, opinions or suggestions is a variety of ways for people to communicate. Humans need a medium to communicate and that is what we know as language. However, language is a complex thing, in which there are many things that we must understand. We also could not use arbitrary language with anyone (i.e., when we talk to friends, we will use a different language when we talk to our parents). Language has properties, it contains many meanings according to how we use and process it.

Therefore, language use could not be separated from social activities. In fact, the existence of language is considered important enough to exist in society so that we could issue all opinions and ideas that we want to convey. In communicating, we also still must know the situational context we are facing, whether it is a formal situation or not, who we are talking to, and what topics must be conveyed. One thing that could be our reference in social interaction is language style.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of previous literature contains a summary explanation (sourced from books, articles, slides, etc) of the topic discussed by the researcher.

Ducrot and Todorov (1993), say that the alternative among the other variables for language use is language style. It relates to how multiple expressions and associated variations of language are used to convey the same message in different situations and demands.

According to Febriani, A., Ras, F., Novitri (2019) analyzed the way characters speak in the movie "To All the Boys I've Loved Before." They categorized the conversations based on how formal or informal they were. The results showed that most characters used intimate and casual language, which is the way you talk to close friends and family. This suggests a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in the movie. They didn't use very formal language or super strict phrasing. From here the researcher sees how to examine language style in films not only in terms of script but also how the interlocutor responds in terms of pitch and tone.

Effendi, S. B. B. P., & Sugiharti, D. R. (2023) found that formal style mostly used in "Mulan: 2020" because conversation commonly spoken by characters in meeting in palace where speaker typically responds without interference, and coherent pronunciation is emphasized. Researchers found that the frequency of types of language styles found could be influenced by the type of music genre itself.

Language variety is the same as language style. In discussing language styles and variations, they are both language varieties. Both want to express themselves, whether in a formal or informal setting. It discusses how people could communicate using their own personal methods. People utilize language style differently depending on who they are speaking with and where they are speaking. As a result, people may easily adapt to the style with the rules. The transmission of language through the mouth is known as speaking. When two or more individuals discuss anything, it is called speaking. They communicate using language, and there are various linguistic styles present. Therefore, language style could be found in movies and script. This study has the purpose to answer the questions of types of language styles that are used and the styles that are dominantly used in *The Hunger Games* Movie.

METHOD AND THEORY

In this study, the researcher examines the language style that was used in *The Hunger Games* movie, which was directed by Nina Jacobson and Jon Kilik and was based on the 2011 novel by Suzanne Collins. "The Hunger Games" movie was released in 2012 and directed by Gary Ross. The method for data collection that will be carried out is a qualitative method. The data used comes from *The Hunger Games* Movie which could be downloaded from the website, a script that could be used as a reference for the researcher when analyzing the movie, and a study that has previously investigated the style of language. The documentation method was used in collecting the data. The first step was downloading The Hunger Games Movie from the internet, followed by watching the movie to check the accuracy of English transcriptions that contain language style features.

The technique of analyzing the data is descriptive procedures with observation methods in which the researchers analyze the data. The language style theory by Martin Joos (1976) was used to analyze the utterances. This method provides a detailed description of what we are researching. The technique that researchers do to complete this method are:

1. Preparing
   The researcher created the study and book review outlined in this step. It came from a piece of literature, watching the movie while also checking with the movie script to ensure that the interactions flow compatible.
2. Classifying
   The researcher categorized the language style into each part.
3. Analyzing the language style
   Analyzing the topic and the styles that were used in the movie and script.
4. Checking the suitability of the data with Martin Joos' theory and other reference sources.

Analyses of the data are presented using a descriptive qualitative and descriptive statistics methodology because we also presented percentages of each language style in the data source. Two issues will serve as the base for presenting the data analysis outcomes. According to the style of language uttered by the main character in the movie of *The Hunger Games*, the outcome of the data analysis for the first issue was demonstrated through conversation. Only the sentences that fulfilled all the requirements for every research question were used. It solely concentrated on the conversation that is relevant to the language style theory.

The data representation of the research is an analysis of the conflict in the action-romance genre movie (The Hunger Games Movie, 2012) based on a novel by Suzanne Collins (2011). In this movie, the central character is Katniss, who resides in the most impoverished district of Panem, the last remaining region of the United States. The district had engaged in a conflict with the Capitol in the past and was defeated. As a result of their surrender, each district is obligated to select one boy and one girl to participate in an annual televised event known as *The Hunger Games*. The specifics of the terrain, rules, and level of audience involvement may vary, but the fundamental objective remains constant: survival by either killing or being killed. When Katniss' sister is chosen, she courageously volunteers to take her place and becomes a participant in *The Hunger Games*.

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society. This study is also well known in literary circles because its existence is very beneficial for the life of the state and society. In essence, the word sociolinguistics comes from 2 words: sociology and linguistics.

Sociology is a science that studies society, social institutions, and how social processes occur in humans. Sociology also studies how people's lives could exist, live, and develop. Through the examination of social institutions and the various social issues prevalent in a society, we can gain insights into how individuals adapt to their surroundings, engage in social interactions, and position themselves within the fabric of society. This study allows us to understand the ways in which humans acclimate to their environment and establish their roles and positions within the societal framework. Furthermore, linguistics is an understanding of science that studies language and how it is used. Linguistics could also be said as a science that takes language as a science of study.

In general, sociolinguistics is a research field that investigates sociology and linguistics. The term "socio" is essential in the study of sociolinguistics, which focuses on the intersection of language and society. Language, being a social phenomenon, is

influenced by social factors, such as its development within specific cultures. Therefore, linguistics also has a social dimension in this context. Specifically, the social aspect of language encompasses distinct characteristics, including social features and the way language sounds are associated with phonemes, morphemes, words, compound words, and sentences.

There are many things we could learn in sociolinguistics. Among them are language maintenance, language shift, language change, language death, language variety, styles, and register. Language variety or commonly known as lect, or dialect, is a subset of a language or linguistic cluster. It is a catch-all term for any particular dialect or linguistic expression. Registers, dialects, languages, and styles could be included as a standard variety. However, the focus of this study is the analysis part of language variety in a movie, namely language style.

To understand language style, we study sociolinguistics to find out more deeply that understanding language style means we are also dealing with society and sociology. So to discuss and examine language style, sociological views and the use of language in society are needed as a basis for thinking.

Language Style

The regular ways in which one or more persons do anything are referred to as style. As a result, language styles become different methods of presenting the same content. The speaker could choose whether to speak in a casual or formal manner, depending on the situation and the age and social group of the audience (Wardhaugh, 2006). Style is also a variation in speech used in a specific occasion or a type of language used for the same purpose in specific conditions. There are five types of language styles according to Martin Joos' theory in 1976.

Frozen Style

The most formal and exquisite style is the oratorical style, which is used only for important or symbolic occasions. It is generally employed in situations where respect and genuine or formal ceremonies are being observed. In a conversation, this style usually does not require feedback, uses complex grammar and vocabulary, and rarely undergoes a change. Usually, the use of frozen style is in a legal text, law, agreement, or when swearing in a state assignment. The situation shown in its use also indicates a respectful situation. This conversation is usually a one-way conversation, where the person giving the conversation does not know the other person. So, this conversation could be said only as information that does not require a response.

Formal Style

Based on Joos (1976), formal style is utilized in formal conditions with little or no shared background knowledge and one-way communication with few or no reactions from the audience. It implies that formal style vocabulary is wide, that standard speech is employed, that communication is delivered at a slow pace, and that repetition is avoided. Scholarly and technical papers, classrooms, formal speeches, and sermons are all examples of formal style. This conversation is usually carried out by starting the word 'Mr.' or 'Mrs.' when calling the interlocutor. Formal style is always present in every formal activity. The use of the word 'May I?' or 'Can I?', also included as part of this formal style.

Consultative Style

Consultative style refers to a style of language that is usually done at a semi-formal event. This communication contains a small group to talk to each other, so that in the narrative a response and reply is needed. Chaer (2004) explained that "this style is the most operational among other styles." The listener often responds to the speaker by a simple response, like "—Uh, —I see, —well". This frequently happens in group discussions, in the classroom, or between a salesperson and a customer.

Casual Style

The casual style is known as a conversational style that is appropriate for interactions with family members, coworkers, or friends. When this language is used, it is frequently abbreviated. When we choose to address each other by our first names or even by nicknames, rather than using our middle names and last names, it indicates a more informal and relaxed approach to communication.

Intimate Style

Intimate style is defined as a wholly personal language that develops within lovers, families, and close friends. An intimate style is determined by a complete lack of social inhibitions. In most cases, the intimate relationship consists of two people. Intimate labels include "dear, sweetheart, honey, and even mom, dad, or other nicknames". Tone takes precedence over grammar in this language style. To convey feelings between the speakers and to convey intimate phenomena is the purpose of utilizing an intimate style. The most informal mood could be created by adopting an intimate style, which automatically skips the gap and creates a comfortable conversation.

Literature

Literature is defined as a written work made with a splash of art. This work is known as a unit that presents situations, stories, analyzes, expresses emotions, and dramatizes. Richard Taylor (1981) says that: "Literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experiences."

Fiction and nonfiction are part of literature. Fiction is a literary work that tells the imagination, created with the aim of entertaining the reader, like short stories, legends, novels, fairy tales, and myths. Non-fiction literary works tell us the facts of society and life. Some examples of literary works are speeches, catalogues, reference works and textbooks.

The existence of the novel as one of the results of literature, makes people's imaginations increase. From there, the idea emerged that a written novel could be visualized in the form of a movie. So, movies are part of literature, because they contain scripts (written works) and art, just like the definition of literature itself.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this movie, the writer could find all the language styles that exist according to the theory of Martin Joos. Among them are frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles. Each style plays a major role during the storyline. From the data analysis, researchers find 70 data in total for these styles, the distribution of which is shown below:

a. Casual style (38.57%; n = 27 data)

b. Formal style (25.71%; n = 18 data)
c. Intimate style (20%; n = 14 data)
d. Consultative style (14.28%; n = 10 data)
e. Frozen style (1,42%; n = 1 data)

Frozen Style
    Data 25 - Practice room
    "Officer: In two weeks twenty-three of you will be dead. One of you will be alive. Who that is depends on how well you pay attention over the next four days. Particularly to what I'm about to say. First, No fighting with the other Tributes. You'll have plenty of time for that in the arena. There are four compulsory exercises, the rest will be individual training. My advice is Don't ignore survival skills. Everybody wants to grab a sword but most of you will die from natural causes. 10% from infection. 20% from dehydration. Exposure can kill as easily as a knife."

In this section, it appears that the officer is seriously showing the rules that must be followed by the tributes in the practice room. Whole utterances showing frozen language style because it shows that the announcement is not two-way and does not aim for a verbal response. This is an absolute rule that all tributes are expected to follow. The officer who explains also gives an explanation in a firm tone so that those who listen to it will feel that they must listen and respect the existing rules. In this group, officers are not very familiar with their environment. The language used is also formal enough to be easily understood by the participants.

Formal Style
    Data 61 – The Hunger Games Arena (forest)
    "Officer: Attention Tributes. Attention! The regulations acquiring a single victor has been suspended! From now on, two victors may be crowned if both originate from the same district. This will be the only announcement."

This section is a formal style of language. We could find the use of language with a formal vocabularies like shown on the words "regulations, attention, announced, victors, and originate." The tone showed is serious and objective, also the speaker state specificity that strives precision and clarity. This scene also shows that the officer is giving a rule change so that they could accept 2 participants as winners. Sentences in this scene do not showing a verbal response by the participants, because this rule is made absolutely by the game makers.

Consultative Style
    Data 16 – Cinna's room
    "Cinna: That was one of the bravest things I've ever seen for your sister. My name is Cinna.
Katniss: Katniss.
Cinna: I'm sorry that this happened to you. And I'm here to help you in any way I can.
Katniss: Most people just congratulate me.
Cinna: I don't see the point in that. So tonight, they have the Tribute Parade. they're gonna take you out and show you off to the world."

In this section, there is a conversation between Cinna and Katniss. In this story, Cinna plays the role of fashion designer and dresser for District 12. In this scene, a semi-formal conversation occurs between the two. As close friends, they likely have open communication and exchange ideas. Cinna might ask Katniss's opinion on designs or for her input on how she feels about an outfit. Cinna didn't immediately judge her, instead, he was very welcoming and would make Katniss feel more comfortable. In this section, Cinna's conversation seeking for information and requiring a response, so this scene is suitable to enter into the consultative language style.

Casual Style
 Data 54 – The Hunger Games Arena
 "Katniss: Rue? It's okay. I'm not gonna hurt you. You want mine too?
 Rue: No, that's okay.
 Katniss: Here.
 Rue: Thanks.
 Katniss: How long was I asleep?
 Rue: A couple of days. I change your leaves twice."

This section shows how Katniss and Rue from different districts could help each other. This conversation is served in casual and non-formal language. Because previously they did not have any relationship (previously did not know each other), then their conversation could be judged as a casual conversation. the conversation reflects a simple, direct, and friendly tone consistent with casual language style. The conversation sticks to basic sentence structures without complex phrasing. (e.g., "No, that's okay," "Here," "Thanks"). Katniss's use of "That's" instead of "That is" is a contraction, a shortened and informal way of speaking. It was their first conversation, but before they had some eye contact that make them know each other indirectly. It suggests a developing friendship between Rue and Katniss where they feel comfortable sharing basic items and speaking frankly.

Intimate Style
 Data 64 - The Hunger Games Arena (cave)
 "Peeta: I remember the first time I saw you. Your hair was in two braids instead of one. I remember when you.. You sang in music assembly, the teacher said; Who knows The Valley song? And your hand shot straight up.
 Katniss: Peeta, stop.
 Peeta: After that, I watched you going home every day. Everyday. Well, say something.
 Katniss: I'm not good at saying something."

This scene shows a flashback of Peeta who really loves Katniss. He shows his love by revealing all the memories that exist. Peeta's words exhibit signs of intimacy. He uses a personal reference, mentioning details about Katniss's braids from a specific time in their past. This shows he pays close attention to her and remembers personal moments. He also uses emotional language, saying things like "I remember the first time I saw you" and "after that, I watched you going home every day." This expresses emotions and a deeper connection to Katniss than simple conversation.

Katniss's non-verbal cues also hint at intimacy. The fact that her eyes are mirrored suggests attentiveness, interest, and a connection with Peeta. Mirroring body language, especially eye contact, is a common sign of someone being engaged and interested in the other person. If her expression and tone of voice are genuine, a gentle smile, softened gaze, or gentle tone would be powerful indicators of reciprocated feelings from Katniss. After this conversation too, they were seen hugging each other. It creates very romantic yet heartwarming footage.

Above are just a few data that are described because the rest have the same reasons as to why they can fit into each style.

CONCLUSION

The researcher has succeeded in reviewing The Hunger Games Movie using the types of language styles that were coined by Martin Joos. In action and science fiction movies, it can be found that the use of language style is mostly used in casual style and formal style which results in conclusions according to research questions, as follows: The Hunger Games movie has all available language styles, namely 1 data (1.42%) of frozen style, 18 data (25.71%) of formal style, 10 data (14.28%) of consultative style, 27 data (38.57%) of casual style, and 14 data (20%) of intimate style. The total is 70 data that contain language style. In this movie, the actors managed to show and present all styles of language well and conveyed. In conclusion, this movie uses a lot of casual language style, because this film presents many situations that are non-formal. However, due to the fights between districts that made conversation that wasn't too intimate with one another. Seen from their stature, inter-district warriors also don't have much age difference, causing a lot of use of casual language style.

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