

Language Style Used by The Main Character in Hala: A Sociolinguistic Study

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Abstract

Everyone has their own unique way of communicating through language. This language style is used depends on the circumstances of a conversation, for example by the context and conversation participants. Language style is a sociolinguistic study that examines how people communicate with others who speak in a range of styles. The object of this research is the Hala movie, a movie that tells about a Muslim teenager who lives in America and has to face between two cultures. This study focuses on the analysis of language style used by the main character in Hala movies and several factors that influence the main character to speak in a different language style. This movie is analyzed using Martin Joos's language style theory, the five clock theories of frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style, as well as Janet Holmes's theory of social factors why people speak with different language styles. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method in which the data are collected from the movie. The results of this research indicate that the main character used different language styles, and some factors influenced her to speak in different language styles. There were 49 data found of language style used by the main character, consultative style with 7 data, casual style with 18 data, intimate style with 11 data, formal style with 13 data, and 0 data for frozen style. However, there were 62 social factors that influenced Hala to speak with different language style, participants with 28 data, 7 settings, and 27 contexts.

Keywords: Language, Language style, Sociolinguistic, Movie

1. Introduction

Language is one of the most critical elements in human life, and they cannot live without it. There are several definitions of language. According to Unsiyah et al. (2018), language is a sound symbolizing system that is arbitrary and conventional for a group of social communities to live together, communicate, and identify themselves. From Unsiyah's statement above, it is known that language is a tool for communication that is created through collective decision-making by a group of people in a society and is used in everyday life. Wijana (2019), in his book, stated that language is a human verbal communication tool that is divided into two forms which are in the form of spoken or written language. It is clear from the quotation above that language is not only used as a communication tool that is spoken directly but can also be used in writing essays, books, and scientific works. People can engage and communicate with each other for various purposes and needs using language.

According to Verderber et al. (2017), language is the body of words and the communication system common to the same community or nation, geographical area, or cultural tradition. From his statement, it is clear that language is the communication system that people use in the same kinds of nation, same area, or even the same culture in all parts of the world. Thus, people in the same area use the same language. There are many parts of the world with so many nations, meaning that language has many variations because of different nations and cultures.

Language variations make a difference in language style, and people have different communication styles (Wijana 2021). According to Missikova, as cited in Febriani et al. (2019), language style is a way of speaking or a type of speech that is developed by purposeful and intentional choices, coherent patterns, and the formation of linguistic and extra-linguistic aspects. It refers to an utterance's topic, context, function, intention, and subject matter. Joos (1976) divided language style into four types: frozen, formal, consultative, and casual. According to Holmes (2013), some factors influence people to use different language styles while talking to others. Thus, the researcher used Martin Joos and Janet Holmes's theories.

One of the best ways to see actual language styles in humans is through movies. Through a movie, people can

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see how humans communicate with others in different language styles. Alfathoni et al. (2020) stated that a movie is an audio-visual media consisting of pieces of images that are put together into a unified whole and it can convey the message contained therein in the form of visual media. This means that a movie is a series of videos integrated into a single piece of visual media that can convey a message.

Hala is a movie that contains many types of language styles. Hala was released in 2019 by Minhal Baig. This movie tells Hala, a Pakistani-American teenage girl in her senior year of high school, who is careful with her words and curious with her eyes and ears. She is a talented skateboarder and intelligent student. She has close female friendships with non-Muslim American girls. Floating between the two cultures, she gently withdraws from her Muslim faith and cautiously tests her crush on Jesse, a blonde boy, who is her classmate. These two cultures often make her talk in different languages and do different things. Therefore, this movie is different from others because even though she lives in America, she still speaks with polite language and respects her parents because she is a Muslim who must always obey and respect her parents, as religion has taught her.

The researcher chose a movie entitled Hala for several reasons. First, the movie contains many language styles implemented by the main characters. The main character is a teenager who speaks different types of language suitable for her parents, teachers, and friends. Hala lives in between the two cultures, which makes her speak with the different language styles required. Second, there are some social factors that influence how Hala speak in this movie, such as culture, age, participants, and setting. Cultures between Americans and Pakistan strongly affect language use. As seen in this movie, when Hala speaks with her parents at home, she always uses formal language to respect her parents. Meanwhile, when she speaks at school, she uses casual language and slang because of the American culture. This is very interesting for the researcher to find the different language styles and some factors that influence her in an American-Pakistani teenage girl. Therefore, Martin Joos's and Janet Holmes's theories are suitable for this research. From these theories, researchers can understand the characteristics of each style and some factors that explain why people use different language styles.

2. Method

This study focuses on the analysis of language style used by the main character in Hala movies and several factors that influence the main character to speak in a different language style. This movie is analyzed using Martin Joos's language style theory, the five clock theories of frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style, as well as Janet Holmes's

theory of social factors why people speak with different language styles. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method in which the data are collected from the movie.

3. Results and Discussion

Research Findings

This research focused on analyzing the language style used in Hala movies and some factors that influence the main character using different language styles. The researcher discovered that there are 49 pieces of data in the Hala movie that contain language style based on data analysis. **Table 1** displays the language-style data for the total number and frequency of occurrences. The data were analyzed using Joos's language-style theory.

Table 1 Data of language styles in the Hala movie

No.	Language Style	Data
1	Formal Style	13
2	Consultative Style	7
3	Casual Style	18
4	Intimate Style	11
Total		49

Table 1 shows the highest and most frequent language styles used in Hala movies. There are 49 data points found in movies that contain language styles. The most frequent language style used in Hala movies is the casual style, with 18 data points. It is used by Hala while speaking to her friends and family. Thirteen pieces of data were found in the formal style used mainly by Hala while talking to her parents. The next one is an intimate style with 11 data items mainly used by Hala while talking about personal things with her parents and friends. The most petite language style used in Hala movies is a consultative style with seven data points.

Table 2. Data of social factors in the Hala movie

No.	Social Factors	Data
1	Participants	28
2	Settings	7
3	Contexts	27
Total		62

Table 2 shows that there are 63 social factors that explain why the main character in the Hala movie used different language styles. It is shown that the highest factor is context with 28 data points, and the least factor that influenced the choice of language style was setting with seven data points found in the Hala movie.

After searching the data, the researcher will explain in more detail the language style and some factors why the main characters used different language styles in the Hala movie.

Formal Styles

The researcher identified 11 data points in the Hala movie that contained a formal style. Hala frequently uses this style when talking to her mother and father.

Hala spoke in a formal style because of the participants in the conversation. According to Holmes (2013), when talking to someone older, most people speak with straightforward vocabulary and grammatical structure. It is clear that all of Hala's sentences used complete sentences and proper grammar. Participants affect the use of the formal style because people talk with a more polite language with a complete sentence to someone older than them to give respect.

Consultative Style

The conversations above are classified into a consultative style because the conversation occurs in a semiformal situation between strangers. This is the first time that Hala talks with Jesse, meaning that they just met and the relationship is not really close yet, so it can be concluded that Jesse and Hala are strangers who just met for the first time in a school library. Consultative styles can be used in formal, semi-formal, and informal situations. This style is also used when talking to strangers or people who are not very close to them. In these conversations, Hala uses several formal styles. It can be seen from her sentence, "**No. Why would I be scared?**" She used complete sentences and proper grammar. The word "**would**" belongs to a formal style. Another example is "**No. It was just part of a story.**" In this sentence, she replied to Jesse's question with complete grammar and "**It's not done yet. This is probably not very good. So I don't know if you would want to read it.**" All her sentences used the formal style here. It can be seen from the word "**probably**" that belongs to formal style, correctly she can say it with "**maybe**," but since she used formal style, she chose "**probably**" instead.

Casual Style

The conversations above are categorized as casual styles because they occurred in an informal situation between a father and a daughter. The casual style is a variation of the language used in informal situations. It is usually used by friends, peers, family members, and acquaintances. Eram is Hala's mother, and she asks Hala how school today was. It is common when a mother asks his daughter about her day, and it is just a small and casual talk that happens between a mother and daughter in their house. Hala answered her mother's questions using informal language and short sentences. It can be seen from her sentence, which is "**Good, the same, you know**", it is clear that all her words in this sentence are informal. The word "**you know**" is an informal language that implies what is being referred to as known

to or understood by the listener. It is commonly used when talking to a friend, or when the topic of the conversation is not really serious. The next one is "**Good**" Hala used incomplete sentences here. Correctly she could say "**It was good**," but since the conversation happened in a casual situation, she just used "**Good**. The last one is "**The same**" which is also an incomplete sentence. She could say it formally with "It was the same", but since the context of the conversation is not formal, she used the informal one with "**The same**."

Intimate Style

These conversations are categorized as intimate because they happen in an intimate situation between a daughter and a father. The background of the conversation is also a car, which indicates that Hala and her father Zahid used an intimate style to talk about something private. According to Sipahutar (2018, p.13), the intimate style is a personal language style used by family members, lovers, and close friends. The intimate style appears to be more private than the other types because it can only be utilized with very close people. In these conversations, the relationship between Hala and Zahid is that of a close family member, which is a daughter and father. Hala asked about her parents' marriage to her father and about his father's feelings about her mother. It can be seen from her sentences, "**So your parents chose mom?**" and "**Do you love her?**" It is clear that the questions are a type of personal question and private conversation that can only be utilized and understood between Hala and her father.

4. Conclusion

In the 21st century, education is becoming increasingly important to ensure that students have learning and innovation skills, skills in using technology and information media, and the ability to work and survive by using life *skills*. The 21st century demands education to prepare students to face global economic competition. *The Partnership for 21st Century Skills* emphasizes that 21st century learning must teach four competencies: *critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, and collaboration*. From the literacy of 21st century learning, it can be concluded that there are several models that can support 21st century skills in science learning, including *project-based learning (PjBL), problem-based learning (PBL), flipped classrooms, inquiry models, and Blended Learning*.

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