



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 the Hala movie and also several factors that influence the main character to speak in a different language style. This movie is analyzed with language style theory of Martin Joos, the five-clock theory which is frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style, also the Janet Holmes's theory of social factors why people speak with different language style. This research uses qualitative descriptive method where the data are collected from the movie. The results of this research indicate that the main character used different language style and some factors influenced her to speak with different language style. There are 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 are 62 of social factors that influenced Hala to speak with different language style, participants with 28 data, settings with 7 data, and contexts with 27 data.

Keyword: *Language, Language Style, Sociolinguistic, Movie*

Introduction

Language is one of the most critical elements in human life, and they cannot live without it. There are so many definitions of language. According to Unsiyah et al. (2018, p.5), language is a sound symbolizing system that is arbitrary and conventional by a group of social communities to live together, communicate, and identify themselves. From Unsiyah's statement above, it is known that a language is a tool for communication that is created through collective decision-making by a group of people in a society and it is used in everyday life. Wijana (2019, p.1), 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 such as essays, books, and scientific works. People can engage and communicate with each other for whatever purpose and need using the language.

According to Verderber et al. (2017, p.66), language is the body of words and the communication system common to the same community or nation, the same geographical area, or the same cultural tradition. From his statement, it is clear that language is the communication system that people use in the same kinds of a nation, same area, or even same culture in all parts of the world. So people in the same area use the same language. There are many parts of the world with so many nations, so it means that language has many variations because of the different nation and culture.

Language variations make a difference in language style, and people have their styles in communication (Wijana, 2021, p.5). According to Missikova, as cited in Febriani et al. (2019, p.4), language style is a way of speaking or a type of speech that is developed by purposeful and intentional choices, coherent patterns, and formation of linguistic and extra-linguistic aspects. It refers to an utterance's topic, context, function, author's intention, and subject matter. Martin Joos (1976, p.19) divides language style into four types frozen, formal, consultative, and casual style. According to Holmes (2013, p.267), some factors influence people to use different language styles while talking with others. Thus, the researcher will use Martin Joos's and Janet Holmes's theories.

One of the best ways to see the actual language styles in humans is in a movie. Through a movie, people can see how human communicate with different language styles with others. Alfathoni et al. (2020, p.2) 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. Meaning that movie is a series of videos that have been integrated into a single piece of visual

media that can convey a message.

Hala is one of the movies that contain many types of language styles. Hala is a movie released in 2019 written by Minhal Baig. This movie tells about 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 an 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 with different language and do some different things. Therefore, this movie is different from others because even though she lives in America, she still speaks with polite language and respect her parents because she is a Muslim that must always obey and respect her parents as religion has taught her.

There are some reasons why the researcher chose a movie entitled Hala. First, this movie contains many language styles implemented by the main character. The main character is a teenager who speaks different types of language that is suitable with her parents, teacher, and friends. Hala lives in between two cultures which makes her speak with different language style required. Second, there are some social factors that influence how Hala speak in this movie such as culture, age, participant, and setting. The cultures between American and Pakistan strongly affect the use of language. As seen in this movie, when Hala speaks with her parents at home, she is always use formal language in order 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 style and some factor that influence her in an American-Pakistani teenage girl. Therefore, the Martin Joos's and Janet Holmes's theories can be suitable for this research. From those theories, the researcher can understand the kinds of characteristics of each style and some factors of why people use different language styles

Method

This study focuses on the analysis of language style used by the main character in the Hala movie and also several factors that influence the main character to speak in a different language style. This movie is analyzed with language style theory of Martin Joos, the five-clock theory which is frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style, also the Janet Holmes's theory of social factors why people speak with different language style. This research uses qualitative descriptive method where the data are collected from the movie.

Result

Research Findings

This research focused on analyzing the language style used in the Hala movie

and some factors that influence the main character using different language styles. The researcher discovers that there are 49 data in the Hala movie that contain language style based on data analysis. The table below displays language style data in total number and frequency of occurrence. The data are analyzed using Joos’s language style theory.

Tabel.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

The table above shows the highest and most frequent language style used in the Hala movie. There are 49 data found in the movie that contain language style. The most frequent language style used in the Hala movie is casual style with 18 data. It is used by Hala's character while speaking to her friends and family. There are 13 pieces of data found in formal style used mainly by Hala while talking to her parents. The next one is intimate style with 11 data mainly used by Hala while talking about personal things with her parents and friends. The most petite language style used in the Hala movie is consultative style with 7 data.

Tabel.2 Data of social factors in the Hala movie

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

The table above shows that there are 63 data of social factors of why the main character in the Hala movie used different language styles. It is shown that the highest factor is context with 28 data, and the least factor that influenced the choice of language style is setting with 7 data found in the Hala movie.

Discussion

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

Formal Styles

The researcher found 11 data in the Hala movie that contains formal style. This style is frequently used by Hala when talking to her mother and her father. The reason why Hala speak in a formal style is because of the participant in the conversation. According to Holmes (2013, p.242), when talking to someone older, most people speak with straightforward vocabulary and grammatical structure. It is clear that all Hala's sentences used complete sentences and proper grammar. Participant affects the use of formal style because people talk with more polite language with a complete sentence to someone older than them to give respect.

Consultative Style

The conversations above are classified into consultative style because the conversation happens in a semiformal situation between strangers. This is the first time 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 that just met for the first time in a school library. Consultative style is a style that can be used in formal, semiformal, and informal situations. This style is also used when talking to strangers or people not really close to. In these conversations, Hala used several formal styles. It can be seen from her sentence, "**No. Why would I be scared?**" clearly that she used complete sentences and proper grammar. The word "**would**" belong 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. And it's probably not even very good. So, I don't know if you would want to read it.**" All her sentences used 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 style because they happened in an informal situation between a father and a daughter. Casual style is a variation of language used in informal situations. It is usually used among friends, peers, family, and acquaintances. Eram is Hala's Mother, and she asked Hala how school was today. 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 a daughter in their house. Hala answered her Mother's question with 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 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” instead. The last one is “The same” it 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 into intimate style because they happened in an intimate situation between a daughter and a father. The background of the conversation is also in 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 that is used among family members, lovers, and close friends. The intimate style appears to be more private than other types because it can only be utilized with very close people. In these conversations, the relationship between Hala and Zahid is a close family member, which is a daughter and a father. Hala asked about her parents’ marriage to her father and his father’s feelings about her mom. It can be seen from her sentences, “So your parents chose mom?” and “Do you love her?” it is clear that the questions are the type of personal question and private conversation that can only be utilized and understood between Hala and her father.

Conclusion

According to chapter three, which is discussion and analysis, the researcher uses the sociolinguistic theory of language style, the five clocks by Martin Joos, and the social factors that influenced the choice of language style by Janet Holmes. The researcher found that when talking to different people of different ages and with different contexts of the conversation, the choice of language style is also different. Based on the data findings and discussions in chapter three, the researcher found 49 data that contains the language style used by the main character in the Hala movie. The most frequent language style used in this movie is casual style with 18 data because Hala mostly talked to her friends in an informal situation. The minor language style used by Hala is consultative style because there are only a few conversations of Hala with her teacher at school. Meanwhile, there are 11 data of intimate style used by Hala while talking to her friends and her parents. Next is formal style with 13 data mainly used by Hala while talking to her parents. The last one is frozen style with no data found in the Hala movie.

Some factors influenced Hala to use different language styles. The most frequent factor is the participant with 28 data. Participant is the most factor influencing Hala to use different language styles because she looked more at the person she was talking with. The researcher found that Hala used formal style while talking to her parents because she was being polite in order to respect them, even though the context of the conversation is in a casual or in an informal

situation. The next factor is context with 27 data. Context also plays an essential role in choosing language style in the Hala movie. When the context of the conversation is not really serious, Hala chose casual style. Meanwhile, while discussing about the school subject or discussing something meaningful with her parents, she chose formal style. The most negligible factor is setting with 7 data because Hala looked more to the person and the context of the conversation rather than the setting of the conversation.

In conclusion, after doing the research, the researcher found that Hala is a teenage Muslim girl who uses different types of language styles when communicating. It depends on who she is talking to. When talking to older people like her parents, she used formal style in order to respect them even though the context is informal. She almost used all types of language style by Martin Joos's theory except the frozen style. Also, all the factors that influenced the choice of Hala's language style were applied to the conversation. Hala considered the people she was talking to when choosing the language, she would use.

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