AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH STYLES USED BY TWO CHARACTERS IN THE MOVIE GREEN BOOK

Hummaira*
Dohra Fitrisia
Kismullah Abdul Muthalib

Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the different speech styles used by two characters in the movie Green Book. The characters are Tony Lip, a white driver, and Dr. Shirley, a black musician. The objectives of this study are to find out the types of speech styles used by the two characters and to find out the differences in the speech styles used. The source of data in this study is the movie script. Descriptive-qualitative method is selected to analyze the data. Joos’ theory (1967) was applied in this research, which concerns the five types of speech styles including frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles. The result of this research shows that Tony Lip only used four types of speech styles: formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Tony Lip dominantly used casual speech style, whereas formal style is the least frequent. Dr. Shirley used all five types of speech styles. Consultative speech style is the most commonly used by Dr. Shirley, whereas frozen speech style is the least frequent.

Keywords: character study, Green Book movie, speech style

INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential attribute to human life since it allows us to communicate with one another. According to Fromkin et al. (2003), language is a source of human life and power. As an attribute of communication, language has its style based on human interaction and circumstances. Even when speaking the same language, each person has their own unique speech patterns. It is because style describes how

* Corresponding author, email: hummaira38@gmail.com

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people speak. People speak quite differently to different people: to a stranger, a seller, the boss at work, and others. Choosing appropriate speech styles is necessary for the speaker to adapt well to audience’s sensitivity and expectations. Hence, the audience can understand what the speaker meant. Speech style helps people to understand if a speaker is being serious, ironic, amusing, dubious, or communicating in some other way.

According to Suryati and Setiawan (2013), movie is one of the media that is practical and suitable to analyze the speech styles uttered by the characters through dialogues. Therefore, in this study, the researcher intends to analyze speech styles used by movie characters. The selected movie for this study is Green Book, and the character that were analyzed for their speech styles are Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley. Green Book is a 2018 American biographical comedy-drama road film directed by Peter Farrelly. This movie portrayed the problem of racism that existed in America in the 1960s, which led to numerous verbal and physical assaults against black people that were performed by white people.

The researcher aims to investigate the racist actions, especially the verbal actions by analyzing the speech styles of the black and the white character in the Green Book movie. This research is merely limit to analyze the speech styles used by the characters: Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley in the Green Book movie. The researcher uses the framework by Joos (1967) about five speech styles, which are: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Definition of Style

According to Joos (1967, p. 35), speech style means the form of language that the speaker uses which is considered by the degree of formality. He labeled frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate as the level of formality in spoken and written English. Coupland (2007) says style refers to a way to do something or the way people use it to communicate other renderings to the addressee. Trudgill (2000) defines style as a language variety and different from one another. Crystal and Davy (2013) stated that style refers to language habits shared by a group of people at one time or a period.

Usage of speech styles is influenced by whom the speaker speaks with. Holmes (2001, p. 224) states that the speaker’s relationship with
the addressee is crucial to define the appropriate style of speaking. Speakers can adopt a different style of speaking whether it’s formal or informal. Holmes (2013, p. 250) states that the choice of appropriate speech style is not only influenced by the personal relationship between speaker and addressee but the formality of the context and their relative roles and statues also.

Types of Speech Style

According to Yule (1996), all of the social factors relate to variation according to the user of language and situation because there is a gradation of speech style, from very formal to very informal. Joos (1967, p. 35) defines speech style as the form of language that the speaker uses considered by a degree of formality.

Troike (1971, p. 42) grouped four types of speech styles into two broad divisions, private and public:

Private: Intimate and casual
Public: Formal and consultative

Chaika (1969, p. 29) defined speech style as to tell whether a person talks formally or informally. The style controls social interaction and gives the message. Hamdany and Damanhuri (2017) defined speech style as the distinct variations or form of the language used for the same purpose by a particular situation or the form of language that speaker uses. Joos (1967) identified speech style into five styles: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles.

Frozen Style

Frozen style is the most formal speech style. Frozen is a style for print and declamation as the fact that the reader and the listener are not permitted to cross-question the author or the speaker. It is usually used in a formal setting such as in ceremonial, government events, international meetings, courts, or administration. Joos (1967, p. 64) states that frozen speech style is a style that is proposed to be remembered orated. Frozen style is characterized by long sentences with complex grammatical sentence structure and vocabulary. People who use this style have high skills in communication and are educated because it needs more elaboration than other styles. It can be seen by how the president talks to a large audience, a lawyer in court, or how the prime ministers talk to each other. This style usually tends to be monolog or involves a fairly large group.

Joos (1967) gives some examples of frozen style expression:
An analysis of speech styles used by the characters in movie Green Book (Hummaira, D. Fitrisia & K. A. Muthalib)

1. “I hope the random choice appeals to me”
2. “We aim to please, Candida”

**Formal Style**

Formal style is less used than the frozen style. According to Joos (1967, p. 35), formal style is generally used in a formal situation where the amount of shared background knowledge is the least and where communication is one way with little or no feedback from the audience. Also, formal style is designed to inform and it is dominating characters if necessary. The vocabulary used in a formal style is extensive, using standard speech, low tempo speech, and avoidance the repetition. Degrees of formality can be influenced by solidarity and status relationships. When people use a formal speech style, it shows that they do not have a close relationship with one another.

In describing formal style by parting from consultative style, the crucial difference is that participation drops out. This is a force whenever the group has grown too large. The formal code labels inform each hearer that he is in a formal frame, is not to make insertions but must wait until authorized to speak, and is being given time to plan reaction.

Joos (1967) gives some examples of formal style expression:

1. “May I help you?”
2. “May I present Mr. Smith?”
3. “We may not see one another for some time.”

The examples above are formal styles that used some code labels of formal styles, such as “May”, “Mr.”, and complete grammar sentences. The leading formal speech style code label is “May”, “Might”, “Can” and “Mr.” or “Sir” when addressing someone or calling someone with their last name.

**Consultative Style**

According to Joos (1967, p. 25), consultative style shows someone’s norm when talking with a stranger who speaks the same language but whose personal stock of information may be different. Consultative supplies background information neither too little nor too much background given. Consultative style is characterized by short sentences and is required for daily communication. The addressee usually participates by giving responses like “well”, “yeah”, “oh”, “I see”, “yes”, etc. and the grammar is complete but for occasional it’s incomplete. Usually, consultative style speakers expect the addressee to
respond to their utterances quickly and continuously. The addressee is allowed to interrupt, if the speaker gives too much information, the feedback might be like “I know stop it”. Some examples of consultative speech styles are a conversation between students–teachers, doctor-patient, and so on.

Troike (1971) mentioned in his research that consultative style, for the most part, utilized in semi-formal communication situations. The situations are such as communication between the military of distinctive ranks, or between professionals who are not well familiar or are in an open circumstance. The status differences between the communicants, or the relative need for shared background information, make much more express verbalization vital. Although the specialized language may happen, there's less use of slang. Furthermore, the sentence structure is frequently more complex than within the private styles.

Troike's (1971) research at the Defense Language Institute English Language School mentions that consultative style is more often used in teaching and learning processes between teachers and students, especially in countries where English is a foreign language because they are accustomed to teaching using a relatively formal language style.

Joos (1967, p. 21) gives an example of consultative speech styles in the section below:
A: “We are about eight on the list”
B: “Oh I see.”

Speaker A gives information to addressee B. The addressee B responds to A by saying “Oh I see”. In this conversation, they use consultative speech style. It is because their conversation is about giving and receiving information. Also, the addressee uses a consultative code label which I see.

Casual Style

According to Joos (1967, p. 23), casual style is used for daily conversation in relaxed or normal situations with people who have a close relationships. The casual style is also used when an atmosphere is appropriated and desired. When the casual style addressed to a stranger, it serves to make the addressee an insider. This is not rude because it pays the addressee the compliment of supposing that the addressee will understand. Joos (1967, p. 23) states there are two characteristic features of casual style. Those are ellipsis (Omissions) and slang.
An analysis of speech styles used by the characters in movie Green Book (Hummaira, D. Fitrisia & K. A. Muthalib)

Ellipsis (omissions) shows the differences between consultative grammar and casual grammar for instance:
1. “Thank you” (consultative grammar)
   “Thanks” (casual grammar)
2. “It would have been a good thing if“ (consultative grammar)
   “Been a good thing if” (casual grammar)
3. “Can I help you?” (consultative grammar)
   “C’n I help you?” (casual grammar)
4. “I believe that I can find one” (consultative grammar)
   “I believe I can find one” (casual grammar)

Unstressed words can be omitted particularly at the beginning of a sentence. So that, the sentence structure of consultative grammar becomes incomplete. Fromkin et al. (2017, p. 309) defined slang as something that nearly everybody uses and recognizes but nobody can define. Slang expressions can be used for the addressee who is an insider or an outsider. It depends on the slang chosen. Slang differs from formal language in that it is metaphorical, elliptical, fun, and shorter.

Joos (1967) gives some examples of slang expressions:
1. “Going to” becomes “gonna” and "Want to" becomes “Wanna”
2. “do not know” becomes “dunno”
3. Cheer up means nothing, but speakers usually say this to the addressee who is close to them.
4. Coward becomes chicken. The speaker equates a coward to a chicken.
5. A girl becomes a chick. The speaker equates a girl to a chick.

The examples above are just some of the slang expressions that are often used. Many other slang words have similar characteristics to the examples above.

**Intimate Style**

According to Joos (1967, p. 34), intimate style is a completely private language style developed within families, close friends, and couples. Intimate speech style excludes public information. It is differ from any other style because there are no slang expression and no background information. An utterance with intimate style is used to avoid giving information to people who are not close to the speaker. Intimate speech relates to the private language development within the family, close friends, and loved ones. The elliptical nature of this style
is made conceivable by the fact that the speaker has shared a lot of great deal of background information and expectation (Troike, 1971).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research analyzes the speech styles used by Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley in their utterances in the Green Book movie (2018) based on Joos’ (1967) framework. The analysis is based on the movie and the transcript of the movie was downloaded in Script Slug. To analyze the movie, the researcher used descriptive-qualitative method. Descriptive-qualitative method is concerned about “What” instead of “How” or “Why” something has occurred (Nassaji, 2015). The source of the data in this research is Tony Lip’s and Dr. Shirley’s utterances in Green Book movie. The data was collected by the researcher from the characters’ utterances in the movie.

The subjects of this research are the characters in Green Book movie: Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley. The objects of this research are the speech styles used by Tony Lip’s and Dr. Shirley in Green Book movie. The instrument in this research is an observation checklist that contained characters’ utterances, setting place, addressee, and five speech styles. The speech styles are frozen, formal, casual, consultative, and intimate speech style. Furthermore, the researcher is also the instrument of this research. Based on Sugiyono (2012) the researcher actively participated in this research because the researcher watched the movie and analyzed Tony Lip’s utterances and Dr. Shirley’s utterances.

The data were collected through documentation following some steps. The first step is watching the movie to understand the content. The second is classifying the characters' utterances that were assumed as five speech styles based on Joos’ framework (1967). This theory is used because it is suitable for in-depth investigation of speech styles and it is detailed and easy to understand. The third type is analyzing the characters’ utterances.

The analysis of the data in this study was processed based on the data collected. All of the collected data were analyzed and classified based on the type of speech styles by Joos’ (1967) framework. The researcher adopted the framework of data analysis technique developed by Milles et al. (2014) which has three steps: First, data condensation which is the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data that showed in characters’ utterances in the
movie. In this section, the researcher selected the character’s utterances by watching the movie. Then, the researcher finds out the word or sentence which contains speech styles in Tony Lip’s utterances and Dr. Shirley’s utterances. Second, data display which is the process to simplify the data in the form of a sentence, narrative, or table. Data display refers to showing data that have been condensate in the form of patterns. It benefits helps the researcher in understanding the data. In displaying data for this research, the researcher described that data that had been condensate into sentence form. This means that the condensation data are displayed in descriptive text. The findings were defined and explained the possible reason why Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley used those speech styles in their utterances based on Joos’ theory. The last, the data were concluded and were attempted to answer the research question.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Results

This section presents the findings of this research. The finding section describes the types of speech styles used by Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley in the movie Green Book. The result is presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

| No. | Speech Style       | Frequency |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | Casual             | 158       |
| 2.  | Consultative       | 91        |
| 3.  | Intimate           | 37        |
| 4.  | Formal             | 1         |
| 5.  | Frozen Speech Style| 0         |
|     | Total              | 287       |

Based on Table 1, it can be seen that the most used speech style by Tony Lip is the casual style, which is found 158 data. While the least used speech style is the formal style, which is found 1 data. Based on the table, there are four types of speech styles that were found in Tony Lip’s utterances: formal style (1), casual style (158), consultative style (91), and intimate style (37).
Table 2. Types of Speech Styles used by Dr. Shirley in the movie

| No | Speech Style | Frequency |
|----|--------------|-----------|
| 1  | Consultative | 150       |
| 2  | Casual       | 29        |
| 3  | Intimate     | 17        |
| 4  | Formal       | 7         |
| 5  | Frozen       | 2         |
|    | Total        | 205       |

Table 2 contains the result of speech styles used by Dr. Shirley in the movie *Green Book*. The total of speech styles found in Dr. Shirley’s utterances in the movie was 205 data. In the movie, frozen speech style appeared 2 times, formal speech styles appeared 7 times, casual speech styles appeared 29 times, and intimate speech styles appeared 16 times, and consultative speech styles appeared the most at 150 times.

**Discussions**

The results show that the consultative style is more dominant than the other speech styles used by both characters. The results of Tony Lip’s and Dr. Shirley’s utterances in the movie was provided and discussed to support the data presented. The results covered all of the speech styles that appeared in their utterance in the movie, including frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles.

From the results, the researcher found several types of speech styles used by Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley. Four types of speech styles found in Tony Lip’s utterances are formal, consultative, casual, and intimate style. Tony Lip dominantly used casual speech style, whereas formal style is the least frequent. The researcher found 287 data of Tony Lip’s utterances but not all types of speech styles were used. Frozen speech style did not appear in Tony Lip’s utterances. This may be related to the context used for the frozen style. As discussed in the literature review, frozen style is used in the most formal situation (Joos, 1967). The movie shows that Tony Lip's dialogues never take place in an overly formal setting. Tony Lip only talked formally once to the addressee, which is his boss, and Tony still didn’t use frozen speech style. He frequently used casual speech style, apparently as a result of his close friendship with the other character, Dr. Shirley. As Holmes
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(2013) stated that communication becomes more casual the deeper the relationship.

The researcher found 205 data of Dr. Shirley’s utterances. All types of speech styles were used by Dr. Shirley. Consultative speech style is the most commonly used by Dr. Shirley, whereas frozen speech style is the least frequent. Dr. Shirley has dominantly used the consultative style because he frequently interacted with people whom he doesn’t have a close relationship with.

This study focuses on speech styles used by two characters in the movie Green Book who have different racial backgrounds and different workplaces. This study shows that racial discrimination appears in the movie in the way that Tony Lip and several other white characters disrespect and underestimate Dr. Shirley, who is a black American. Their lack of respect was shown to Dr. Shirley through their use of utter despicable words against him. In this period time, the 1960’s, there is still widespread discrimination against black people in the United States (Kook, 1998).

Some effect in the use of speech styles is influenced by the intimacy of the characters that were shown in their conversations. Holmes (2013) describes the level of formality of a speech style being used by someone depending on how much you have known the person. Contrary to Holmes’s opinion, even though at the beginning Tony Lip did not know Dr. Shirley, he started their conversation very casually as happened during Tony Lip's first meeting with Dr. Shirley during a job interview. It is because of the racial discrimination against Dr. Shirley. In this movie, it appears that the white people believe they are superior to the black people and do not feel the need to speak formally to Dr. Shirley.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Related to the first research problem of the study, the researcher found that not all types of speech styles are used by Tony Lip. Formal speech style was used once, consultative was used 105 times, casual speech style was used 144 times, and intimate speech style was used 37 times. No frozen speech style is used by Tony Lip because no situation requires him to use this speech style. The researcher found 205 data of Dr. Shirley’s utterances. All types of speech styles are used by Dr. Shirley. Frozen speech style was used 2 times, formal speech style was used 7 times, consultative speech style was used 150 times, casual
speech style was used 29 times and intimate speech style was used 17 times.

Related to the second research problem, it can be concluded that Tony Lip used four of the five types of speech styles proposed by Joos (1967): formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Tony Lip dominantly used casual speech style, whereas formal style is the least frequent. It is probably because he is outspoken, it can be seen in the movie that he felt more superior to the other character. Dr. Shirley used all types of speech styles proposed by Joos (1967): frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Consultative speech style is the most commonly used by Dr. Shirley, whereas frozen speech style is the least frequent. It is probably because Dr. Shirley is more particular in utilizing the appropriate speech style. It can be seen from the way he used public language more frequently, which is the consultative style.

After concluding the study based on the two formulations of research problems, the researcher would recommend English students and readers, in general, to learn more about speech styles so that we can recognize their use as it is very common in everyday life, such as in daily conversations, novels, comics, movies, etc. For the other researchers, it is recommended to conduct a study more about speech styles with various purposes because there are still a lot of unexplored possibilities.

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