

LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY PETER PARKER IN THE SPIDER-MAN MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This undergraduate thesis is entitled Language Style Used by Peter Parker in the “Spider-Man” Movie. This study focused on the language style particularly to identify and analyze the type language style and function of language in Peter Parker’s utterances. The object of this study is Peter Parker’s utterances in the “Spider-Man” movie. This study used observation and documentation methods with taking note technique in collecting data. The data was analyzed using descriptive qualitative methods, means the results are explaining descriptively. The results of the analysis are presented in informal method. This study used two theories; the theory of type of language style proposed by Joos and the theory of function of language proposed by Jakobson. Based on the theory, the type of language style in this study shows three types of language style. There are formal style, consultative style, and casual style. In this study, there are types of language style which is not found, namely frozen style and intimate style. These types of language style do not exist because in the movie, the situations and Peter Parker’s utterances does not contain frozen style and intimate style. Meanwhile, the function of language in this study shows four functions of language. There are phatic function, conative function, referential function, and expressive function. There are two functions of language that are not in the movie, namely poetic function and metalingual function because it does not match the contents of the story and Peter Parker’s utterances. The result shows that Peter Parker used more casual style to communicate with other characters and expressive functions, which aimed to express Peter Parker’s emotions and feelings.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Type of language style, Function of language

INTRODUCTION

Language is utilized to communicate through which individuals share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas with others. People need language to understand what we say and language is used to express what we think or want. Language given by a speaker also has a purpose. The function of language is to know and understand other people’s ideas. Language has a function when it is used to talk with another. For example, giving information or expressing their feelings. When people talk about language functions, they refer to the reason for utilizing language.

Based on Wardaugh and Fuller (2015), there are two types of language mean a system of linguistic communication particular to a group: the written language and spoken language. The spoken language is when using the spoken word to communicate with others. The spoken language can be face-to-face with another person or group of people or over the telephone. For example: conversation, speech, storytelling, discourse, radio, and television broadcasts. Meanwhile, written language can be useful in a variety of ways, both in a formal and informal settings. The written language can include magazines, letters, novels, comics, journals, essays, and books. People adopt their style when expressing or presenting ideas in spoken or written language.

The language style used by a person, makes someone different from others, and everyone has a different language style when communicating. “Style is related more with the situations than with the speakers themselves” (Holmes, 2001:223). When we want to talk about style, it means that we talk about the same speakers who speak in different ways in different situations and not the different speakers who speak in different ways from each other. Speakers will use different language styles when conversing with other people. It depends on the situation that they have and with whom they speak, and where they speak too.

Language style does not only exist in stories books but also the movie. The movie is one of the communication media that has a major influence in shaping people’s mindsets. Major influence means several scenes in the movie can influence people for example: the characters, the dialogue, and the iconic scene. The movie usually describes love, life, politic, and violence. The language style is one of the influential aspects of the movie because of the conversation in the movie, there are several sentences that catch the attention of the audience. These sentences can be used in everyday life or become a highlight and a habit with these interesting sentences can influence the audience in speaking or writing. In the movie, the actress and actors show various of language style when they communicate with their accent and how they talk with other. This study chooses the “Spider-Man” movie for two reasons. First, this movie has a conversation which is spoken communication. Second, this movie provides a view of action-science fiction in which a spider bites a person and turns into a spider-man. The audience still remembers this movie because of the scene of Peter Parker was bitten by a spider and turns into a Spider-Man.

In this study, the language style used by Peter Parker in the “Spider-Man” movie was selected as the object. Peter Parker is the main character that brings a famous movie. At the time of its release, the film was the greatest superhero film of all time, nationally and internationally. This movie became the first to cross \$100 million in one weekend. This study discusses the use of language style in an action movie. This research aim is to determine the role of language style in this movie. This study also gives information on language style and its function to those studying so that they may have a better grasp of the types of language style and functions of language. Therefore, this thesis formulates two problems, those are what is the type of language style used by Peter Parker in the “Spider-Man” movie and what is the function of language used by Peter Parker in the “Spider-Man” movie. This research aims are identifying the type of language style used by Peter Parker in the “Spider-Man” movie and analyzing the function of language used by Peter Parker in the “Spider-Man” movie.

DATA SOURCE

The data source of this study is the Spider-Man movie. Spider-Man is a 2002 American superhero movie directed by Sam Raimi based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. The movie tells the story of Spider-Man's origins and the beginning of Peter Parker's superhero career. After being bitten by a genetically enhanced spider, Peter Parker gains spider-like superpowers and assumes the persona of the masked superhero Spider-Man to fight crime and injustice in New York City, encountering the evil Green Goblin in the process. Peter Parker's utterance was selected as the data for two reasons. First, Peter Parker is an important character in this movie. Second, the conversations conducted by Peter Parker's utterances which contain various of language style that can be analyzed by researchers to analyze the type of language style and function of language. Peter Parker is in the highlight in this movie because of the iconic scene where a spider bites Peter Parker and turns into Spider-Man.

METHODS

The data collection method are observation and documentation methods that use the following steps to collect information. There are three steps for collecting data; first, watching and paying attention to the movie. Second, taking notes of the utterances in Peter Parker's dialogue is considered a type of language style. The last step, choosing and selecting which utterances are suitable to analyze based on type of language style underlining the utterances to make it easy to share the data found.

This study used the descriptive qualitative methods in analyzing the data. The descriptive qualitative methods mean to deliver an actual explanation descriptively. The results of this study are explained clearly related to the type of language styles and function of language used by Peter Parker's utterances. The researchers used triangulation techniques for this study. According to Noble (2019) triangulation is a method used to increase the credibility and validity of research findings. There are four steps can be taken, as follows:

1. Identifying

The first step is to identify the data that must be carried out to reveal and recognize the type of language styles and function of language from the data needed in Peter Parker's utterances. Especially, to determine whether it matches the characteristics of each type of language style and function of language. The theory of types of language style proposed by Joos and the theory function of language proposed by Jakobson in Holmes.

2. Classifying

After collecting all the selected data, the next step will be classified according to five types of language styles based on Joos and six functions of language based on Jakobson in Holmes.

3. Description

In this step, the data that has been classified is explained as clearly as possible regarding the theory used. Therefore, the description is made to elaborate the types of language styles and functions of language used by Peter Parker in the "Spider-Man" movie.

4. Interpreting

The last step is all the data described will be interpreted descriptively in the form of Peter Parker's utterances with other characters. This step aims to provide a detailed explanation related to the analysis of the types of language styles and functions of language. Besides that, it also confirms each type of language style and function of language based on the theory used.

The result of the analysis was presented by using an informal method. The data was presented by adding the utterances of Peter Parker's dialogue with other characters and describing in detail by putting the examples, types of language style and function of language to make it understandable.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

The theoretical review introduces and specifies the theory to explain the research problem. This study uses the type of language style theory proposed by Martin Joos (1976). Martin Joos (1976) classifies the type of language style into five styles: frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style.

1. Frozen style

The most formal communication during respectful events and ceremonies. Generally, in a formal situation, a frozen style is used and does not require any feedback from the audience. In media, rules, and declamation, frozen style speech is used. For example, "Yes, Your Honor," "Yes, my Lord," and "I object...". Pledges, songs, marriage rituals, and legislation are among the examples.

2. Formal style

Related to how people talk in front of an audience, although the style is less polished than that used in the frozen style. This style can be found in sermons, graduation speeches, statements made by judges, and school announcements. For example, "Would you like some tea?" according to the theory, the sentence belongs to the formal style because the conversation uses grammatical usage, and then the sentence happened in a regular place; it is common to use formal language in the conversation.

3. Consultative style

This style used in consulting talks in semi-formal communication. The typical consultative style is between two persons. While one is speaking and the others give short responses, mostly drawn from a small inventory of standard signals. For example; "Yeah?", "Uh-huh". Examples of consultative style are communication between teachers and students, employers and employees, doctors and patients, and the president and his constituents.

4. Casual style

A casual style used in one between people who are quite familiar with one another. This style is common among peers and friends. For example; "Hey, M.J., it's me Peter", "Anybody home?", "Got a match?" these sentences usually happen between friends and in non-formal situations, for example when we are chatting with our friends. Internet chatrooms, tweets, personal emails, and blogs are examples of situations in which a casual style is used.

5. Intimate style

A talk between people with whom you have an extremely close relationship, such as relatives, loved ones, or friends. For example, “Darling” a word that happened for people who have private language used. The word related is usually used by people who love each other. For instance, a couple discussing their plans, a family exchanging an idea, and close friends sharing secrets.

Meanwhile, the supporting theory function of language based on Jakobson in Holmes (2001). The theory from Jakobson in Holmes (2001) is divided into six functions of language: namely referential function, expressive function, conative function, phatic function, metalingual function, and poetic function.

a) Referential function

This function is context-dependent. The purpose of the function is to deal with stuff with a context. Without explicit knowledge of the sense of utterance, the "Representative" meaning here will not be evident. Any message designed to provide information is referred to as a reference feature. For example: “It is hot”, this sentence means transmits information which focuses on the topic. This function can be used as description or explanation of something.

b) Expressive function

The term 'expressive' refers to eliciting an emotional reaction from the viewer. The time is commonly used in literature, drama, and art to describe a language that produces intense feelings or emotions. for example, “I am feeling great today” for positive word and “I am very gloomy tonight” for negative term. It means we can express personal feelings, thoughts, ideas, and opinions with different choices of words and intonation.

c) Conative function

This function is used to give orders or make requests using imperative statements. An imperative statement may express a strict demand or seem less demanding using politeness strategy. For example, “Clear the table, please” because this sentence directs other people to do something under down command.

d) Phatic function

Phatic function is the language used to express feelings, build goodwill, and create a friendly social atmosphere, as well as for any social goal other than presenting information or asking questions. This function is to open the conversation or check that it is working and maintain social relationships such as: “Busy day, isn't it?”. The phatic function consists of greeting, compliments, and gossip. For greeting friends, a speaker can say “Hello” or “Hai”. As for greeting a stranger, the speaker can also use “Hello”, but more formal greetings between strangers are “Good morning”, “Good afternoon”, and “Good evening”.

e) Metalingual function

The metalingual function can happen in any type of communication, including face-to-face interactions, phone talks, written communications (letters or e-mails), and social media platforms. It's a means for individuals to learn how language works by actually using it, such as producing a joke, toying with sound patterns, and inventing new meanings for existing idioms like "tongue-tied." The

metalinguistic function ensures that the sender and receiver are communicating effectively. For example: “It is a personal pronoun” because this sentence describes arts of language such as grammar or words that represent language itself.

f) Poetic function

The poetic function takes into account the aesthetic value of language. This function includes word sounds, alliteration, assonance, repetition, an echo, and rhythm effects. Poems, of course, but music, oratory, newspaper headlines, publicity, and political slogans are all examples. The poetic function focuses on the real meaning of the message. For example: “An apple a day keeps the doctor a way”, this sentence means that eating an apple each day can help to keep you healthy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result, the first paragraph in each data analysis of the type of language style used by Peter Parker based on Martin Joos (1976). Meanwhile, the second paragraph analyzes the function of language from Peter Parker’s utterances based on Jakobson in Holmes (2001).

a. Formal Style

Data (A-1)

Harry: Peter, may I introduce my father, Norman Osborn.

Norman: I’ve heard so much about you.

Peter Parker: **Great honor to meet you, sir.**

(1:55:24)

The conversation takes place at Columbia University when Peter Parker meets Harry, his friend and his father, Mr. Norman. Peter Parker’s use of the polite sentence “Great honor to meet you, sir” for the first encounter shows politeness and indicates the feature of formal style because the sentence is in the standard form. The standard form is used when meeting someone for the first time or being older than the speaker. Peter Parker's utterance show that this is the first time he has met Harry's father, Mr. Norman and show the first impression for someone who is meeting for the first time. There are needs to be more formal terms of address or verbs are not enough: the body language and tone of voice that match what Peter Parker said indicate body language by shaking Mr. Norman's hand.

The function of this sentence is a phatic function because this sentence expresses feelings, builds goodwill, and creates a good social environment. In that sentence, Peter Parker shows how he respects Mr. Norman because it is their first meeting.

Data (A-2)

Peter Parker: **Could I take your picture?** I need one with a student in it.

Mary Jane: Sure. Don’t make me look ugly.

(1:51:41)

This scene shows Peter Parker staring, mesmerized, and snaps up the opportunity to Mary Jane. He asks her to take a picture for the school paper. Peter Parker’s utterance “Could I take your

picture?" indicates a formal style. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, "could" is to ask somebody to do something for you, which is also more formal and polite. When Peter Parker says "Could I take your picture?" showing the decency to ask permission of someone and for the first time Peter Parker spoke to Mary Jane.

The sentence "Could I take your picture?" spoken by Peter Parker has a function, there is a conative function. The conative function aims to convey a request or command so that the speaker asks to do something. In this case, Peter Parker asks Mary Jane as a model for his school paper.

Data (A-3)

Norman: It's no problem. I'll make a few calls.

Peter Parker: **No, I couldn't accept it, sir.** I like to earn what I get. I'll find work.

(1:00:49)

The scene shows when in Harry's apartment, Peter Parker's friend, Harry asks his father, Mr. Norman to help Peter Parker look for a job. Peter Parker shakes his head: refuses an offer from Mr. Norman. When Peter Parker said, "No, I couldn't accept it, sir" indicated the formal style. The sentence "could not" is to dislike somebody or something so much that you hate having to be with or deal with them and "sir" is used as a formal and polite way of speaking to a man, especially one who you are providing a service to or who is in a position of authority or show respect and Peter Parker showed decency in turning down a job offer from Harry's father, Mr. Norman.

The function of the sentence "No, I couldn't accept it, sir" is an expressive function because Peter Parker shows that he refuses a job offer made by Harry's father, Mr. Norman. The expressive function aim is to express the speaker's feelings.

Data (A-4)

Norman: What other skills do you have, Parker?

Peter Parker: **I was thinking about photography.**

(1:00:32)

In this scene, Peter Parker notices a copy of the Daily Bugle on the kitchen counter in the Harry's apartment. Peter Parker looks up from the Daily Bugle's front page, which he has been studying intently. He tosses the Bugle back on the counter, where he sees the front page. There is a crude sketch of Spider-Man's face. When Mr. Norman asked Peter Parker about other his skills, Peter Parker said, "I was thinking about photography". That sentence indicated a formal style. Peter Parker's utterance using the past continuous tense to answer Mr. Norman's question. The past continuous suggests that the event was in progress at a time in the past or were happening as background or temporary event. Peter Parker uses the past continuous tense because at that time he was talking about his skills, photography. After graduating, Peter Parker forgot about his skills after seeing the Daily Bugle newspaper, he wanted to try this talent again.

The function of this sentence is a referential function because this sentence has the purpose of providing information. In this case, Mr. Norman asked Peter Parker and his answers refer to explain his other skills namely photography.

b. Consultative Style

Data (B-1)

Harry: Pete? Good news. Dad got the place in New York, so we're all set this fall.

Peter Parker: **That's great.**

(1:10:13)

The conversation took when Peter Parker and Harry graduated, Harry told Peter Parker about Mr. Norman, Harry's father. Peter Parker's utterance "That's great" uses a consultative style because one speaks and other gives a short response. "That's great" means responding to something that someone is telling us, to show what we are listening. Harry gives information to make Peter Parker respond.

The utterance of Peter Parker indicates phatic function. Phatic function means to express solidarity and empathy with others. Harry gives information about his father and Peter Parker gives a response. It is expressing empathy by congratulating and expressing sympathy in informal situations.

Data (B-2)

Harry: Look, Pete, I should have told you about us. But you should know I'm crazy about her.

It's just, you know, you never made a move.

Peter Parker: **You're right.**

(49:41)

The conversation took in the Festival, Peter Parker scans the balloons, and the floating streamers, and comes to a Hercules statue. He tilts his camera up the statue's torso, rising to the balcony's edge, up past Harry and Mary Jane. Peter Parker sees Harry put his arm around Mary Jane and leans in for a kiss. Harry told Peter Parker about Mary Jane and that they were dating and said that Peter Parker showed no affection for Mary Jane. Peter Parker replied "You're right" indicating what Harry said was true and the utterance "You're right" indicates consultative style because it shows that you understand and agree with others' opinions.

The function of this utterance is an expressive function which aims to convey or show the emotions and thoughts of the speaker. Peter Parker delivered it intending to convey to his heart that he did not do anything.

Data (B-3)

Mary Jane: There's something I've been wanting to tell you. When I was up there and I thought I was gonna die, there was only one person who I was thinking of and it wasn't who I thought it'd be. It was you, Pete. I kept thinking "I hope I make it through this so I can see Peter Parker's face one more time".

Peter Parker: **Really?**

(09:08)

This conversation occurred at the funeral, Peter Parker saw Uncle Ben's name and Mary Jane approached him. Mary Jane tells about last night when she was in danger. Peter Parker's word "Really" indicated a consultative style. The typical style of this is between two persons. While one is speaking and the other gives short responses can be seen in Peter Parker's words when responding to what Mary Jane's said.

The function of Peter Parker's words is an expressive function. The expressive function describes a type of language that produces intense feelings or emotions. The word "Really" shows how surprised Peter Parker was that Mary Jane thought of him in a moment of danger.

Data (B-4)

Mary Jane: There's only one man who's always been there for me who makes me feel like I'm more than I ever thought I could be. That I'm just me and that's okay. The truth is I love you. I love you so much, Peter.

Peter Parker: **I can't.**

(08:31)

The context of this situation is Mary Jane told Peter Parker about her feelings, she told the truth to him and Peter Parker's utterance "I can't" is indicated a consultative style. The consultative style means one speaks and one response as Peter Parker's utterance. He responds what Mary Jane said and "Can't" is a contraction of cannot and it is best suited for informal situations.

The phrase "I can't" is an expressive function because Peter Parker responded to Mary Jane's honesty about her feelings but Peter Parker could not accept Mary Jane as more than a friend.

c. Casual Style

Data (C-1)

Uncle Ben: Hey. How are you doing, buddy? How was the field trip?

Peter Parker: I don't feel well. **I'm gonna go to sleep.**

(1:47:26)

In this scene, after being bitten by a spider, Peter Parker drops to his knees in his bedroom and clutches his abdomen in pain. He falls to the floor, writhing in agony. Peter Parker looks at the spot of the spider bit, which is completely red and swollen. His eyes roll up into the back of his head and he passes out. Under the lids, his eyes flicker crazily. Peter Parker's word "gonna" means going to in a language that has official status and has been standardized. The word "gonna" is the sign of the use of casual style in this utterance. Peter Parker's utterance shows he is talking to the closest person, namely Uncle Ben and in informal situation.

Peter Parker's utterance "I'm gonna go to sleep" is expressive function because he delivered his feelings after being bitten by a spider. The expressive function means the speaker talks about their feeling to others.

Data (C-2)

Uncle Ben: Jeez. I thought you were sick.

Peter Parker: I got better. **Bye, guys.**

(1:42:03)

The conversation took when Peter Parker woke up in the morning, he had not moved from the position he collapsed into on the floor. But as he orients himself, he seems to feel better. Carefully, he stretches his legs and takes a few deep breaths. Peter Parker comes bounding down the stairs and lands with acrobatic grace behind Uncle Ben. He sees the breakfast Aunt May has prepared on the table, goes for it, and eats what he can get as he grabs his backpack. Peter Parker's utterance "Bye, guys" uses casual style because that sentence is used in informal situations and is usually used to the closest people or family, especially Uncle Ben and Aunt May.

The function of that sentence is a phatic function. The phatic function means establishing a social connection without communicating meaningful information. This function starts or stops a conversation or checks the connection between the speaker and the listener.

Data (C-3)

Peter Parker: I'm going to the library. **I'll see you later.**

Uncle Ben: Wait, Pete. I'll drive you there, buddy.

(1:26:53)

In this scene, Peter Parker says goodbye to Uncle Ben and Aunt May. Peter Parker's utterance "I'll see you later" indicated a casual style. The sentence "see you later" is a common phrase used to say goodbye to someone you will see again in the future. It can be used in a variety of setting, from casual conversations with friend or family but only appropriate when know you will again be seeing the person or persons addressed and Peter Parker said it was addressed to Uncle Ben and Aunt May.

The function of the sentence "I'll see you later" is a phatic function. Phatic function aims to maintain the person to start a conversation or say goodbye as Peter Parker said, he said goodbye to Uncle Ben and Aunt May.

Data (C-4)

Peter Parker: **Hey, M.J., it's me Peter.**

Mary Jane: Hi!

(1:03:51)

In this scene, Peter Parker sees Mary Jane, wearing a hideous orange waitress uniform, criticized by a surly cook. She punches a time clock, grabs a raincoat, and stalks. As the doors open, a blast of noise and grease washes out after her. She makes her way down the street. Peter Parker passes her stops, and checks her out. Peter Parker's sentence "Hey, M.J., it's me Peter" that is used here is also a slang expression that is often used for a close friend in the right setting indicating casual style. Slang expression is informal language consisting of words and expressions that are not considered appropriate for formal occasions. The word "Hey" used as a way of attracting someone's attention and sometimes in a way that is not very polite.

The sentence has the function; it is a phatic function. Phatic function aims to maintain contact with the person you are speaking to and has a social function, such as to start a conversation, greet someone or say goodbye, rather than an information function. When Peter Parker said “Hey”, he uses the phatic function to start the conversation with Mary Jane.

CONCLUSIONS

From the results of analysis, conclusions can be drawn are that Peter Parker presents the types of language style and functions of language in the “Spider-Man” movie. There are three types of language styles found in Peter Parker’s utterances, they are formal style, consultative style, and casual style. Meanwhile, function of language found four functions: phatic function, conative function, referential function, and expressive function. There are two types of language style which is not found in the “Spider-Man” movie, namely frozen style and intimate style because most of Peter Parker’s utterances show how he is against the enemy, namely the Green Goblin and Peter Parker’s character is shy, he likes Mary Jane but still chooses as a friend. For functions of language, there are metalingual function and poetic function not found because it does not match the contents of the story and Peter Parker’s utterances.

As a result, in the “Spider-Man” movie, Peter Parker’s utterance used more casual style to communicate with other characters. This movie had action-science fiction genre, making Peter Parker’s utterance more casual and informal situations. The casual style was indirectly more dominant than formal style and consultative style. Based on the results, the more function is the expressive function which aims to express Peter Parker’s emotions and feelings with other characters.

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