

## LANGUAGE STYLES IN “THE RON CLARK STORY” MOVIE: A SOSIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

Language styles is one of sociolinguistic study that discuss of how the people use the language to express feeling and ideas to others depending on with whom and where they are speaking. Language style not only used by the people in daily life communication, but also in visual fiction such a movie. This research was descriptive research aimed to describe types of language style used by the characters in “The Ron Clark Story” movie. This analysis was based on five language styles proposed by Martin Joos’s theory. This research applied content analysis and descriptive qualitative methods in which the data was collected by watching the movie then finding out the conversation that contains language style. The data of this research were taken from the dialogue of the movie that was transcribed into textual form. The researchers focused on those five types of language style. Later on, the researchers classified them based on language style, then finding the dominant language style. The researchers obtained two conclusions; first, there were found five language styles in “The Ron Clark Story” movie, second from those five types, casual style was dominant language style used in the movie. For more detail as follow: frozen style was found 2 data, formal style was found 15 data, consultative style was found 20 data, casual style was found 27 data, and intimate style was found 9 data.

**Keyword:** Language Styles, “The Ron Clark Story” movie

### Abstrak

Gaya bahasa merupakan pembelajaran dalam sosiolinguistik yang mengkaji bagaimana bahasa digunakan dalam mengekspresikan perasaan dan ide kepada orang lain tergantung kepada siapa dan dimana seseorang berbicara. Gaya bahasa tidak hanya digunakan dalam kehidupan nyata, namun juga dalam fiksi visual seperti film. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif yang bertujuan untuk menggambarkan jenis gaya bahasa yang digunakan oleh pemeran dalam film “The Ron Clark Story”. Analisis didasarkan pada lima gaya bahasa yang dipelopori oleh Martin Joos’s (1976). Penelitian ini mengaplikasikan metode analisis isi dan deskriptif kualitatif dari data yang diperoleh melalui menonton film kemudian menentukan gaya bahasa yang terkandung dalam percakapan. Data penelitian diperoleh dari percakapan yang terdapat pada film yang dicatat kedalam bentuk teks. Peneliti fokus pada lima gaya bahasa, selanjutnya, mengelompokkan gaya bahasa yang digunakan dan menentukan gaya bahasa yang paling sering dipakai. Dari hasil penelitian ditemukan dua kesimpulan; pertama, terdapat lima gaya bahasa yang digunakan dalam film “The Ron Clark Story” dengan klasifikasinya gaya *frozen* sebanyak 2 data, gaya formal sebanyak 15 data, gaya consultative sebanyak 20 data, gaya casual sebanyak 27 data, dan gaya intimate sebanyak 9 data.

**Kata kunci:** gaya bahasa, film “The Ron Clark Story”

### INTRODUCTION

Language style is a people choice to show their feeling or idea with special language. Language style can be identify as formal and informal style. Based on

sociolinguistic study, language style can be used and change depending on social context, relationship, social class, sex,

age, physical environment, and topic of the event.

According to Eckert (2001:1) “language style is pivotal construct in the study of sociolinguistics variation”. Language style is the locus of the individual’s internalization of broader social of distribution variation. Simpson (2004:22) argues in using a language, style is a choice that used by people to show the actions and events, thoughts and perceptions. Style is an important function of the system of language that it is able to account for these various goings on in the world.

Meanwhile Llamas (2007:95) “language style is dimension of language where is individual speaker has a choice”. People do not always speak in consistently the same way. In fact situation can influence the way of people in using a language style. Other theory by Keraf (in Sipahutar 2018:9) states language style is a way to express the idea with special language show the speaker or writer’s soul, spirit and concert (the use of vocabulary).

It can be said that language style is the choice among the other alternative in using language by group or people to express the idea or message orally or written. In the other word language style used to convey the information by using different expression and related to different variations of language that are used in different situation and needs.

Joos (1976, 153–55) discusses five styles of language; frozen style, a formal style, a consultative style, a casual style, and intimate style. Frozen style or known as oratorical style is speech style that usually used in very formal situation or it is defined as the most formal style and elegant variety that reserved for very important or symbolic moments. It is usually used in the situation which is celebrated with respect and legitimate or formal ceremonies. Second, formal style is defined as the style of language that

used for important or serious situation. It is also used in addressing audience usually that is too large or permit effective interchange between speaker and hearers, for example, in graduation ceremony which typically used in speaking to medium or large groups. It may also use in speaking to single hearer, for example, between strangers. Third, consultative style is usually used in a semi-formal situation. It is used in transaction, information exchange, and operational process. Consultative style is used in such conversations as seller-buyer conversation, doctor-patient conversation, teaching and learning process, and small group discussion. Fourth, casual style is a style that is used for the conversation which relax or normal situation that is appropriate to the conversation with our friends or sometimes members of a family or people we have known, such as outside the classroom and when the students have a chat. Last, intimate style is the most casual style, and it is usually used between family members, couples or lovers, and intimate friends or best friends. Joos (in Sipahutar 2018, 15) states that an intimate style is one characterized by complete absence of social inhibitions. Talk with family, beloved ones, and very close friends, where you tend to reveal your inner self, it is usually in an intimate style.

Language style not only used by people in the real life, it also used by the author in fiction. The fiction can be written form or visual such as a film or movie. Arsyad (2017) argues that a movie is a frame picture which is shooting through the projector lens technically, then the picture looks alive. In line, Agustina and Mardiana (2019) state that in a movie, language style is known from actors or actress dialogue, inner voice, letters, daily note and so forth.

“The Ron Clark Story” is a movie which is written by Annie DeYoung and

Max Enscoe. This movie is directed by Randa Haines with 96 minutes duration. In January 2006, this movie was released by Old Beantown Film, Granada America, MAGNA Global entertainment, and TNT production companies. The movie which is starring by Matthew Parry tells about the teacher who tries to change students' behavior despite many obstacles.

Generally, when watching movie, the audience focus only in the story and actors in the movie, while the style of language that has important role in conveying message in the dialogue is often overlooked. The style of language used by the actors in the movie will show how the emotions of the actors are, then the audience can feel what the actors experienced in the movie. To find out how the actors convey the message in a movie, it is necessary to study of language style used in the movie. The purpose of the research is to describe of language style used in "The Ron Clark Story" based on the theory developed by Joos (1976). After finding the language style in "The Ron Clark Story" movie, the researchers find out the dominant of language styles in that movie. The significant of the research is giving an understanding when watching a movie, the audience not only focus on the story and its actors, but also the way of actors use the language style in communicating according to who and where he is speaking.

## METHODS

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. According to Littoseliti (2010: 52) qualitative research is concerned with structure and pattern, how something it. It also describes what actually happen with respect in condition in a situation. In descriptive method, it is used word or phrase in analysis rather than numeral form. The data of this study is primary data which is kind of spoken

data that were taken from the conversation between actors and actress in "The Ron Clark Story" movie (2016). The movie as chosen as data because this movie so relevant with the study since talk about language style. The content of the movie also related to education. The language style used in this movie was varieties greatly. There are a lot of situation that make the actors and actress convey their language with deferent style based on the situation and context.

The data is important to determine the data of the study. In collecting the data, this research was used documentation method. The data was collected from the dialogue of the movie. There were some steps applied in collecting the data, first, finding the appropriate movie as the content and also situation; second watching the movie while reading the sub-title to make sure the correct words; third, understanding the scrip of the movie; last, coded the utterance of in the movie by highlighting it which was suitable with language style theory.

The data was analyzed descriptively based on script of "The Ron Clark Story" movie. The instrument used in this research is documentation guidelines and transcript of "The Ron Clark Story" movie. Sugiyono (2009: 240) explains "Document is a record of events that have passed, in the document can be form of works such as works of art, which can be in the form of pictures, sculptures, films, and others". According to Arikunto (2013: 274) no less important than methods, is looking for data to know things or variables in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspaper, magazine, epigraphy, and agenda.

Shortly, in doing the research, it followed first, getting the data from the source of data, second, collecting the data by following some steps as mentioned before, next, analyzed the data based on

the appropriate method, last presenting the research result.

## RESULT

### a. Research Result

The results of the research were focused to find out the language styles were used in “The Ron Clark Story” movie, and the dominant language style was used in the movie. As explained before, the theory of language styles was referred to Martin Joos’s theory (1976); there are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style.

#### 1. Frozen Style

One of the language styles developed by Joos (1976) is frozen style. Frozen style was used for most formal situation. Certain fixed expressions are required, for example; *Yes, Your Honor, Yes my Lord, I object...*, *yes ma’am* and so fort. Not only the sentences are carefully constructed individually, but also sequences of sentences are intricately related. In “The Ron Clark Story” movie, it was found 2 data of frozen style.

Data 1:

(00:00:19-00:00:28, in the school)

*Head Master : Ron Clark. Ready for your first class?*

*Ron Clark : **Yes, ma’am***

*Head Master : I’ll be with you in a minute. And I’ll introduce you to your class.*

Based on the data 1, the bold type shows that “yes, ma’am” is the respond was given to show someone level. Therefore, it was categorized into frozen style.

Data 2:

(01:14:43-01:15:23, in the classroom test)

*Mr. Turner : Good morning. Do not open your test booklets until I tell you to begin. Keep your eyes on your own paper. When you’ve chosen you’re answer fill in the corresponding answer bubble completely with a number two pencil.*

Data 2 was showed by the situation of conversation very serious and use monotonous pronunciation and conversation. In “The Ron Clark Story” movie, this situation was done in the classroom test, where the teacher (Mr. Turner) warned that can and can’t be done by the students as long as the test. Stressful situation makes this data includes into frozen style.

#### 2. Formal Style

The second classification of language style is formal style. It also uses pronunciation stress and intonation carefully. Formal style is common in meetings, discussions or gatherings with the higher level to get the relation it may also use in speaking to single hearer. In “The Ron Clark Story” movie, it was found 15 data of formal style. Some of them are:

Data 3:

(00:00:40-00:01:09, in the school)

*Ron Clark : Hi, what happened to you?*

*Hadley : Teacher says I can’t learn so I should go out with the trash.*

*Ron Clark : Okay, settle down. Let’s get our silent reading.*

*I'm Mr. Clark, what's your name?*

Hadley : *Hadley Craig*".

Ron Clark : *Nice to meet you.*

Data 4:

(00:02:00-00:02:22, in the school)

Head Master : *Folks, it's not quite the end of the year summer celebration we expected but, Let' take a moment thank our own Mr. Clark. Who's fifth grade class tested number one in.... [APPLAUSE], we have a surprise that we have put together for you, unfortunately, it's outside, Man. You'll know, Mr. Clark began here as a temporary teacher.*

Data 5:

(00:09:44-00:10:07, in the school)

Ron Clark : *Hello, I'm Ron Clark, I wanted to let you know I taught fifth grade for four years in North Carolina. You need a teacher, I need a job, so let's help each other out.*

Mr. Turner : *Mister Clark I'm sure you're very sincere but, I'm afraid you might be a little too, Too what?*

Ron Clark : *Too white, too tall, too ugly?*

Mr. Turner : *Nice*

Data 3, data 4 and data 5 were classified into formal style. Data 3 and data 5 indicate that the situation was done in the first meeting where the speaker and listener need to communicate formally. Data 4 indicates that the situation was

done in ceremony. As explained before, formal style was used in common meeting (such as a ceremony event) and to get the relation between speaker and listener.

### 3. Consultative Style

The third classification of language style is consultative style. Consultative speech is between two persons. While one is speaking, at intervals the others give short responses, mostly drawn from a small inventory of standard signals like "Yes", "No", "Uhhuh", "Mmm", "Huh", "That's right", "I think so". This style needs listener feedback. In "The Ron Clark Story" movie, it was found 20 data of consultative style. Some of them are:

Data 6:

(00:01:10-00:01:28, in the outside class)

Clark : *Uh, you know, I'm sorry. I'm so forgetful. What's my name again?*

Hadley : *It's Mr. Clark*

Ron Clark : *See, you just learned something. Let's get you of there.*

Hadley : *Mr. Clark?*

Ron Clark : *Yeah.*

Hadley : *Is you going to be our new teacher?*

Data 7:

(00:04:50-00:05:00, in the hotel)

Yolanda : *Rent's due at ten, cash only. Check out's at 11.30.*

Ron Clark : *Okay, this is great, and what is your name?*

Yolanda : *"Yolanda".*

Ron Clark : *Thank you. Yolanda*

Data 8:

(00:05:43-00:06:20, in the hotel)

Ron Clark : *[SOUND]. Yolanda, good morning. Do you*

have a list of public schools in Harlem?  
 Yolanda : Sure, I do baby.  
 Ron Clark : [SOUND] Okay, thank you.  
 Yolanda : Why you want school listings for?  
 Ron Clark : I'm a teacher.  
 Yolanda : And you wanna teach up in Harlem?  
 Ron Clark : Yes.  
 Yolanda : **Well** then, honey, you're gonna need something else. Personal injury lawyers. Because once you're white... you know you ain't  
 Ron Clark : **Okay**, thank you

Data 6, 7 and 8 point the consultative style. The conversation in data 6 indicates some responds by using the interval giving by the casts. While, in data 7, the responds classified into short respond. In this case, the conversation in the dialogue in data 6, 7 and data 8 have feedback between speaker and listener such as “okay”, “well”, therefore, it was concluded into consultative style.

#### 4. Casual Style

Casual style is a language used in formal situation, with family, friend or best friend, sometime with people we have known, when people use this language it is usually shortened. This style sometimes relaxed situation such as with close friend, acquaintances insider in social setting. It use of the first name or even nickname rather than a little name and last name in addressing one another such as “hello guys”, “man”, “girl”. It tends to make frequent use of shared information or assumption (slang). But it is not for stranger. In “The Ron Clark Story” movie, it was found 27 data of casual style. Some of them are:

Data 9:

(00:01:44-00:01:57, in the school hall)

Clark's Father : we'll arrive at swan quarter, about 5.00, like we always do, pick up the shrimp bait at the general store, like we always do, and hop the ferry over to ococoke Island for some fine flounder fishing.

Ron Clark : like we always do.

Data 9 indicates the situation of the conversation was between son and his father. This conversation used the light language. They told of their usually activity. As explained by Joos's theory, casual language style use in relax situation with friends or family.

Data 10:

(00:11:39-00:12:24, in the parking lot)

Marissa : I'm on a break. \$200 and nothing. **Geez**, you should have heard them in there. **Cleo**, we got your snake right here. And then they just stiff me.

Clark : Want half?

Marissa : Yeah, sure. You're a teacher, **Clark**, what is it? I mean why don't guys grow up?

Clark : Well, I'm afraid my level of expertise expires

at the sixth grade.  
 Marissa : You got a job?  
 Clark : Inner Harlem Elementary. I'm going to start meeting my kids tomorrow.

Data 11:  
 (00:16:42-00:17:07, in the classroom)

Students : I know, I know. She did.

Julio : **Yo** dream big about what, big butts?  
 [LAUGH]

Shamika : Dreaming about your mama.

Students : **Woah!**

Based on data 10 and 11, it can be seen that the conversation addressed someone by using little name. It can be concluded that casual style was used in this conversation.

## 5. Intimate Style

In intimate style commonly use of personal to the group or who have an intimate relation. Actually occurs in conversation with family, close friend, or beloved someone the speaker used private vocabulary, such as “honey”, “baby”, “my love”, “darling”, “my sweetie”. As Joos explained that intimate style characterized with private meaning and shared by small group usually in pair or in family situation. In “The Ron Clark Story” movie, it was found 9 data of intimate style. Some of them are:

Data 12: (00:03:08-00:03:44, at Clark's front lawn)

Ron Clark : I love it here, but I've gotta move on mom, before the use that parking space for my grave. New York public

schools are desperate for good teachers, newspaper says they're begging for them. Dad,...my own words. **I'm gonna miss you guys but I gotta go.**

Clark's mother : We understand, **sweetie.**

Goodbye. People get killed in New York.

Data 12 showed that the conversation was done in deeply situation. The staring expressed his feeling related to situation. Then, in this dialogue used special or private vocabulary, such as “sweetie”, “honey”. In conclusion, this language classified into intimate style.

Data 13:

(00:05:48-00:06:08, in the hotel)

Ron Clark : [SOUND].

Yolanda, good morning. Do you have a list of public schools in Harlem?

Yolanda : Sure, **I do baby.**

Yolanda : And you wanna teach up in Harlem?

Ron Clark : Yes.

Yolanda : Well then, **honey**, you're gonna need something else. Personal injury lawyers.

In line, data 13 was indicated into intimate style. The conversation used private vocabulary to address someone.

Further, the conversation was one in relax situation. Then, the conversation in data 13 was classified into intimate style.

### Discussion

Language style was use by people in communication is actually to express their feeling, idea and thoughts. Language style will show someone's emotion toward others or situation. In sociolinguistic study, language style can be chanced depending on context, social class, relationship or situation.

Language style not only used by the people in real life. In movie, language style has the important role to send the message of the actors to the audience. In line, Simpson (2004:22) argues in using a language, style is a choice that used by people to show the actions and events, thoughts and perceptions. Language style will show the anger, happiness, disappointment with the opponent or situation.

There are five language styles developed by Martin Joos's (1976) namely frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. Each style has its own characteristics. Frozen style was used in very formal situation. It also uses to show someone personal level. In "The Ron Clark Story" movie, frozen style was used to point someone. In data 1 it was found the conversation by using "Yes, Ma'am" in responding someone speaking. "Yes, Ma'am" is kind of respond given to a person who is highly valued.

Second, formal style. Based on Joos's (1976) formal style commonly use in formal situation such as in ceremony and graduation. In using a formal style, someone tries to use vocabulary, intonation, and pronunciation stress carefully. In "The Ron Clark Story" movie, formal style was found in duration 00:00:40-00:01:09, where for the first time Ron Clark introduced himself to Hadley. The choice of vocabulary in this

conversation was formal. Data 4 showed the setting of the movie was on the meeting of celebration. The headmaster used formal language to express his thankful to his college.

The next style of language is consultative style. In speaking, someone needs interval to respond the others speaking. The interval was used to think of the respond. In "The Ron Clark Story" it was found that some interval or space used in speaking. Thus, some short respond also used to give feedback of someone speaking. In data 6 on duration 00:01:10-00:01:28, it can be seen the speaker used interval while speaking such as "Uh", "see", "Yeah".

Fourth, casual style is used in relax situation. Casual style also used by family talking, friends or close friend depend on the situation and topic. In "The Ron Clark Story" movie, it was found the dialogue by using casual style. As mentioned by Joos's theory (1976) about casual style, in that movie, the conversation between Clark's father and Ron Clark was used casual style. Furthermore, casual style also found as data 10. In this conversation the people use nickname to call and addressed someone. Using a little name in addressing someone indicates that use casual style in language.

Last, intimate style is indicated by special or private vocabulary. In data 12 and 13, it was found that the people use special vocabulary to call their interlocutors, like "baby" and "sweetie".

Based on the finding of the data, it can be said that first, the movie used five language styles proposed by Martin Joos's (1976), there are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. Second, casual style is dominant language style used in "The Ron Clark Story" movie.

### CONCLUSION

Language style is an important thing for daily communication to show the



feeling of speaker. The classification of language styles which are developed by Joos (1976) were found in “the Ron Clark Story” movie. Namely frozen style (2 data), formal style (15 data), consultative style (20 data), casual style (27 data) and intimate style (9 data). Based on the data it can be seen that casual style is the dominant language style used in dialogue.

The language styles used in movie show how the character was built. Language style will send the message to the listener or viewer. Language style will transfer the same emotion to the viewer when enjoying the movie. In daily life, language style helps the people make a good communication. It refers to the way to deliver the same information by using different expression and different variation of language that are used in different situation and needs.

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