

**LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN HALA: A  
SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement  
for Gaining Bachelor Degree in English Department



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2022

## MOTTO

*“The language we use is a reflection of who we are”*

– Unknown



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## DEDICATION

This research dedicated to :

1. The honorable Dr. Ubaidillah, M.Hum., as the researcher's advisor
2. All the lectures in English Department of UIN Sunan Kalijaga
3. UIN Sunan Kalijaga
4. All the admirable readers of this research

Yogyakarta, March 2022



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*Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb*

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kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

*Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb*

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SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY

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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.

In the name of Allah, the most beneficent and merciful. All the praises and thanks to Allah, the Lord of the universe, may peace be upon our prophet Muhammad. With his blessings and help, I can complete my graduation paper entitled “LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN HALA: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY”

On this moment, I would like to to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone who has assisted me and has given me fully support in finishing this graduation paper, namely:

1. Dr. Muhammad Wildan, as the Dean of Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences of UIN Sunan Kalijaga.
2. Ulyati Retno Sari, M.Hum., as the Head of English Department.
3. Dr. Ubaidillah, S.S., M.Hum., as my advisor who has provided me with advice, suggestions, and evaluations to assist me in completing my graduation paper.
4. All of the English Department lecturers who have taught and shared a ton of knowledge and experiences.



5. My beloved parents, Mama and Papa. Thank you for supporting me emotionally and financially, thank you for always caring for me. No words can describe how lucky and thankful I am to be your daughter.
6. All of the reviewers who helped me correcting my graduating paper.
7. All of my friends in English Literature chapter 2018.
8. My dearest high school friends, Ghea, Hany, Denisa, who are still beside me to give a lot of supports and laughter. Thank you for never leaving me, even though we were separated back in 2018 until 2021.
9. My childhood friends, Vira and Nisa. Thank you for being my best friends which have brightened my days since we were nine years old.
10. My college best friends, Lisna, Janet, Adel, Nila, Eny, Alya, Diani. Thank you for the two years full of joy experiences and for guided me in Jogja, our sweet memories will never be forgotten.
11. My lovely cat, Mpep, you are so cute and fluffy. Thank you for always be there for me and hearing all my sad and happy stories in our room.

As in finally, I am aware that this research still has many shortcomings, therefore any suggestions and criticisms are very welcome.

Wassalamualaikum Wr. Wb.

Yogyakarta, March 2022

Jovanka Salsabilla



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# **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 use 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

# **LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN HALA: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY**

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## **ABSTRAK**

Setiap orang memiliki cara unik mereka sendiri untuk berkomunikasi melalui bahasa. Gaya bahasa ini digunakan tergantung pada keadaan suatu percakapan, misalnya oleh konteks dan peserta percakapan. Gaya bahasa adalah studi sociolinguistik yang mengkaji bagaimana orang berkomunikasi dengan orang lain yang berbicara dalam berbagai gaya. Objek penelitian ini adalah film Hala, sebuah film yang menceritakan tentang seorang remaja muslim yang tinggal di Amerika dan harus menghadapi dua budaya. Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisis gaya bahasa yang digunakan oleh karakter utama dalam film Hala dan juga beberapa faktor yang mempengaruhi karakter utama untuk berbicara dalam gaya bahasa yang berbeda. Film ini dianalisis dengan teori gaya bahasa Martin Joos, teori five clock yaitu frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, dan intimate style, serta teori faktor sosial Janet Holmes tentang mengapa orang berbicara dengan gaya bahasa yang berbeda. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dimana data dikumpulkan dari film. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter utama menggunakan gaya bahasa yang berbeda dan beberapa faktor mempengaruhinya untuk berbicara dengan gaya bahasa yang berbeda. Ditemukan 49 data gaya bahasa yang digunakan oleh tokoh utama, consultative style sebanyak 7 data, casual style sebanyak 18 data, intimate style sebanyak 11 data, formal style sebanyak 13 data, dan frozen style dengan 0 data. Lalu, ada 62 faktor sosial yang mempengaruhi Hala untuk berbicara dengan gaya bahasa yang berbeda, partisipan dengan 28 data, setting dengan 7 data, dan konteks dengan 27 data.

Kata kunci : Bahasa, Gaya Bahasa, Sociolinguistic, Film

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of Study**

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 Unsiah 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 Unsiah'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.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the background above, this research formulates the following questions:

- a. What types of language styles are implemented by the main character in the Hala movie?
- b. What are some factors that make the main character in the Hala movie speaks with different language styles?

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

Based on the problems mentioned above, the objectives of this study are to:

- a. To find out the several language styles implemented by the main character in the Hala movie.
- b. To identify some factors why the Hala movie's main character speaks with different language style

## **1.4 Significance of Study**

The main purpose of this research is to find and identify several styles of language uttered by the main character in the Hala movie. This research also aims to find the most frequent language style in the Hala movie. The goal of this research is to briefly explain what language styles are used in a conversation, such as in a movie. The researcher expected the result of this research to be useful for readers and for the researchers to develop a greater understanding of various types of language styles. For linguists, it is expected that this research may ignite their interest in using sociolinguistic theory to examine the different style of communication.

### **1.5 Literature Review**

This research analyzes the language styles used by the main character in the Hala movie. The researcher does not find any research discussing the Hala movie as a material object and its utterances as the study of Language style in sociolinguistic. The study of film as a material object and language style as a topic are found separately in several kinds of research. Some research about language style will be described in the following paragraphs.

The first research is a journal article of Jurnal Ilmu Budaya 7(2) pp. 223-230 entitled "Language Style of Fitzgerald in the Great Gatsby," a journal written by Masyitah Syukri, Herawati, and Sukmawaty in 2019. This research uses a sociolinguistic approach of language style that contains types of language style, style variation in the use of language, formal and informal language style as seen in poetry, political figures of speech, social media, talk show, movie, and song.

They also mention about the language aesthetic elements and rhetorical styles, but their research is only focused on view how the language style is used by Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* by using stylistics analysis. Regarding the method, they also used the descriptive method. This research shows that common language styles in literary works are figures of comparison, figures of contrast, and figures of association. In addition, the researcher only found one kind of figure of speech in terms of association figures that synecdoche, divided into two types of synecdoche, is *pars pro toto* means a part taken for the whole and *totum pro parte* means the total for a role. They did not find about metonymy.

The following research is a journal article of *E-Link Journal* 6(2) pp. 206-211 written by Khusnul Khatimah in 2019 entitled "Study of Language of Styles Used in *The Queen Movie*." This research also uses a sociolinguistic approach of language style that contains types of language style by Martin Joos that explains Consultative Styles, Casual Style, Intimate Style, Formal Style, and Frozen Style as seen in a movie. The researcher focused on analyzing the main character's language styles in *The Queen* movie. According to her, *The Queen* movie is a British film directed by Stephen Frears and written by Peter Morgan that was released in 2006. This movie takes a historical narrative of the events that occurred after Diana, Princess of Wales, died on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1997. For this research method, the researcher uses the qualitative method. Therefore, the researcher describes her research descriptively using a descriptive qualitative method to answer the study's problems. This research shows that in "*The Queen*" movie, there are several types of language style uttered by Queen Elizabeth:

consultative style, casual style, intimate style, and formal style. For the consultative style, she uses it when she speaks with her royal relatives, stranger, and her confederates. For the casual style, she uses it when she speaks with her close people. Queen Elizabeth uses the casual style because she feels comfortable around her friends because they have close relationships with her royal family. Queen Elizabeth addresses her royal family with the intimate style. Furthermore, Queen Elizabeth utilizes the formal style in a television show to convey her feelings and express her sincerest sympathies over Diana's death.

The last research is a journal article of JOM FKIP(6)2 pp. 1-12 written by Alicia Febriani, Fakhri Ras, and Novitri in 2019 entitled "An Analysis of Language Style in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" Movie." This research aims to analyze language style and the most frequent type used in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movie. This research also uses Martin Joos's The Five Clocks theory: Consultative Styles, Casual Style, Intimate Style, Formal Style, and Frozen Style. The researcher analyzed all characters' language styles in "To All The Boys I've Loved Before" movie. This movie is about a young-adult romantic movie directed by Susan Johnson and was released on August 17th, 2018. For this research method, the researcher uses the qualitative method. This research shows that in "To All The Boys I've Loved Before" movie all characters use a variety of different language styles. There are four different sorts of language styles, and thirty different data were found in this movie. The most frequent language style used in this movie is the intimate style. It was used eleven times and primarily used among Covey's family members. The second most

frequent style is consultative style. The researcher found nine data, the conversation in consultative style happened in semi-formal situations. Next is casual style with seven data, the conversation was spoken between friends and happened in the non-formal situation. The last one is formal style. There are three data found in formal style. In this language style, each speaker only does one-way communication and does not need the hearer's feedback. The researcher did not find any conversation using frozen style in this movie.

All of those researches above have similar things to this research. The researchers discuss language style as the focus of the study. They also used the same theory of language styles by Martin Joos. Meanwhile, this research is different from those researchers because this research uses the Hala movie, which has never been discussed and researched before.

## **1.6 Theoretical Framework**

This research uses language style theory by Martin Joos and Janet Holmes. Those theories explain five different language styles in a different context and participant and why people use different language styles.

There are five language styles, according to Martin Joos. First is frozen style, often known as formal style. According to Joos (1976, p.17), It is frequently used in formal situations such as formal ceremonies, courtrooms, and official and historical documents. The second is frozen style, according to Joos (1976, 18) frozen style is the highest type of language style and the speaker is strictly forbidden to respond to the speaker. Next is consultative style. This style is



frequently used in business activities or meetings. It is similar to the language used in a school or work meeting. This style is appropriate for official and informal situations (Joos, 1976, p.19). Next is casual style. This type of language is used in informal situations, such as while talking with close friends or relatives. The grammar is sometimes shortened in the sentences in this style. The last one is intimate style. According to Joos (1976, p.20), this style is employed with family members or close friends when complete vocabulary, precise articulation, and brief discourse are not required.

According to Holmes (2013, p.267), some factors of people's identities, such as race, age, gender, and social background, influence how they use language, and signify the context in which language is utilized. The way people speak at the office, at school, at business meetings and ceremonies is impacted by and plays an essential role in the formality of such situations and the social roles people take in them. When we are with people we know well, we speak more casually and informal. We adapt or accommodate our language to our audience when we speak differently to friends, parents, strangers, or people from different social backgrounds.

## **1.7 Research Method**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

This research uses the qualitative method because the data will be explained descriptively. The researcher will try to analyze the data and describe the language styles. The researcher also tries to find out what factors influence the use of language styles in the Hala movie and find out what is the most frequent language



style used in the movie. According to Gay (1976, p.12), Qualitative methods entail collecting and processing largely non-numerical data collected by observation, interviews, tape recording, and document analysis. According to Cresswell, as cited in Ubaidillah (2019, p.1), a qualitative method provides a perspective that determines what will be looked for and what questions the researcher will answer.

Thus, from the explanation of the qualitative method above, the researcher will analyze the data with observation, tape recording, and document analysis. Using credible data, the researcher will define and examine the existing problem using this research method. In this research, the researcher examines and explains the conversation of the Hala movie.

### **1.7.2 Data Collection Technique**

The researcher uses the visual analysis technique to collect the data. According to Vanderstoep and Jhonston (2009, p.189), visual analysis interprets texts from mediated communication, such as movies, television shows, and talk shows. The visual analysis technique can be applied to this research because this research interpreted the conversation in the Hala movie. The researcher collected the data by streaming the movie and the subtitle of the movie.

### **1.7.3 Data Analysis Technique**

To examine the data, the researcher employs pragmatics equivalent. The pragmatics equivalent technique, according to Sudaryanto in Rahmawati (2021, p.16), is a technique for investigating the use of language that is based on the

conversation's participants. The pragmatics equivalent method can be used in this research because this research will analyze the language style that depends on the main character in the Hala movie. As a result, the researcher goes through a series of processes to assess the data. The first step is to identify the data. The second step is to classify the data depends on language styles implemented by the main character. The next step is to describe the language style used by the main character in the Hala movie. The fourth step is to figure out why the main character employs various language styles.

#### **1.7.4 Data Sources**

There are two data sources for this research. The primary data is Hala movie streaming by the researcher at Apple TV and the secondary data is the movie's script.

### **1.8 Paper Organization**

This research is divided into four chapters. The introduction is the first chapter. It contains several sub-chapters such as background of the study, research questions, objective of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of study, and paper organization. The theoretical framework, findings, and discussion are presented in the second chapter. This chapter contains the explanation of all the theories that will be applied in this research. Then, the researcher explains why the main character in the Hala movie speaks with several language styles, types of language styles implemented in the Hala movie, and the

most frequent language style used in the Hala movie. The conclusions and suggestions are found in the final chapter. It outlines the findings of this study.



## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **4.1 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 is 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.

## 4.2 Suggestions

After completing the research, the researcher suggests to the subsequent researchers who wanted to use language style's theory. First, the next researchers should use another theory of language style. Second, the next researchers might write with other forms of research, for example, combining the branch of linguistics like morphology or syntax. Then, the next researcher might find the data from actual conversations like daily conversations in real life, such as in a school, in a market, at a hospital, in a house, or in a business area. It might have many data since there are many different people of different ages, gender, and social status.

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