LANGUAGE AND AGE IN *THE BOY AND THE KING* (1992)

A GRADUATING PAPER

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MOTTO

Trust The Process

Life Is A Never-Ending Learning Process

~Analisa Widyaningrum~

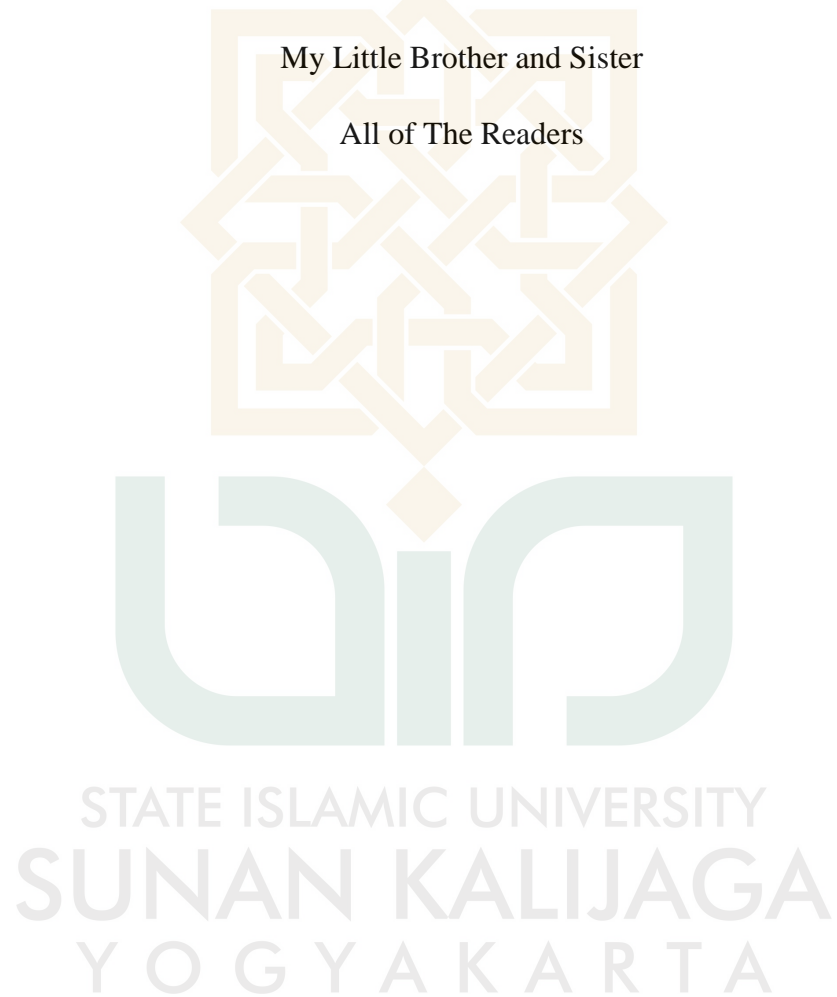Love The Life You Live, Live The Life You Love

~Bob Marley~

DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

My Beloved Parents, Slamet Supriyadi and Suirah

My Little Brother and Sister

All of The Readers

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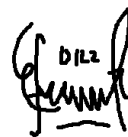
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LANGUAGE AND AGE IN *THE BOY AND THE KING* (1992)

By: Nikmatur Rofiqoh

ABSTRAK

The Boy and The King film is an animated film that tells in more detail the story contained in surah al-Buuruj in the Holy Qur'an, which is the story of the boy and the cruel king. In this film, the language spoken by actors who have social backgrounds, especially at age, shows diversity. This research was conducted because the researcher would describe the variation of language based on age in the film. There are several characters in *The Boy and The King* who then do not use the variations they should use. The researcher uses the theory of Language and Age in Annabelle Mooney and Betsy Evans's book, entitled *Language, Society, and Power*. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to describe the linguistic phenomena contained in the film. This study aims to see and analyze the variations of the language spoken by several characters who have different age categories. The results of the study show that early life stage uses standard and non-standard language (uncompleted sentences, using slang, and incorrect use of prepositions). The adolescent life stage also uses standard and non-standard language (uncompleted sentences, using slang, grammar errors and using foreign languages). While the middle age stage also uses standard and non-standard language (uncompleted sentences, using slang, and grammar errors). The last, the later life stage also uses standard and non-standard language (uncompleted sentence and grammar error).

Keywords: *Language Variation, Age, The Boy and The King*

LANGUAGE AND AGE IN *THE BOY AND THE KING* (1992)

Oleh: Nikmatur Rofiqoh

ABSTRAK

Film *The Boy and The King* merupakan film animasi yang menceritakan lebih detail kisah yang terkandung dalam surah al-Buuruj dalam al-Qur'an, yaitu kisah seorang anak laki-laki dan seorang raja yang kejam. Dalam film tersebut bahasa yang dituturkan oleh pemeran yang memiliki latar belakang sosial, terkhusus pada usia menunjukkan adanya keragaman. Penelitian ini dilakukan karena peneliti akan mendiskripsikan variasi bahasa berdasarkan usia dalam film tersebut. Ada beberapa tokoh dalam film *The Boy and The King* yang kemudian tidak menggunakan variasi yang seharusnya mereka gunakan. Peneliti menggunakan teori Bahasa dan Usia dalam buku milik Annabelle Mooney and Betsy Evans yang berjudul *Language, Society and Power*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif yaitu mendeskripsikan fenomena kebahasaan yang terdapat dalam film tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat serta menganalisis variasi bahasa yang dituturkan oleh beberapa tokoh yang memiliki kategori usia yang berbeda-beda. Hasil dari penelitian menunjukan bahwa tahap usia awal menggunakan bahasa yang standar dan tidak standar (kalimat yang tidak lengkap, menggunakan slang, dan kesalahan penggunaan preposisi). Tahap usia remaja juga menggunakan bahasa standar dan tidak standar (kalimat yang tidak lengkap, menggunakan slang, dan menggunakan bahasa asing). Sedangkan tahap usia tengah juga menggunakan bahasa yang standar dan tidak standar (kalimat yang tidak lengkap, menggunakan slang, dan kesalahan grammar). Yang terakhir tahap usia lanjut juga menggunakan bahasa yang standar dan tidak standar (kalimat yang tidak lengkap dan kesalahan grammar)

Kata Kunci: *Variasi Bahasa, Usia, The Boy and The King*

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

According to Ronald Wardhaugh, a previous study shows that the language variety spoken by the speakers reflects such matters as their regional, social or ethnic origin, and possibly even their gender (Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 10). Each region must have a language, but there will be different languages between each region. Even though several regions have the same language, there must be different between them. In social activities, the language used by each individual will be also different depending on the classes of each individual. In the tribe, language has a peculiarity to each other. All these distinctions are factors that cause the emergence of social dialects. Social dialect occurs because of differences in age, occupation, and gender in some regions. Humans use language for many purposes based on their cultures. Because of these differences, humans also have differences in language and idiolect regarding identicals and personal styles.

Moreover, age is a factor of language variety. According to Linda Thomas and Shan Wareing, age can be one of the factors that cause variations in a person's language and speaking style (2007, p. 166). These differences become language variations for the speaker. There are many kinds of language variations in the regency. Annabelle Mooney and Betsy Evans divide four life stages such as an early life stage, adolescent

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life stage, middle life stage, and later life stage (2019 p. 183). Each stage has a word category that reflects their age category. Even though not all people have the same process using language in the life stage, this life stage perspective can make people consider the culturally constructed expectations about each life stage that may be unique to a particular social group.

The film is a construction made by editing together film footage shot in different sequences and at different times (Storey, 1994, p. 187). While the animation is the creation of a movement of paper, the manipulation of clay, the adjustment of a model, before the act of photographing the image, the activity that has taken place between what become the final frames of film (Wells, 1998, p. 10). In this opportunity, the researcher take the animation film, entitled *The Boy and The King*, as the object of research. The researcher chooses the film *The Boy and The King* because of several reasons. First, this film contains Islamic values. Second, the researcher sees that there is a uniqueness that occurs, namely the use of a person's language that does not reflect his age category. However this film is not a real object, the researcher sees this film as something real, not a literary work.

The Boy and The King is a 1992 feature-length animated film made in Egypt by the Islamic film company Astrolabe Pictures that includes a soundtrack of Islamic songs in English, performed by young Muslims. This film told a story from Holy Al-Qur'an. The main character was a young boy named Obaid who has young age. Obaid became a foster child of the sorcerer (Sonata). The sorcerer surely was older people

than Obaid. The sorcerer so defended king Narsis, the king who at that time was a figure who must be worshiped and glorified. Although king Narsis was old, he could not be wise when confronting a problem. King Narsis's manner and language sometimes were like childhood, so the king was so dependent on the sorcerer. This film also told about a pious old man (old judge), as a messenger from Allah to show in a true way that is worshiped but to Allah. Obaid believed it, so Obaid invited many people to worship just Allah. This story is contained in the Holy Qur'an, Surah Al-Buuruj.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُتِلَ أَصْحَابُ الأخْدُودِ (٤) النَّارِ ذَاتِ الْوَقُودِ (٥) إِذْ هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ (٦) وَهُمْ عَلَى مَا يَفْعَلُونَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ شُهُودٌ (٧) وَمَا نَقَمُوا مِنْهُمْ إِلا أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ (٨) الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالأرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ (٩)

(4) Destroyed (i.e., cursed) were the companions of the trench (5) (Containing) the fire full of fuel, (6) When they were sitting near it, (7) And they, to what they were doing against the believers, were witnesses, (8) And they resented them not except because they believed in Allah, the Exalted in Might, the Praiseworthy, (9) To who belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. And Allah, over all things, is Witness. (85:4-9)

Verses 1-9 from surah Al-Buruuj is one theme and it is explained Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala swears with skies, judgment day, and the messengers that people

who oppress the believers will perish and there is a sign that people who against the prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam also will be destroyed as experienced the ancients who against their messenger. But the story in the film *The Boy and The King* was just from verses 4-9, so the researcher only wrote from verse 4 until verse 9.

Verse 4-9 in Surah Al Buruuj tell us about the story of *Asbabul Uhdud*, which is told in detail in the film *The Boy and The King*. Verses 4-9 surah Al Buruuj told about Allah who will destroy the companions of the trench because they burn many people who believe in Allah. In the film, the people who are burned were the boys (Obaid), and many people who believe in Allah. Verse 8 told about Allah who will destroy because the companions of the trench (the king), the sorcerer, and the followers of the king hate people who believe in Allah. Allah owns everything, namely the heavens and the earth who will be witnesses in the future.

The interesting thing of this film is that even though it's a bit old, but it contains a good value. This film is about *Asbabul Uhdud* which is listed in the Holy Qur'an surah Al-Buuruj. The story of Asbabul Uhdud is conceived in detail in this film. The value of religious loyalty is highlighted. This means that old Moslems and now are very different. They believe in one's life for religion. The level of faith in the past with today's even decreased. This film is very interesting and very useful for religious learning, so the spirit of worship is increasing.

The researcher observes how different age can influence their languages. The four life stages such as the early life stage, adolescent life stage, middle life stage, and later life stage have characteristics using language at each stage. In this research, the researcher finds three dominant stages in some characters. There are adolescent life stages, middle life stages, and later life stages. In this study, several characters use language variations that are not by their age category. However, some characters use appropriate variations of the language. The first stage is early which includes infants and children. Sealey (2000 p. 69) as cited in (Mooney & Evans, 2019, p. 185) stated that children are frequently characterized as 'targets of harm' and 'beneficiaries of care'. While the language that adolescents use provides a major impetus for phonological change (Eckert, 1997, p. 197). Adolescents are neither children nor adults so adolescents use unstable language but are sometimes assertive if they know about it. Roberts state that in the middle life stage, there is an assumption that is one where language use is stable and not expected to change, especially in child language development (Chambers et al., 2004, p. 333–348). While the old variation used more assertiveness. There are some arguments about language variation that elder people use, Annabelle Mooney and Betsy Evans stated that the terms and stereotypes associated with the elderly are not as varied or attractive (2019 p. 195). Moreover, some opinions state that people at this stage use positive language.

1.2. Research Questions

1. What are the types of language variations according to age used in the film *The Boy and The King*?

2. How are the language variations expressed according to age used in the film *The Boy and The King*?

1.3. Objectives of Study

1. To identify the types of language variations according to age used in the film *The Boy and The King*.

2. To describe the language variations according to age used by characters in the film *The Boy and The King*.

1.4. Scope of Study

This research only focuses on analyzing the cases of language variations based on age in the film *The Boy and The King*. This film contains different ages of each character, so the language that they use is also different. The researcher wants to know more about language variation according to the age in this film viewing from the use of words (vocabulary) and grammar.

1.5. Significances of Study

This research hopes to give more information about language and age especially language and age in the film *The Boy and The King* (1992). To be specified, the language variations are used by the characters in the film. In this film, some characters have different ages, so the language that they use is also different.

Furthermore, the next researcher can add knowledge from this research. The results of this study are expected to enlarge the theoretical perspective of language variations according to age and can contribute to the development of research.

1.6. Literature Review

In this part, the researcher shows some researches that have been done by other people. Those researches are the relevant researches which the content has some similiarities.

The first was a journal by Joseph Roy, Janna . B. Oetting, and Christy Wynn Moland entitled Linguistic Constraints on Children's Overt Marking of BE by Dialect and Age (2012). This journal talked about overt marking using BE. Overt markings of BE include non-mainstream adult dialects of English that are influenced by several linguistic constraints, including the structure's person, number, tense, contractibility, and grammatical function. The data were language samples from children to analyze variance and logistic regression. This research pointed to the use of BE by an age grading, that is children.

The second journal was written by Adhien Diani, Sari Reheki, and Maulana Taufik entitled Language Variation in The Main Character in The Movie Black Panther (2018). Holmes (2013 p. 235) says that in variety of languages, there are factors that support the formation of a variety of languages. This journal explained that the factor is not only from the speaker's situation, but there are also many factors. Holmes also said that in every situation, the choice of language is indirectly influenced by one or

more speech components, such as the participant or speaker (who is speaking and to whom the speaker is speaking), the setting of the event, or the place where it takes place (where they are speaking), and function (why speakers and interlocutors talk about it) these speech components are always found in every conversation and film dialogue.

This journal discussed the language variation used by the main character in the film Black Panther (2018). Black Panther (2018) is an American superhero film based on the Marvel Comic character which tells the story of the new king of Wakanda, Tchalla (Chadwick Boseman). This journal analyzed Tchalla as the main character who must protect his country from attacks by criminals who want to seize their wealth. In this research, the authors examined the use of various languages and relate them to the speech components used by Tchalla characters. The theory of various languages is by Martin Joss, while the theory of speech events is by Holmes. The authors use these two theories because they are related. The theory of variety of language is used to analyze the main character and interlocutors in this movie and the theory of speech events is the supporting factor. This research discusses the style of language variation, not language variation according to age.

The third journal entitled Language Variation According to Age: Football Talk, was written by Noor Hidayati Abdullah, Engku Muhammad Syafiq Engku Safrudin, Siti Aishah Taib, and Wan Nurul Fatihah Wan Ismail (2018). This journal discusses language variations used by football players who have different ages. There are two problem statements, there are similarities and differences in using linguistic

features by football players who have different ages. This journal use sociolinguistic theory by Eckert, Bortfeld, and Barbieri which is studying the age of someone with language that they use. In the discussion there found similarities and differences in features (emerging patterns) about grammatical errors, fillers, repetition, and vocabulary type.

The fourth journal was written by Marisa Fran Lina entitled Gender and Age: Language Use in Tv Series and The Impact on English Learning (2019). This journal discussed the use of language in tv series from the perspective of gender and age. It also found the differences and similarities among adult males, females, and older people. This research used the descriptive qualitative method. Some theories are rejected by some characters in the TV series. This research uses the theory of language age variation, language and gender, language and age, and the correlation between them. This journal was different from my research because not only uses theory about language according to age, but also linked with gender.

The last is a journal by Patrick Lugwiri Okombo entitled The Age Factor in Linguistic Variation: A Reference to the Use of Kiswahili at Busia Border Town in East Africa (2020). This research analyzed variations using a language named Kiswahili in the citizen of East Africa. The researcher used data from his doctoral research about the use of Kiswahili as a lived practice in East Africa. To analyze the data, the researcher uses some theories from Chambers (1995), Eckert (1997), Holmes

(2003), Labov (1966), Peccei (1999), and Trudgill (1974). This journal uses some theories that same as my theories, but the object is not the same.

Therefore, the researcher examined the use of various languages based on people's life stages, such as early life stages, adolescent life stages, middle life stages, and later life stages. This research is different from the previous journals because the theory in analyzing the language variation is not the same. The researcher uses the theory of Annabelle Mooney and Betsy Evans to know about how different languages variety when the speakers have the different age.

1.7. Theoretical Approach

The researcher uses the theory of sociolinguistics. Sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society (Holmes, 2013, p. 1). Sociolinguistics is a study or discussion of language about speakers of the language as members of the community. Sociolinguistics studies and discusses about the social aspects of language, specifically the differences (variations) contained in languages that are related to the social factors (Nababan, 1984, p. 2)

Moreover, the researcher also uses language variations theory. This film has some of these aspects, such as status and age. This research will analyze language, especially in the age of each character in this film. Furthermore, variations have several parts including variations in terms of speakers, variations in usage, and variations in terms of formality.

This research uses a theory from Annabelle Mooney and Betsy Evans about language and age (Mooney & Evans, 2019, p. 183). Age plays a role in the stratification of society. Language is an important thing because language is used to communicate with age groups. The patterns of language change are the way to see different usage of language according to age group. There are four age groups and also different languages that they use, there are early life stage, adolescent life stage, middle life stage, and later life stage.

To identify the age, according to Erikson as cited in (Haryadi & Muslikah, 2012, p. 52), after birth the human age is divided into 5 major parts, namely, infants, children, adolescents, adults, and older people. There are some ways to identify age. Young children have bounced, cute, bratty, and misbehaved language (Singh & Peccei, 2004, p. 120). While terms to indicate children over 5 years are infant, baby, toddler, child, newborn, kid, tot, etc. Also, infants have a small and cute body shape. To identify adolescents, they have terms such as boy, girl, teen, or teenager. Adolescents have the characteristic that is they always search for their identity (Haryadi & Muslikah, 2012, p. 61). While adults mostly use standard language (Chambers, 2009) as cited in (Mooney & Evans, 2019, p. 194). For the elderly, there are some terms such as wise, dignified, cantankerous sprightly, and frail (Singh & Peccei, 2004, p. 120)

The researcher uses the theory of language variation on a person's age. This theory emphasizes the type of language used by the characters in the film *The Boy and The King*. There are two main characters, namely Obaid & king Narsis. Obaid is the

protagonist character and the king is the antagonist character. Then there is one supporting character for the protagonist, namely an old judge, and for the supporting antagonist characters, the researcher found three characters, namely Inzac, Naco, and Sonata, and for extras, the researcher picked up four characters namely an infant, a young boy, guard and old person. From 10 characters, four types of life stages (that use language variation) were found, namely early life stage played by infant and young children, adolescent life stage variation played by Obaid, and middle life stage variation played by king Narsis, Naco, and Inzac, and later life stage variation played by an old person, old judge and Sonata.

1.8. Method of Study

1.8.1. Type of Research

The researcher uses method descriptive qualitative to conduct this research since the data are descriptively analyzed. According to Cresswell's Qualitative inquiry: the method qualitative is divided into three, there are methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Although the processes are similar, qualitative procedures rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and draw on diverse strategies of inquiry (Creswell, 2009, p. 173). This research wants to focus on the conversation that occurs in the chosen object as the phenomenon of humans socializing with each other.

1.8.2. Data Source

The data source of this research is film. It is the film *The Boy and The King*. This film has a duration of 1 hour and 28 minutes. The data are from the conversation of the actors in this film. The data can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejIZS_3_T5s.

1.8.3. Data Collection Technique

In this research, the data collection technique used by the researcher is the note-taking technique. It means the recording is done on the data card (Sudaryanto, 2004 p. 91). The steps that the researcher does to collect the data are, first watching the film *The Boy and The King (1992*. Second, transcribing all data from the film *The Boy and The King (1992).* Then, identifying some selected characters there are, the main character (protagonist and antagonist), supporting the main character, as well as some extras characters. The researcher selects several characters because not all characters speak. The last one, classifies age categories by their physical characteristics, terms that indicate age, languages that they use, and also other characteristics to take the utterances of the selected characters.

1.8.4. Data Analysis Technique

In this research, the researcher uses the method called referential. The referential method is the determining tool in the reality indicated by the language (Sudaryanto, 2004 p. 99). The researcher uses the power of sorting which can be seen as a tool, while the use of the tool in question is called a technique, namely the

technique of sorting out the determining elements (Sudaryanto, 2004 p. 103). To analyze the data, there are several steps. The first is identifying utterances by selecting characters in the film *The Boy and The King*. The second is classifying based on language variation in the film *The Boy and The King*. The third is describing one sample which represents other utterances that have the same language variation, and the last is concluding.

1.9. Paper Organization

This graduating paper consists of four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It includes the background of the study, research questions, objective of the study, the scope of the study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of study, and paper organization. Then, the second chapter is about the theoretical framework, this chapter discusses the theory that is used in this research. The third chapter is the research findings which contain the result of the research and an explanation of them. The fourth chapter is the conclusion. The content of the conclusion is the summary from the first chapter until the third chapter.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1. Conclusion

In this chapter, the researcher concludes several things related to the research that has been done. The researchers used *The Boy and The King* as the object of research. Although *The Boy and The King* is an animated film, the good message conveyed in the film is very acceptable, namely a message about the faith, sincerity, and courage of a young person or rather adolescent in religion in a non-religious (ignorance) environment.

Then, as explained in the second chapter, which is about theory, the researcher looked for language variations found in *The Boy and The King*. The age category which is divided into 5 groups, namely infants, children, adolescents, adults, and older people. Then, from 5 age categories, it is divided into 4 stages, namely early life stage (consisting of infants and children), adolescent life stage (consisting of adolescents), middle life stage (consisting of an adults), and later life stage (consisting of older people). Each stage has different language variations. The language variations can be seen in the utterances spoken by the characters that have been chosen by the researcher. In the first stage of age that is early, from two characters, they use standard language (1) and non-standard language consisting of uncompleted language (3 times), using slang (1) and other error (1). Then, the second stage is adolescence, from one character

(Obaid) the researcher finds they use standard language (153 times) and nonstandard language (16 times). Non-standard language consists of uncompleted sentences (5 times), using slang (2 times), and grammar or other errors (9 times). The next is the middle life stage, they use standard (102 times) and non-standard (11 times). Non-standard language includes uncompleted sentences (5 times), using slang (1), and grammar errors (5 times). The last is later life stage, they use standard language (129 times) and non-standard language (10 times) consists of uncompleted words or sentences (7 times) and error in grammar (3 times).

In the analysis that describes the explanation of the language variations that have been spoken by the characters, these variations are divided into two, namely age-appropriate variations and age-inappropriate variations. The appropriate variations are variations of the language used by a person at the exact stage, so that was related to the theory which is explained before. While age-inappropriate variations are used by someone who is not at his stage. The age-inappropriate is widely used by people who have the age categories of adolescents and adults. The researcher found some cases, such as the early age stage use of language with a complete and appropriate structure. Then the adolescent can use standard language which can be in the form of simple, complex/compound sentences in the form of positive, negative, imperative, interrogative, and short (answer) sentences. Adolescents also use language that is appropriate in the use of tense and grammar and that includes complete sentences.

Meanwhile, adults use non-standard language such as incomplete sentences, use slang, and use sentences with incorrect grammar.

In conclusion, every human being has a different background and environment. This affects the language that each person uses or is called language variation. Language variations based on age are complex. The language that each age uses is certainly different. Therefore, although there are many theories that state variations in the language used by an age category, because basically, every human being is different, from one person to another, so the case of language variation is a natural thing.

4.2. Suggestion

After completing this research, the researcher is aware of the many shortcomings in writing, both in the object, theory, and analysis. This research has limitations, namely in its object. Sociolinguistics should examine the real object, not the artificial object. Although the researcher sees this film as something natural, for future researchers, the real objects are more considered than an artificial objects. Viewed from the theoretical side, namely the theory of language variation, there are still many types of language variations based on age or other factors. While in the analysis, there are still many extensive explanations that should be presented. Thus, the researcher hopes that the future researchers can be helped by this paper and can use related objects or theories to be used as a reference source for further in-depth research.

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