Language Styles in the Movie Luca (2021): Sociolinguistics Study

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Abstract

The title of this study is Language Styles in the Movie Luca (2021): Sociolinguistic Study. Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the data based on sociolinguistic studies to better comprehend language usage related to the different types of styles and functions of language. The theories employed to analyze the types of language styles are from Martin Joo (1976), whilst the theory from Roman Jakobson (1980) is used to analyze the language function. The method used in carrying out the study is descriptive qualitative analysis. Based on the findings of the research, the most occurring types of language style is consultative style with 26%, casual style with 25%, formal style with 21%, frozen style and intimate style with 14%. Moreover, there are six categories of functions in utilizing language style that are present in the film including emotive, referential, and phatic function of which is most dominating.

I. Introduction

Language is primarily utilized as a mechanism of communication among people in communities. It is universal, which implies that everyone has the ability to convey their thoughts, emotions, messages, and other forms of communication using language. According to Crystal (2013:676), the transmission of information (a message) between a source and a receiver via a signaling system is referred to as communication; this idea is limited to "human communication." People can communicate with one another in a variety of ways. People utilize language as a tool to convey their wishes, thoughts, information, and ideas to others. The style of the speaker and the listener has an impact on communication. It may be inferred that people's perceptions of communication are influenced by their relationships.

The use of language varies in society, which is referred to language variation. Language variation functions as a linguistic phenomenon that emanates from the utterances of the community. Styles exists as a type of language variation. Moore (2004:380) describes language styles as the way in which individuals in social (and sociolinguistics) space debate their current state of affairs and objectives within a framework of differences and possibilities. Some factors like the speakers' educational background, social position, age, and gender impact their approach. Within language style, an individual communicates with one another in different ways depending on the situation and setting. In relation to the context and the audience, a speaker will pay attention to the words used, the grammar, and the structure of the sentences. When someone talks to a specific individual about a certain issue, differences play an important role.

One good approach to learn about language style is by watching a movie. A movie, also known as a film, is a form of visual communication of which it uses moving images and sounds to tell tales for entertainment. The characters in movies initiate conversation by

showing the dialogues written from the screenplay. Every individual has a language style that they use in daily communication and interaction. Movie characters often displays depictions of expressions that are commonly used in real life because movies often represent genuine discussions in particular settings. Movies, in particular, are one of the arts that establishes different language styles because it shows the interaction of the characters in the movie, each with a distinctive style when speaking, especially to the opponent or friend.

Language is used by the main characters in the movie "Luca" (2021) to interact with their interlocutors. "Luca" is an American animated Disney movie based on a young boy discovering new experiences and adventures with dramatic storylines and twists. The movie "Luca", which was directed by Enrico Casarona, appears to show the usage of language style.

Numerous studies such as: Febriani, Ras, & Novitri (2019), Citra (2014), Maraden (2016), Sipahutar (2018), have highlighted the occurrence in language styles that are found in artificial communication (movie dialogues). This demonstrates that research on the occurrence of language styles is still significant.

The results of this study are likely to have a favorable impact on the development of sociolinguistics, particularly in the studies of language styles seen in movie dialogues.

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Sociolinguistics

Language is more than merely a means of disseminating information about a topic. It is, nonetheless, a crucial tool for developing and maintaining interpersonal connections. Language is a human and non-natural method of expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas through an arrangement of purposely delivered imagery. Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being. Each of them is of course inseparable from language, the first time a child gets a language that is heard directly from the father or mother when the child is born into this world. Then as time goes by and as the child grows, they will acquire a language other than the language taught by the mother and father, either in the form of a second, third, foreign language or so on which is called language acquisition where it depends on the social environment and cognitive level possessed by these children through the learning process in their environment. (Purba, N. et al. (2020).

Sociolinguistics is the study of language structure and how language perform its roles and functions in society identifying the social factors that influence communication (Holmes, 1992:1). It focuses on understanding the social functions of language and how it is used to communicate social meaning, as well as why people speak differently in different social circumstances.

On the other hand, Meyerhoff (2006:1), claims that sociolinguistics is a fairly broad term that may be used to describe a variety of approaches to studying language. Sociolinguistics is the study of how individuals utilize language, in what manner individuals apply language differently in various regions of the country, and how a society decides which languages will be recognized in courts and education. It has a significant issue where many people are completely unaware of how language is utilized in different contexts. Language evolves throughout time. The fact that language change is indisputable and unavoidable.

2.2 Language Style

Language style is a branch of linguistics that analyzes the communication styles of individuals that communicate in a distinctive of ways in different settings. Language style, as attested by Holmes (1992:223), is a type of linguistic variation of which the speaker prefers one linguistic form over another that contains the same information. Wardhaugh (2006:51) mentions that the the level of formality is determined by a number of elements, including the kind of occasion, the social, age, and other disparities among the participants, the specific task in hand, such as writing or speaking, the emotional engagement of one or more of the participants, and so on.

2.3 Types of Language Styles

Language styles have several types. As proposed by Joos (1976:153-155), he claims that there are five styles of language, namely, frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. The following are the explanations of those styles:

1. Frozen style
   The most formal type is the frozen style, often known as oratorical style. This is typically used in situations in particular that are formal and have significant importance. To give an instance, it may be used in informal ceremonies, and court, and state documents. The absence of reader involvement defines this type of style. The reader has no recourse against the author.

2. Formal style
   Formal style is referred to as the use of formal language in important or crucial situations. This style is typically employed in severe situations to address the audience, however, it is not the same as the frozen style. This language is typically used in a formal context when discussing important matters such as formal speeches and formal meetings (Khotimah, 2019:208). It can also be implied that this style is utilized by people who are distant from each other (speaker and hearer).

3. Consultative style
   Consultative style is the most operational amongst the other language styles. It is a communication style that is employed in semi-formal settings, and it is the sort of language that is expected of the average speaker. Consultative style can be applied in group discussions, school routine conversations, businesses, discussions in speech trades, and so on. The speaker usually responds to the speaker with clear cues like "Uhh" or "I see."

4. Casual Style
   Casual style is a language style that is commonly used in casual settings among people that share similar characteristics in particular to age, gender, education, social position, ethnicity, and other aspects. The occurrence of informal vocabulary such as colloquial, slang, and even forbidden phrases may also be used to identify casual style.

5. Intimate Style
   In regard to intimate style, Karlsson (2008:5) mentioned that this particular language style is utilized in non-public settings. The use of tone is crucial, and private vocabulary is frequently employed. The use of phrases of affection amongst family or close friends, quick and slurred pronunciation, non-verbal communication, and the usage of non-standard forms are all elements of this style.

2.4 Language Function

According to Jakobson (1980:81), we can divide functions of language into six functions which can be used to characterize an effective act of verbal communication. People use language functions in their utterances throughout a conversation. They converse with one other using different language functions depending on the message's intent. Different language functions are used when a person informs, commands, inquires, or offer something to the addressee. In some contexts, more than one language function may be employed in communication. The following are functions based on Roman Jakobson's theory:

1. Emotive Function
   Emotive function can be referred to as the expressive function. This function helps in the interpretation of the subject's emotions, feelings, wants, and moods. The emotional feature provides immediate information on the sender's tone.
2. Referential Function
   The referential function explains a circumstance, object, or mental state and relates to the message factor. Both definite descriptions and deictic terms can be used in the referential function's descriptive statements (Jakobson, in Hebert, 2011, p.4). In simpler terms, it means to convey information about a thing or a fact.
3. Conative Function
   This function mainly focuses on the receiver of the message. The language used with this function is intended to catch the addressee's attention or prompt a response. It has the ability to influence behavior; in other words, the speaker uses this function to persuade someone to do something in response to a statement.
4. Phatic Function
   The Phatic Function is suited in greetings and simple casual conversations, especially with strangers. It focuses on both physical and psychological activity. This function is responsible for establishing, extending, verifying, and ending linguistic messages in communication.
5. Poetic Function
   Poetic function is mostly concerned with both the message and the method of transmission. It indicates that rhetorical figures of speech is employed to improve the message. Poetic Function is defined as the use of poetic elements such as metaphor, metonymy, alliteration, rhyme, ambiguity, repetition, simile, and antithesis, according to Holmes (1992:258).
6. Metalingual Function
   The metalingual function, according to Jakobson in Hebert (2011:4), involves the use of language to express or discuss oneself. Metalinguistic may be utilized by itself or rather in conjunction with other sources of knowledge. The metalinguistic function deals with the code itself.

III. Research Method

The data in this study was identified using Martin Joo's (1976) theory to analyze the types of language styles and Roman Jakobson's (1980) theory to analyze the language function. Descriptive qualitative research method is employed in this analysis because the study systematically examines textual evidence to verify the conclusions about the types of language styles used and their functions in the selected movie. The data used in this study were directly taken from the primary source, the movie Luca directed by Enrico Casarosa, as well as the original screenplay transcript which contains the dialogues. The method

applied in collecting the data was by using observation method as the data were collected from the primary source. The technique used in this study was by observing attentively to identify the different types of language styles is incorporated within the main character's utterances, followed by classifying which dialogues were included in the different kinds of functions to interpret the meaning of the character's utterances.

IV. Results and Discussion

The data used in this study were all directly taken from the primary source, a Disney movie called "Luca" and the movie's transcript. As derived from Martin Joo's theory, there are 5 kinds of language types found in the utterances of the characters, namely, frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. This is followed by the findings of function of using language style based on Roman Jakobson's theory.

4.1 Frozen Style
Context: This scene takes place in the ocean near the shore. The main character Luca speaks with Alberto, another sea creature similar to the main character who accidently exchanged his belongings and is surfacing to the beach.
LUCA: **Sir?** *You forgot your harpoon. And if I could just—*
ALBERTO: Oh yeah, thanks.
(0:09:48-0:09:51)

In this conversation, the word **sir** is typically used in formal situations. Moreover, the word **sir** is usually employed when addressing someone in a position of authority or respect. In this case, Luca views Alberto as someone older than himself and uses the word *sir* to respectively address him. This suggests that the characters aren't familiar with each other and are strangers, therefore, frozen style is employed. It can be presumable concluded that the characters aren't introduced to each other suggesting that they are strangers. Hence, this is their first encounter in the film. Additionally, Luca, expresses his utterance with a cautious intonation and expression. This shows that Luca is unsure of Alberto's reaction and is careful with his approach. Therefore, the researcher classifies this function as emotive function of using language style.

4.2 Formal Style
Context: This scene takes place in the town of Portorosso near the harbor. The kids of Portorosso who are seen playing football kicks a ball towards Luca and Alberto. Luca kicks the ball to which it travels high up, hitting the wall of a house and dropping down onto a motorcycle, gaining the attention of Ercole and his friends.
ERCOLE: *Out-of-towners, eh? Let me welcome you. Benvenuti a Portorosso.* **I am delighted to meet you**, *number one and number two, I love your stylish clothes. Where did you get them? A dead body? --HA! I'm kidding!*
CICCIO: Ha. "Dead body."
ALBERTO: Uh, ha ha. Yeah. Well, look, Signor Vespa, I--
ERCOLE: Signor Vespa? Hoho. These guys are funny. I am Ercole Visconti, five-time winner of the Portorosso Cup.
(0:31:04-0:31:38)

In this sequence, the antagonist Ercole expresses his welcome to the main characters. The data ***I am delighted to meet you*** usually indicates that the situation is typically used in formal presentations because the data uses standard language to a formal greeting. Furthermore, formal greeting is a characteristic of formal style. Therefore, this

conversation is classified as formal style. On the other hand, the conversation expressed by Ercole displays his sarcastic and humorous side. This suggests that the speaker wants to establish his presence to the audience and assert dominance by being passive-aggressive. Thus, such utterance with the purpose of gaining the audience's attention is identified as Phatic function.

4.3 Consultative Style
Context: This scene takes place on a small island beach. Luca watches Alberto swim to the surface of the shore, to which he transforms into his human form. Followed by Alberto hooking with a stick Luca then brings him to the shore, where he starts to transform to his human form for the very first time.
LUCA: AAAAAAHHH! No no! OH NO!! AAAH!! HELP ME!!!
*ALBERTO: **First time?***
*LUCA: **Of course it is!!** I'm a good kid!*
ALBERTO: Woah, relax... breathe.
(0:10:08-0:10:18)

From the data shown above, it can be categorized as consultative style because the addresser aims to get a response from the addressee. In this case, the relationship between the participants are acquaintances and Alberto aims to find out if Luca has ever transformed before. He expresses his question with amusement despite knowing the obvious circumstances of the addressee. This means that the utterance of addresser uses referential function because they are referring to the situation.

4.4 Casual Style
Context: This scene takes place on a street uphill. The characters are practicing for a race, one including riding a bicycle through the town. The characters reach the top hill and is looking down a steep incline. Luca is on the bicycle and is required to ride the steep incline to participate in the race.
*LUCA: **Holy carp.** No. I can't.*
 (0:49:27-0:49:30)

In this situation, the utterance used by the main character, Luca, is casual style. It can be identified by the use of phrasal words in his utterance because this type of phrasal words is commonly understood among those of close relationship. Additionally, the utterance is expressed towards his friends in a casual way meaning that it is a normal occurrence. Although it is not expressed as the vulgar phrase, it is certainly a reference to it, considering the characters are children. Therefore, the language function of this utterance is referential function.

4.5 Intimate Style
Context: This scene takes place on the bottom of the ocean at the main character's home. Luca comes back from the surface to which he was forbidden to go to by his parents. His parents call him to the living room to scold him.
DANIELA (Mom): I know YOU. And I know what's best for you. It's done.
Luca looks away bitterly.
*DANIELA (Mom): Hey. Look me in the eye. You know **I love you**, right?*
(0:25:37-0:25:49)

In the data above, it can be concluded that it falls into the intimate style category. It can be found in the sentence ***I love you*** because it is commonly used in private language settings with people of close relation. In this case, the domain of the discussion is with a

family member, namely, Mom. The tone used to express the utterance ***I love you*** is a calming and reassuring tone, meaning that Mom wanted her child to feel safe and loved and protected. Mom displays her feelings as she delivers the knowledge with her remark, hence, this utterance suits the characteristics of emotive function.

V. Conclusion

In this study analysis, there were 210 data found in the movie Luca. This study is based on Martin Joo's theory on types of language styles and Roman Jackobson's theory on the types of language function. The most occurring language style is consultative style with 26%, casual style with 25%, formal style with 21%, frozen style and intimate style with 14%. Moreover, there are six categories of functions in utilizing language style that are present in the film including emotional, referential, and phatic functions of which is most dominating.

Based on the data, it can be concluded that consultative style is the most prevalent in the film. According to the findings of this study, the presence of language styles and functions in speech, as our primary means of communication, is crucial for the speaker as addresser or the listener as addressee. The speaker will have trouble producing appropriate utterances if they do not comprehend the style and types of language functions. They will also have difficulty understanding the major point of the message that the addresser intends to convey to them if they do not have this knowledge.

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