Analysis of Language Styles in Raya and the Last Dragon Movie (2021)

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Abstract

The study, titled "Analysis of Language Styles in Raya and the Last Dragon Movie (2021)," applies Martin Joos' (1976) theory of language styles to explore the linguistic dynamics within the film's dialogue. By examining the use of frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles, the research aims to understand how language contributes to character development and narrative progression. The analysis identified a total of 70 instances of language styles across the film, distributed as follows: 1 frozen style, 4 formal style, 25 casual style, 25 consultative style, and 15 intimate style. The findings reveal that the most frequently used language styles are casual and consultative, each appearing 25 times. These styles are predominant in the film, reflecting the characters' need for interaction, information exchange, and relationship building. The study highlights the significance of varying language styles in animated films and their role in enhancing the viewer's understanding of character interactions and plot development.

Keywords: language style, sociolinguistic, movie, communication

INTRODUCTION

Communication is the process of exchanging and receiving information between a sender and a receiver. People communicate with each other every day. Through communication, people can achieve certain goals. (Walija, 1996) and (Wibowo, 2014) suggest that language is the most complete and effective means of communicating thoughts, messages, intentions, emotions, and viewpoints to other people. Communication allows individuals to express their opinions, and it is important to convey this message so that others can hear and understand our perspective (Wray & Bloomer, 2006)

The study of language structure and how it performs its roles and functions in society is known as sociolinguistics. It has been determined which social elements affect communication (Holmes, 1992). It focuses on comprehending how language serves social purposes, how social meanings are communicated through language, and why people speak differently in various social contexts.

A subfield of linguistics known as "linguistic style" studies how people communicate in various contexts and with various approaches. According to (Chaika, 1982), language style pertains to the manner in which individuals communicate, whether through speech or writing. This concept indicates that when a person adopts a specific language style, they are deliberately choosing certain linguistic elements to convey their message. Additionally, the style used in communication can act as a guide. (Meyerhoff, 2006) further states that language style often reflects a person's individuality, viewpoint, and the context they are in. This implies that language styles can change based on different situations. For example, people might use different language styles in formal settings as opposed to informal ones. This variation is evident in everyday life and in literary works such as movies and novels when analyzed through the lens of language style.

According to (Joos, 1967), there are five main styles of language, namely, frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. The frozen style is characterized by fixed, ritualistic language often found

in legal and religious texts. The formal style is used in structured, professional, or official settings, where clear and respectful communication is necessary. The consultative style is typical of semi-formal situations where two-way communication is expected, such as in classroom discussions or business meetings. The casual style is informal and spontaneous, often used among friends and in relaxed settings. The intimate style is used in private conversations between close individuals, characterized by personal and emotionally charged language.

The movie has been selected by the researcher as the subject of analysis, and information will be taken from the speech between the characters. A movie defined as a form of artwork that uses music and visuals to instruct viewers or convey stories. A portion of people's life are also seen in films. Even though not every scene in the film depicts real life, we can still regard it as human life in some way. Movies, together with current tales, events, and music, serve as a fresh medium for popularizing recreational activities that have gotten ingrained in the past, according to (McQuail, 2010). A number of thematic films, like Movie Raya and The Last Dragon, have been made to entertain and educate the public.

Raya and the Last Dragon is a 2021 animated fantasy movie produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios. Directed by Don Hall and Carlos López Estrada. The film is set in the legendary realm of Kumandra, where dragons and humans used to live in harmony. The story portrays Raya, a young princess warrior, as she searches for Sisu, the final dragon to restore peace and unity to her fractured world after it is threatened by an ancient evil force known as the Druun. Along the way, she encounters various characters who become her allies, including Boun, Tong, and a con artist baby named Noi. Together, they confront the antagonistic forces and work towards healing the land. The film is praised for its strong female characters and positive representation of Southeast Asian culture, though some critics note that it amalgamates various cultural elements rather than focusing on a specific tradition. The story's pacing is well-balanced, with a blend of action, adventure, and emotional moments.

These factors make the researcher interested in examining the language style used in the movie. The purpose of this study is to identify the language style that were used in the Raya and The Last Dragon movie. Furthermore, the study explored how frequently language style were used in the dialogue of each characters and what types of language style were used most frequently.

METHOD

The general definition of research methods is how we plan and think in order to finish a study and meet its objectives. (Bogdan & Biklen, 1997) define qualitative descriptive research as a process that yields descriptive data in the form of spoken or written words as well as the actions of the people being watched. It may be said that by closely examining a few literary works. It is anticipated that this qualitative technique approach will yield unambiguous data through words, phrases, sentences, and other forms of expression. Therefore, the language style employed in each character's dialogue in this movie was analyzed to provide data for this research using a qualitative methodology according to the prevalent theory.

(Arikunto, 2002) defines data as any facts or statistics that can be utilized as raw material to create an informational compilation. Additionally, he clarified that the source of data is the business that collects data. Data sources comprise pre-existing data sets as well as data gathered through research. These definitions indicate that data is the information that is examined in a research investigation. Source data is where the required data is collected. The data source for this study is the movie transscript of the movie Raya and The Last Dragon, that became available in March 2021. The researcher obtains the movie transcript on the web (scriptslug.com) and concentrates on the expression of language style used by every characters in the movie.

Martin Joo's (1976) theory was applied to identify the data in this study and assess the various language styles. When collecting data, the researcher go through several steps.

The steps are:

1. Download the script of the movie "Raya and The Last Dragon".
2. Watch the movie " Raya and The Last Dragon " and read the script at the same time.
3. Pause the scene when the researcher finds the type of language styles that all of the characters uttered.
4. Highlight and mark the transcript of the scene and utterances.

The following procedures were followed by the researcher to examine the data after it has been achieved. The following are the steps to follow:

1. Classifying the data using Martin Joos' theory of types language style;
2. Analyzing the data after it has been classified;
3. Interpreting the data; and
4. Coming to a conclusion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The aim of the research was to investigate the various linguistic style that each character in Raya and The Last Dragon employed. This research applied Martin Joos' theory (1976) in examining the data. The research discovered that there are 70 conversations of every characters that had the types of language styles in them. The researcher found 5 kinds of language styles used by every characters in the movie, there are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. The result of this research shows that there 1 instance of frozen style, 4 instances of formal style, 25 instances of consultative style, 25 instances of casual style, and 15 instances of intimate style. This result shows that consultative and casual are more frequently utilized in this movie. More details will be explained below:

1. Frozen Style

Data 1

Context: In this scene, Raya bows then shouts in a reverent manner, hoping to see The Mighty Sisu.

Raya: “Suva de dra sim Mandra de dra lim Bavaa de dra Tomben”

(00:24:44-00:24:55)

The language style used in this passage can be categorized as **frozen.** This passage appears to be a chant or incantation from Raya, such language is typically used in ritualistic or magical scenes within the narrative. The passage likely represents a fixed, unchanging form of language, often recited verbatim in specific situations such as rituals, ceremonies, or magical invocations. Frozen style is characterized by its formal, set phrases that do not change over time. Those words suggest a language that is possibly ancient or created for the film's fictional world. This use of unique, mysterious vocabulary is typical of frozen style, which often includes archaic or specialized terms.

2. Formal Style

Data 2

Context: This passage is spoken by Chief Benja, the leader of Heart, during a significant moment aimed at uniting the various factions of Kumandra: Tail, Talon, Spine, and Fang. The setting is probably a formal gathering where a call for unity and peace is being made.

Chief Benja: “People of Tail, Talon, Spine, and Fang, welcome to Heart. For far too long we have been enemies. But today is a new day. Today, we can be Kumandra once more.”

(00:11:25-00:11:40)

The language style used in this passage can be categorized as **formal**. The speaker is addressing the people of multiple regions, which necessitates a formal tone. Public speeches, especially those aimed at large, diverse audiences, typically use a formal style to convey respect and authority. The choice of words such as "welcome," "enemies," "a new day," and "Kumandra" are formal and evoke a sense of importance and solemnity.

3. Consultative Style

Data 3

Context: In this passage, Chief Benja, appearing unconvinced, is asking Raya to share what she knows about the other lands. The context suggests a conversation where Benja is seeking to verify or learn more about the information provided.

Chief Benja: (unconvinced) “Really? Tell me what you know about the other lands.”

(00:08:55-00:08:57)

The language style used in this passage can be categorized as **consultative**. The phrase used indicates that Benja is seeking to verify information and learn more. Consultative style often involves asking questions to gain a deeper understanding or clarification. The request is direct and clear, characteristic of consultative interactions where the goal is to obtain specific information. Benja’s straightforward question ensures that the inquiry is understood and can be answered in detail.

Data 4

Context: In this passage, General Atitāya informs Chief Virana about the urgent need to expand to the mainland due to space constraints.

General Atitāya: “Chief Virana, we’re running out of room. We need to expand to the mainland.”

(00:51:45-00:51:48)

The language style used in this passage can be categorized as **consultative**. General Atitāya uses an informative and structured tone to convey important information about their current situation. The tone is clear and concise, which is typical of consultative language. The consultative style is evident in the focus on addressing and solving a problem. General Atitāya presents the issue (lack of space) and suggests a potential solution (expanding to the mainland), inviting further discussion and planning.

4. Casual Style

Data 5

Context: In this passage, Young Raya and Namaari are engaged in a casual conversation where Young Raya comments on something awkward and then poses a new question about combat preferences. Namaari responds with a casual and confident answer.

Raya: (mid-laugh) “Seriously? Your mom actually said that? Awkward. Okay, next question - hand-to-hand or swords?”

Namaari: (duh) “Blades all day.”

(00:13:05-00:13:13)

The language style used in this passage can be categorized as **casual**. The tone is informal and conversational, marked by the casual expressions and natural flow of dialogue. Phrases like "Seriously? Your mom actually said that? Awkward" set a relaxed tone, and Namaari’s response continues this informality.

5. Intimate Style

Data 6

Context: In this passage, Benja offers encouragement and hope to Young Raya, giving her a gem and expressing his love for her. The dialogue reflects a moment of emotional support and intimate connection between the characters.

Benja: (hands her the gem) “Raya, don’t give up on them.” (Benja hands Raya the gem). “I love you, my dewdrop.”

(00:19:13-00:19:30)

The language style used in this passage can be categorized as **intimate**. The tone is deeply emotional and affectionate. Benja’s words, convey a strong sense of care and personal connection. The intimate language and gestures highlight the closeness between Benja and Raya.

Data 7

Context: In this passage, Raya is speaking to Sisu, expressing her vulnerability and asking for help. She admits to her mistake and the consequences it has had, revealing her deep desire to correct the situation and restore her father.

Raya: “I made a mistake. I trusted someone I shouldn’t have. And now the world’s broken. Sisudatu, I just really... really want my ba back. Please.”

(00:23:53-00:24:23)

The language style used in this passage can be categorized as **intimate**. The tone is emotionally charged and vulnerable. Raya openly admits her mistakes and the impact they have had. This candid expression of vulnerability is characteristic of intimate communication.

CONCLUSION

In this study analysis, there were 70 dialogues in ‘Raya and The Last Dragon” movie that had language styles in them. This research discovered 5 kinds of language styles used by every characters in the movie, there are frozen, formal, consultative, casual and intimate style. The result of this research shows that there 1 instance of frozen style, 4 instances of formal style, 25 instances of consultative style, 25 instances of casual style, and 15 instances of intimate style. This result shows that consultative and casual are the kind of language styles that are most frequently found in this movie. These styles are predominant in the film, reflecting the characters' need

for interaction, information exchange, and relationship building. The study highlights the significance of varying language styles in animated films and their role in enhancing the viewer's understanding of character interactions and plot development.

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