

SPEECH STYLE IN THE FREEDOM WRITER MOVIE

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Abstrak

Bahasa, adalah alat terpenting yang digunakan manusia untuk berkomunikasi, selain itu bahasa juga dapat digunakan untuk mengekspresikan diri dan berbagi dengan makhluk yang lain. Setiap manusia didunia ini memiliki cara tersendiri dalam berkomunikasi sesuai dengan kebiasaan dan kultur yang mempengaruhi ragam bahasa yang digunakan. Ragam bahasa adalah varian dari sebuah bahasa menurut pemaikaianya seperti beberapa faktor yang mempengaruhi sebuah ragam bahasa tersebut diantaranya, peserta, latar dan topik pembicaraan.

Terdapat berbagai ragam bahasa yang dapat dilihat di film *Freedom Writer* yaitu ragam beku, ragam resmi, ragam usaha, ragam santai dan ragam akrab. Beberapa ragam yang digunakan pada film ini dipengaruhi oleh faktor sosial dan dimensi sosial yang menyebabkan terjadinya satu ragam bahasa. Film ini juga kental akan isu diskriminasi ras yang dapat menimbulkan beberapa efek dalam penggunaan ragam bahasa pada karakter ketika berkomunikasi. Oleh karena itu, film ini sangat menarik untuk diteliti dengan menggunakan beberapa teori yang bersangkutan untuk mengklasifikasi ragam bahasa, menemukan faktor sosial dan efek yang ditimbulkan dari ragam bahasa para karakter dalam film ini dalam berkomunikasi.

Kata kunci: ragam bahasa, sosial faktor, diskriminasi ras dan *Freedom Writer*.

Abstract

Language is an important tool which is used by the people to communication besides it can be used to express themselves and share with othet people. Every people in this world has their own manner in communication based on their habit and their cultural background which is influenced the use of speech styles. Speech styles is a variant of language according to the use of language which influenced such as the participants, setting and the topic.

There are some speech styles which can be seen in freedom writer movie such as frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual and intimate style. some factors which is used in this movie, can be affected by social factors and social dimension that causes to the speech styles. This movie also deals with racial discrimination that causes some effect which is caused by the characters in their way to communicate each other. So that's why this movie is interesting to be analyzed by using some related theory to classified the pseech styles, the social factors and the effect from the speech styles which is used by the characters to communication.

Key Words: Speech styles, social factor, racial discrimination and Freedom Writer

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Language is an important thing in our life. People communicate with others by using a language to share his or her feeling and give some information with people they are talking to. According to Wardhaugh (2006:1), a language is what the members of a particular society speak. People can communicate well if they can deliver their message from their utterance. Moreover, language and society may influence each other because as a human being, people cannot be separated with society and environment and they still need another people. Sometimes it is used merely to keep communication channels open so that if any need arises to say something of importance a suitable channel is available.

Every people have different ways of speaking, even he or she talk with the same topic but it does not mean that they have the same style in speak. According to Holmes (1992:9) says variety is therefore a broad term which includes different accents, different linguistic styles, different dialects and even different language which contrast each other for social reason.

According to Joos (1976) speech style is the forms of the language that the speaker uses and it is depend of the degree of formality. He identified the style into five styles; they are frozen, formal, consultative, casual and intimate style. Style or language variations are concerned to social factors that appear in someone's speech. On the other hand, situation plays an important role in determining one's style in speech while they are communicating. As stated by Dell Hymes (1972: 55) speech community as people who share "rules" for when and how to speak. Hymes later includes the meanings of what people say and formulates speech situation which consists of a number of components. The components of the speech situation have been mnemonically arranged to form the acronym SPEAKING. It is also supported by Holmes (1992:11).

Film is one of media that is easy and suitable to analyze someone utterances. By listen and watch the movie it can be easier to

understand the whole story and the meaning of the utterances itself. As it is known that there are so many kinds of different styles used to communicate by the characters on the film. Moreover film is the most interesting media to be analyzed because film is not only entertaining but also giving some education so it may contains moral value.

Freedom Writer is a film based on true story about the struggle of a teacher in the New Port Beach, United States in reawakened her student to learn. In this story, Erin Gruwell, an idealistic woman, came to Woodrow Wilson High School as an English teacher for a special class of child victims of racial gang fights. Erin has a good mission, she wants to provide a better education for troubled kids. Even there are some teachers who are more experienced were refusing to teach them. By the diversity of their culture background, firstly they cannot understand each other because there is a gap among them. But on the first day she came, she realized that the gang war going on in the city also carried over to the classroom. In the classroom they sit in groups according to their respective races. No one wants to sit in different racial groups. Sometimes misunderstanding that occurred in the classroom can lead to fights between the races.

Erin tries to conquer her students by asking them to write a sort of diary. In the diary, they can write whatever they want, feel, and experience. This method was successful. Everyday her students collect the diaries to Erin then they discuss it on the next day. From those diaries, Erin knew that she had to make the students aware that they are experiencing gang wars are not everything in the world. Through a unique way of teaching, she is trying to make the students aware that their education will be able to achieve a better life.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative to analyze the data.

There are some step that used to analyze and answer every research question, those are:

1. In the first research question, the writer use the script of Freedom Writer Movie which downloaded from internet to classify and looking for the kind of speech style which spoken by the main characters and it is analyzed the utterances which reflect to the society from social factors and social dimension. In this term, it also uses another medium such as internet to looking for other information in order to completing the analysis.

2. In the second research question, after reading the script and classify the speech style which is used by the main characters in the Freedom Writer movie, the writer can be easier to find out the effect which is caused by those kinds of speech style to the characters.

DISCUSSION

This section discussed about the result from finding of the research questions by using some related theories. Based on Joos' (1976), it can be seen that there are five speech styles which is used by the characters such as frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. Moreover, from those kinds of speech styles, there are some styles which are often use by the characters, and they are consultative and casual style.

There is an utterance which is held in frozen style in this movie, such as the conversation between Eva and prosecutor which is occurred in the court, the participants actually not too use the complex sentence in asking or saying something, but in this situation requires high formality in speaking. So, it can be said as a frozen style because there is no close relationship between the participants and this conversation occurred in the court which the prosecutor has higher status than the other participants.

The formal style, shows about the conversation which took in some places such as in school and school office. Both of those places it need high formality in speaking so it should be uses formal style in speaking. Moreover, it also describes the use of formal style which has characteristic such as the use of short responses from the participants and the use of complex language. The consultative style also often used in this movie. This style sometimes combines

the formal and informal style and semiformal situation. This style usually took place in school between the participants who don't have close intimacy. The use of short responses or empty words such as *well*, *huh*, *emm* indicates that consultative style reflects to the conversation. As can be seen in some fragment that the conversation occurred between teacher and student or between couple that the situation does not requires high formality even between teacher and student has different status in society.

Casual style is the most commonly used to communicate in this movie. This style occurs in an informal situation and occurred between friends or family, but in this movie this style occurred between teacher and student. The use of slang words is commonly use by the participants. It shows that the student has no respect to the teacher who has higher status than them. Some dialogues shows casual style in the *Freedom Writer Movie*. The use of Slang also found here where the participants use the words such as *shit*, *damn*, *hell*, and etc. So, it concluded as the characteristic of casual style.

The intimate style is commonly used by the people who have known each other and has close intimacy. In this movie it is shown by the participants such as between father and daughter or couple. This style also divided into two features they are *extraction* and *jargon*. Extraction is when the speaker extracts a minimum pattern such as the words *Engl* actually it does not mean anything but it represent the intimacy between the speakers. Moreover there is no Jargon which is used by the characters in this Movie.

On the other hand, as can be seen that there are some effect in the use of speech styles which is influenced to the way the characters communicate. The use of inappropriate styles also leads some conflict among the participants such as Eva, Jamal, Marcus, Tito, Cindy and Andrew. They also use the epithet to call someone. Epithet is a language by majority to demean a minority. In this case, shows that racial discrimination appears in this movie and it trigger to the conflict when the participants use inappropriate style. So that's why it is important to pay an attention about the roles in

speaking to communicate with other people. Dell Hymes (1972) that speech situation is an important role in determining someone style in speech. It is also supported by Holmes (1992) about the social factors.

CONCLUSION

According to the data has analyzed by using some related theories in the previous chapter, it can conclude that there is five speech style such as frozen formal, consultative, casual and intimate which is used by the character in this movie. Casual styles are often used in this movie, because most of the conversations are occurred in an informal situation. However, some social factors influence the variation or style in speaking. This movie also shows racial discrimination which is occurred by the participants. The participants use inappropriate style and epithet to calling someone and it may trigger to the conflict. Thus, it can be concluded that the use of speech style gives big impact to the communication among the participants.

There are some effects that can be seen, first, some participants such as Jamal, Marcus, Eva, Andrew, and Tito sometimes used inappropriate style in some situation whereas, it must be adjusted based on the situation, setting, participants and topic. Second, the participants prefer to use casual style especially slang words and also epithet used to call someone. The last, unconsciously, the use of slang words and epithet sometimes becomes a trigger to the. The use of epithet itself shows that there is gap among the participants due to the differences of social background culture and etc.

SUGGESTION

This section suggest to the reader especially for the students of English Department of State University of Surabaya to study more about linguistic especially language variation which is used to communicating because this study only focus in speech style and the effect. Moreover, there are a lot of language variations which are not being discussed in this study such as speech acts or another subject which is still have correlation with speech styles. So it will be

interesting for further study about speech style and language variation.

GRATITUTION

May Allah be honored for His love and mercy, this journal can be complete. His deepest and most frankly gratitude is conveyed to: Mr. Slamet Setiawan, MA.,Ph.D for the attention and advice for this journal.

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