

Language Style and Identity Shift of Mia Thermopolis: A Representation Analysis through Stuart Hall's Theory'

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ABSTRAK . Tujuan pada penelitian ini adalah untuk mengeksplorasi hubungan antara gaya bahasa dan transformasi identitas melalui karakter Mia Thermopolis dalam *The Princess Diaries 1*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis gaya bahasa yang digunakan Mia, faktor-faktor sociolinguistik yang memengaruhi penggunaan gaya tersebut, serta bagaimana gaya bahasa berkontribusi terhadap pergeseran identitas yang dialami tokoh utama. Analisis ini berlandaskan pada teori klasifikasi gaya bahasa menurut Joos (1967), teori faktor sociolinguistik oleh Janet Holmes (2014), serta teori representasi oleh Stuart Hall (1997). Metode yang digunakan adalah pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif dengan analisis dialog dan narasi dalam film. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya perkembangan dari gaya bahasa kasual menuju gaya formal, yang mencerminkan perubahan identitas sosial Mia dari seorang remaja biasa menjadi seorang putri kerajaan. Pergeseran ini tidak hanya ditandai secara linguistik, tetapi juga memperlihatkan representasi identitas baru yang dibentuk oleh tuntutan sosial dan status baru yang disandangnya. Gaya bahasa terbukti menjadi penanda penting dalam proses konstruksi identitas. **Kata Kunci:** Gaya Bahasa, Faktor Sosial, Identitas , Pergeseran Identitas

ABSTRACT. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between language style and identity transformation through the character of Mia Thermopolis in *The Princess Diaries 1*. This study aims to identify the types of language styles used by Mia, the sociolinguistic factors that influence the use of these styles, and how language styles contribute to the identity shift experienced by the main character. This analysis is based on the theory of language style classification by Joos (1967), the theory of sociolinguistic factors by Janet Holmes (2014), and the theory of representation by Stuart Hall (1997). The method used is a qualitative descriptive approach with an analysis of dialogue and narrative in the film. The results of the study show a development from a casual language style to a formal style, which reflects the change in Mia's social identity from an ordinary teenager to a royal princess. This shift is not only marked linguistically, but also shows the representation of a new identity shaped by social demands and the new status she holds. Language style proves to be an important marker in the process of identity construction.

Keywords : Language style, Identity, Identity Shift, Social Identity

INTRODUCTION

Language is not just a way to communicate; people do not always speak consistently in the same way. On the contrary, people constantly change how they speak because everyone has a different speaking style. According to Martin Joos (1967), language style refers to the form of language a speaker uses, characterised by the degree of formality. In other words, people have many characteristics that match their language style as they interact and communicate. Joos divides language style into 5 categories there are, frozen, formal, consultative, casual and intimate.

five varieties, each used in different categories and social situations depending on the relationship between speakers and the context of the communication. Each distinct characteristic is used in different contexts, often reflecting the nature of the situation itself. In line with that Meyerhoff

(2006:27) also stated that language style can also reflect a person's personality, mindset and condition. A person's state or situation can influence how they speak. For example, someone in a normal state may use a different style than someone in a more relaxed or casual situation. It's a language of strong emotional connections, such as friends, family, or romantic partners. The social context in which people speak influences their speech, Holmes (2013), divides the main factors of people who speak different language styles, including: (1) participants, the people involved in the conversation and their relationships with each other are also influenced by the use of language style. (2) setting, there must be some background on when and where the conversation occurred. (3) topic, refers to what is discussed in the interaction. The topic strongly affects the choice of language style. (4) function. Refers to why they are speaking, or in short, the aim of the speaking.

Language and identity are strongly interrelated. Holmes (2014) emphasizes that language can represent identity, shaped by elements such as class, ethnicity, and personal experience. Stuart Hall (1997) also argues that identity is not fixed but constructed through representation, language, and meaning. And language one of the key point of representation. Identity is shaped by how individuals see themselves and how others see them, and language plays a central role in this negotiation. Liu et al. (2011), as cited in Jackson (2014), define identity as a sense of belonging to a cultural group with shared norms and symbols. This aligns with Social Identity Theory by Tajfel and Turner (1979), which posits that individuals define themselves through their membership in social groups, such as class, gender, and ethnicity. Hogg and Abrams (1988) further assert that identity is a dynamic and multifaceted process that influences behavior and communication patterns.

Table 4.1 Types of Language style of Mia Thermopolis

No	Language Style	Frequency
1.	Frozen	-
2.	Formal	1
3.	Consultative	6
4.	Casual	11
5.	Intimate	2

The relationship between language and identity is clearly illustrated in *The Princess Diaries 1*. Mia Thermopolis, a regular American teenager, experiences a dramatic shift in identity upon discovering her royal heritage. Her language style transforms from casual, reflective of her teenage life and lower social status, to more formal and consultative styles as she adapts to the norms of royal society. These changes in her language style are influenced by social context and signify her gradual acceptance of a new identity. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the connection between language style and identity shift in the character of Mia Thermopolis in *The Princess Diaries 1*, focusing on how social factors influence her choice of language and how that reflects her transformation in social identity and status. The findings are expected to contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamic relationship between language and identity, especially within the framework of sociolinguistics and media discourse

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach to analyze the relationship between language style and identity shift, in the main character Mia Thermopolis in *The Princess Diary 1*. According to Miles and Huberman (2014), qualitative research is appropriate for investigating complex social phenomena through direct observation and interpretation. A qualitative approach is suitable for this study because it

allows for an in-depth examination of language use in a natural context, especially when exploring how identity is shaped through interaction and spoken language. The subject of this study is Mia Thermopolis, the main character in *The Princess Diaries 1*, through her words, sentences, and utterances. The data were collected through a documentation technique by watching the film multiple times and cross-referencing it with a verified online transcript by applies Martin Joos's (1967) theory of language style (frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate), along with Janet Holmes's (2013) sociolinguistic framework, which considers participant, setting, topic, and function. To explore the relationship between language and identity, the research uses Hall's (1997) theory of identity representation and Tajfel & Turner's (1979) Social Identity Theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The table below shows five language styles used by Mia Thermopolis in the movie princess diaires 1. They are formal style (1 data), casual style (11 data), consultative style (6 data), and intimate style (7 data).

Types of Language Style

Joos classifies language style into five distinct categories: (1) Frozen, is the most formal style of language. It is called frozen because it already has a pattern and cannot change. (2) Formal, a way of using language that is structured, objective, and designed to convey the information clearly and professionally, It is usually used in formal situations. (3) Consultative, used in semi-formal communication where speakers are not extremely familiar with each other but need to interact respectfully and clearly. Consultative style can be used in formal or non-formal situations. (4) Casual style is a flexible language. It's the language we use in relaxed, everyday situations and is particularly wellsuited for conversations with friends or family. (5) Intimate, deeply personal language developed within the confines of family, friends, and closest companions.

Formal style

Formal style is commonly used to establish relationships in very formal situations, such as meetings, discussions, public speeches, or higher-level gatherings. The pattern is standard and cannot be changed individually.

Datum 1 (1:43:47)

Mia speech : This morning when I woke up So this morning when I woke up..I was Mia Thermopolis But now, I choose to be forevermore Amelia Mignonette Thermopolis Renaldi... Princess of Genovia.

This speech of Mia is an example of formal style because it takes place in a structured public setting in the Genovian

royal palace event, where Mia addresses an audience to announce an essential personal decision. Despite including moments of personal reflection and slight informality (e.g., "how lame is that"), the speech's overall tone, structure, and purpose are formal. Mia uses complete sentences, standard grammar, and logical development of ideas.

Consultative style

Datum 2 (1:18:15)

Mia : Please say something.

Queen Clarisse : There's not much to say. A picture's worth a thousand words.

And you have two pictures.

Mia : I really embarrassed the family, didn't I?

Queen Clarisse : Not to put too fine a point on it, yes, you did. I think you're making a wise decision to abstain from the job.

Mia Thermopolis : I suppose I won't come to the ball, then.

This conversation reflects a consultative style because it occurs in a semi-formal setting. Although the speakers are related, they maintain a respectful social distance due to the grandmother's royal status. The phrase "I suppose I won't come to the ball, then" shows polite and structured language. Mia uses standard English without slang or contractions, demonstrating respect. Still, her tone is not overly rigid or emotionally detached. "Suppose" suggests some emotional involvement and conversational approach rather than a strict formal declaration. Mia's language is clear and courteous, aiming to communicate her feelings while respecting Queen Clarisse's authority. This balance between respect and personal expression is the hallmark of consultative style, which is typically used in semi-formal interactions involving individuals who have not been close.

Casual style

Datum 3 (43:25)

Lilly: Friends tell. So, you know what? Here is your friendship charm. I'm taking it off and it's going in the dirt.

Mia: Don't do that. OK? Just...All right, just... Wait.

Lilly: Why?

Mia: I will tell you the truth, but you're gonna think it's stupid and freaky. Lilly: Try me.

Mia: Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

The dialogue above showed Mia's emotional response to Lilly during a conflict in their friendship. Mia's utterances, such as "Don't do that. OK? Just... Alright, just... Wait." and "Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!" were classified into casual style because the conversation occurs between close friends who

share an intimate and familiar relationship. Furthermore, the dialogue occurred during a private and emotionally charged situation, not in a formal or public setting. Therefore, Mia does not need to use formal or consultative language. As Joos mentions, Casual style is typically used in conversations among peers, friends, or family members in relaxed or emotionally expressive contexts.

Intimate style

Datum 4 (16:52)

Mia: "OK, you know what? I don't feel protected. You try living for 15 years thinking you're one person and in five minutes you find out you're a princess. Just in case I'm not enough of a freak already, let's add a tiara."

Helen (Mother): "Drink your soup."

Mia: "I'm not really hungry."

Helen: "Fine. Good night, sweetheart."

This dialogue exemplifies the intimate style, as Joos (1967) defined it. Intimate style is typically used between people with close emotional relationships, such as family members, close friends, or romantic partners. Also, "private vocabulary characterizes specific items or expressions understood only within close relationships." Sometimes, incomplete or emotionally charged sentences are understood only within a close bond context. In this conversation, the word "sweetheart" clearly indicates an intimate style. This term of endearment reflects the deep emotional bond between Mia and her mother. Although the earlier part of the dialogue may appear casual in tone, the closing sentence shifts the language style to intimate, showing affection and care from Helen toward her daughter.

Factors of Language Style Used by Mia in the Princess Diaries 1

This study pays attention to 4 aspects that influence the characters using different language styles, according to Holmes (2013), they are participant, topic, setting and function, the topic of conversation can strongly influence the speaker's language style.

Participant

According to Holmes 2013 Participants are the people involved in a conversation. Their relationship, formal or informal, influences the style of language they use. People tend to use formal language with those of higher status or authority and casual language with friends or peers.

Datum 5

Lilly: Friends tell. So, you know what? Here is your friendship charm. I'm taking it off and it's going in the dirt.

Mia: Don't do that. OK? Just...All right, just... Wait.

Lilly: Why?

Mia: I will tell you the truth, but you're gonna think it's stupid and freaky.

Lilly: Try me.

Mia: Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

Based on datum 12, the interaction shows a casual and emotional conversation between close friends. Mia's language is influenced by her informal and intimate relationship with Lilly. Therefore, the participant factor heavily influences Mia's language, as she feels safe expressing herself freely with a peer. For comparison, Mia talking with her grandmother for the first meeting.

Datum 2

Queen Clarisse : Please, sit.

Mia : My mom said you wanted to talk to me about something, so... shoot.

Queen Clarisse : Before I... shoot, I have something, I want to give you. Here.

Mia : Thank you

The participant factor influences this interaction as she speaks to Queen Clarisse, someone of higher social status with whom she does not yet share emotional closeness. As Holmes (2013) explains, the nature of a relationship, whether formal or informal, significantly shapes how people speak. In this case, Mia adopts a consultative style, showing cautious politeness due to the hierarchical and unfamiliar nature of the relationship. So the participant take a role in influencing Mia choose different language style.

Setting

According to Holmes (2013), the setting refers to the conversation's time, place and social context. The formality of the setting strongly influences the choice of language style. Formal settings, such as classrooms, official meetings, or public events, usually require formal or consultative styles.

Datum 3

Mia: You wanted to see me?

Queen Clarisse: Is everything all right?

Mia: Yes.

Queen Clarisse: What happened with the ice bucket?

Mia: I had a clumsy moment.

Queen Clarisse: OK.

Mia: The food's delicious, by the way.

Besides the participants, The setting also plays a crucial factor in shaping Mia's language. The interaction occurs in a formal palace environment during a dinner, which adds pressure to behave appropriately and contributes to Mia's more measured language.

Topic

The topic is the third factor influencing language style, which plays a significant role because it determines what is being discussed and shapes participant interaction (Holmes & Wilson, 2017). Depending on the subject matter, the topic influences the formality, emotional tone, and vocabulary choice. In *The Princess Diaries* (2001), this factor can be observed in the scene where Mia discusses deeply personal or emotional issues, such as her struggle to accept her identity as a princess or her conflict with friends and family.

Datum 4

Mia : Me? A... A princess? Shut up!

Queen Clarisse : I beg your pardon? Shut up?

Joe : Your Majesty, in America it doesn't always mean "be quiet." It could mean "wow", "gee whiz" I understand, thank you.

Queen Clarisse : Nevertheless, you are the Princess. And I am Queen Clarisse Renaldi.

Mia : Why on earth would you pick me to be your princess?

Queen clarisse : Since your father died, you are the natural heir to the throne. That's our law. I'm royal by marriage. You are royal by blood. You can rule.

Mia : Rule? Oh, no. Oh, no. No, no, no. Now you have really got the wrong girl. I never lead anybody. Not at Brownies, not at Campfire Girls... Queen Clarisse, my expectation in life is to be invisible and I'm good at it.

In Datum 8, the influencing factor for Mia's shifting language style is the topic. The topic is Mia's revealed royal identity, which leads her to change the style of language. Because the topic is serious and personal but also involves formal authority (the Queen); however, as the conversation becomes more formal, particularly when Queen Clarisse asserts Mia's royal status Mia's language style begins to reflect the seriousness of the situation, shifting slightly toward a more reluctant but respectful tone, though still embedded in casual elements due to her emotional discomfort and resistance.

Function

As mentioned by Holmes 2013 function Refers to the term of why they are speaking, or in short the aim of the speaking, For example, "I am sorry" represents the function of apologizing and "Good morning!" represents the function of

greeting. Holmes identifies several distinct functions that can influence language choice, including expressive, informative, and directive functions. The function determines what the speaker intends to achieve through their communication, which in turn affects the formality, tone, and structure of their language.

Datum 16

Mia : I came up here to tell you I'm sorry. I'm sorry I missed your cable show, and I'm just really sorry.

Lily : I can't believe you hung me up, after all I did for you. I kept your royal secret. You know how hard it is to have a show and keep a secret?

Mia : You didn't keep it a secret how jerky you thought my being a princess was, Congratulations, you got your wish. I'm not gonna be a princess.

The primary function of this interaction here is apologizing, expressing regret, and repairing a damaged relationship, which is classified as an expressive function; Mia uses language to express sorrow and try to restore closeness with her friend. Her apology is emotional and sincere, indicating the affective function of language. However, it shifts into defensiveness, as Mia also vents her feeling about how Lily criticized her. So, the function transitions from repairing social bonds to defending her decision, showing how language reflects emotional complexity. Language style effects on Mia's identity shift.

Mia used casual and intimate styles mostly when her social status was still as an American teenager; these styles are characterized by informal vocabulary, relaxed sentence structures, and emotionally expressive language, which align with her social identity as a high school student navigating daily teenage life and close interpersonal relationships. As her identity shifts toward her new social status and role as the princess of Genovia, there is a noticeable transition in her language use. Mia increasingly adopts consultative, which leads to a more formal and formal style, particularly in formal settings that require public speaking, instruction, or interaction with authority figures. These styles are more structured and reflect the expectation of her elevated social status and responsibility. This shift in language style demonstrated the relationship between language and social identity. Mia's social status transition from American teenager to princess of Genovia illustrates how language can affect identity and adapt in response to social roles and status changes.

When Mia speaks for the first time as a princess in front of the people of Genovia, Mia's language becomes more composed and formal as she addresses her future as a princess of Genovia, reflecting her social status. This moment also demonstrates her developing confidence and adaptation to her royal role compared with her previous speech in datum 19, where Mia speaks in a classroom with

casual, uncertain language and nervousness. It often avoids attention, typical of someone who lacks confidence and sees herself as invisible, reflecting her Identity as an ordinary American teenager; the shift between these two data points, datum 19 and datum 1 progression, strongly supports Holmes's (2013) argument that individuals often adapt their language to fit new social roles, especially when those roles carry higher status or authority.

From the Tajfel's (1979) perspective, this moment also demonstrates Mia's gradual movement toward adopting the norms and behaviours of her new social group. As Mia becomes more aware of the Identity she must embrace, her speech style aligns with the royal standard. She moves from casual and emotionally reactive language towards a more consultative and occasionally formal style, showing increased self-awareness of her role. It indicates that Mia's identity shift is visible through changes in appearance or behaviour and through her language style. As she internalizes her role as princess, her language becomes more structured, respectful, and polished. This transformation in speech reflects a deeper acceptance of her new social status and the social norms of her royal status.

In conclusion, Mia's Journey in *The Princess Diaries 1* shows how language style is crucial to identity construction. Hall (1997) mentions that language thus becomes a key tool through which Identity is expressed, shaped, and negotiated, underscoring its significance in social interaction. As Mia changes her language style and undergoes an identity shift, these transformations are also reflected in her behaviour and her personality from an awkward, shy, nonchalant teenager to a more brave, courageous, and empathetic individual. Align with Meyerhoff (2006:27) theory that language style can reflect a person's personality, mindset, and emotional condition. This shift from casual and emotionally driven speech to more formal, consultative, and refined language reflects not only her new social status and responsibilities but also her growing internalization of royal norms. Mia's language, as it becomes more formal and refined, symbolizes her acceptance of the weight of social expectations that are placed upon her. Thus, Mia's changing language style symbolizes her identity transformation from an ordinary teenager to a member of the royal family and illustrates how language style takes a part in affecting her identity, especially in social, role, and norms aspects.

Discussion

This study discussed language style used by main character of princess diaries 1, Mia Thermopolis. *The princess diaries 1* is a film about Mia as an ordinary American teenager who suddenly discovers that she is a princess of Genovia. From the result above This study finds four types of language style used by Mia Thermopolis in *Princess diaries 1* as classified by Joos (1967) there are: Formal,

Consultative, Casual, and Intimate. From the findings that have been analyzed by using Joos' theory, Among the 19 analyzed data points, the researcher concludes that the most utterances used by the main character Mia thermopolis in princess diaries 1 is casual style. Casual styles and Formal styles are the least common

Participation is one of the most dominant factors influencing Mia's language style throughout The Princess Diaries (2001). for instance, in datum 1, this is clearly illustrated when Mia informs herself to become a princess of Genovia; her tone, choice of words, and overall demeanor shift toward a more formal language style, although traces of casual speech may appear due to Mia's youth and inexperience the dominant style remains formal due to the social roles involved. In addition, the setting of a royal palace reinforces this formal atmosphere as the conversation takes place within the royal palace, a highly formal environment. Therefore, while the setting contributes to the tone, it is primarily the participant's authority and social significance that guide Mia's linguistic adaptation in this scene.

It is not close to the possibility that Mia's language style can consist of more than 1 factor; in datum 3, factors that influence Mia's language style consist of 2 factors: participant and setting. Both play a role in Mia shaping her language; in this scene, Mia once again speaks to Queen Clarisse, who holds both royal and familial positions.

Language plays a significant role in shaping and expressing Mia Thermopolis's Identity throughout The Princess Diaries 1, especially in her social status. As Mia transitions from an ordinary teenager into a princess, her language changes, reflecting internal and external identity shifts. As Hall (1990) mentioned, Identity is not something that is fixed or stable but something that is constructed and changed over time. This process is evident in datum 4, where Mia meets her grandmother, Queen Clarisse Renaldi, for the first time. During this interaction with her grandmother, Mia responds with a casual and spontaneous expression such as "shut up" despite the conversation's formal setting and serious nature. Her use of informal language highlights her shock, confusion, and emotional unpreparedness to accept her new Identity. This moment reveals the tension between Mia's established Identity as a typical, shy American teenager and the new Identity imposed upon her as a member of the royal family.

CONCLUSION

This research analyze language style and identity shift through the main character in the princess diaries 1 a teenager who discover that she is a princess of genovian, her transformation from an ordinary American teenager to a princess involves not only changes in appearance and behaviour but also in language. her character reflects how language style shifts with identity and social status. Analyzing Mia's language through Joos and stuart hall

theory reveals how identity is shaped and expressed through communication and social roles.

The researcher discover 4 type of language style used by Mia Thermopolis, 1 there are, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style, By utilizing Joos theory, this study found 19 datum with 1 used formal style, 6 data used consultative style, 10 used intimate style, and 2 for intimate style. This study also revealed that various social factors shaped Mia's language style. Based on Holmes's theory, elements such as participant, topic, setting, and function were identified as contextual variables influencing different language styles. Participants played the most significant factors, as they were the easiest to observe and analyze. Additionally, the participant plays a crucial role in shaping language choice, making them a key determined in the selection type of language style.

Throughout the film Princess Diaries 1, This study finds that Mia's social status undergoes a significant transformation from an American teenager to a princess of Genovian. Mia frequently uses informal and spontaneous expressions such as "slang" as she gradually internalizes her social status identity. Her language style shifts, where Mia adopts a more responsible, structured, and respectful tone. This aligns with Hall theory that identity is something that is not stable but changes over time. Also Mia's shifts in her identity are not only visible through her appearance but also through her behaviour and the linguistic choices she makes. By comparing her early status as a shy, self-effacing American teenager with her later transformation into a confident, responsible, self control and courageous young princess, it becomes clear that language style is a powerful tool for expressing, shaping, and reflecting identity.

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