

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is a fundamental tool for communication within society, and its use can vary significantly depending on social and regional backgrounds. In linguistics, the relationship between language and society are explored in the field of sociolinguistics, which examines how language interacts with social contexts.

One of the objects studied in sociolinguistics is language variety, which encompasses different forms of a language such as dialects, registers, and styles. These variations arise from social and regional influences, leading individuals to speak differently in various contexts. Language varieties are closely tied to language style, as both reflect how language adapts to different communicative situations.

Language style refers to the ways individuals express their thoughts through language in various contexts and for different purposes. Factors like audience and setting influence a person's language style, allowing them to adjust their speech accordingly. For example, a president delivering a formal speech employs a structured and formal style to suit the occasion and convey authority. In contrast, casual conversations among close friends tend to involve a more relaxed and informal style. This adaptability in language use reflects the dynamic nature of communication across different social situations.

Martin Joos (1967) categorizes language style into five types: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. These categories are based on the context in which language is used and the level of formality present. Each style serves a distinct communicative purpose and is influenced by various social factors. Holmes (2013, p. 9)

identifies four key social factors that affect language style: participants, setting, topic, and function. These factors interact to shape language use in specific contexts, with the relationship between the speaker and the listener being the most critical.

Movies are an effective way to explore language style, as they reflect societal norms. Movies function as a mirror reflecting society, providing insights into its goals for the past, present, and future. (Hada, 2023). A movie, as a visual and auditory medium, conveys stories through moving images and sound, depicting various aspects of human life, including emotions, relationships, and social issues. Through characters and dialogue, movies illustrate different communication styles. Since characters are designed to represent real individuals within a narrative, analyzing their language use can provide insights into how social factors influence language style.

Five Feet Apart is one of the movies I am interested in regarding language use. This movie is about Stella Grant and Will Newman, who suffer from cystic fibrosis and struggle to have a relationship. This American romantic movie is set in a hospital and portrays life in the healthcare environment, where doctors, nurses, and patients interact daily. *Five Feet Apart* movie gives a unique portrayal of life in a hospital where the language used will differ from that used in other places. This movie not only focuses on professional interactions within a medical setting, but it also highlights the emotional intimacy that develops between the characters. It is interesting to know the language style that people from different social statuses and professions choose in their daily communication within the hospital.

This study aims to analyze the language styles used by specific characters in the movie *Five Feet Apart*. The topic of language style is relevant because it shows how speech changes depending on roles, relationships, and circumstances. The specific characters include the

doctor (Dr. Hamid), two nurses (Julie and Barb), three patients (Stella, William, and Poe), along with two patients' mothers (mothers of Stella and William). The main reason why they were chosen is that they engage in interactions with healthcare professionals. Their choice of language styles is influenced by who they are talking to, where the interaction takes place, the topic of the discussion, and the purpose of the interaction.

The analysis is based on Joos' (1967) theory of language style, which categorizes language into five distinct types. Additionally, Holmes' (2013) theory of social factors is applied to examine the influence of contextual elements on language style.

The following is an example of the language styles found in the movie:

Barb (nurse) : Alright, sweetie. See you tomorrow.
Stella (patient) : Bye, Barb.
Barb (nurse) : Okay.

The conversation above reflects an intimate language style, as evidenced by Barb's use of the term "sweetie," which conveys warmth and familiarity. Stella's response, in which she addresses Barb by name rather than using a formal title, further indicates their close relationship despite Barb's role as a nurse. While doctors tend to preserve their consultative or formal style in order to maintain professional boundaries, nurses like Barb may naturally shift toward a more intimate style due to emotional bond with the patients.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the research problem is formulated as follows:

1. What types of language styles are used by specific characters in the movie *Five Feet Apart*?
2. What are the social factors that influence the language styles of these characters?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this study, based on the research questions above, are as follows:

1. To identify the types of language styles used by specific characters in *Five Feet Apart*.
2. To examine the social factors that influence the language styles of these characters.

1.4 Focus of the Research

This study examines the language used by specific characters in the movie *Five Feet Apart*. It focuses on the communication styles employed by healthcare professionals in various situations. The scope of this research is limited to conversations involving healthcare professionals, including interactions between nurses, nurses and patients, nurses and patients' mothers, doctors and nurses, and doctors and patients. The key speakers analyzed in this study are Dr. Hamid (a doctor), Julie and Barb (two nurses), Stella, William, and Poe (three patients), as well as the mothers of Stella and William (two patients' mothers). Conversations that occur within the hospital but do not involve healthcare professionals are excluded from this analysis. The primary objective of this research is to identify the types of language styles used by healthcare professionals and to examine the social factors influencing their language choices in *Five Feet Apart*.

1.5 Methods of the Research

This research employs a descriptive qualitative method to analyze and interpret the data. Qualitative method involves collecting primarily descriptive narrative and visual data; analysis is predicated on finding themes and patterns; and data reliability is ensured by triangulation (Mills & Gay, 2016).

1.5.1 Data Collection

The data for this research is the conversations from specific characters in the movie *Five Feet Apart*, particularly a doctor (Dr. Hamid), two nurses (Julie and Barb), three patients (Stella, William, and Poe), and two mothers of the patients (Stella's mother and William's mother). These conversations exhibit specific language styles as defined by Joos' theory of style. The movie is downloaded from YouTube and its script can be accessed in the following link <https://id.scribd.com/document/518820066/5-feet-apart-script>. Only the conversations involving healthcare professionals—doctor to nurses, doctor to patients, nurse to nurse, nurses to patients, and nurses to patients' mothers—will be analyzed for language style.

The technique used for data collection is purposive sampling. According to Mills & Gay (2016), purposive sampling is the process of choosing a sample that is considered to be representative of a particular population. In this study, purposive sampling was employed to select conversations in the movie *Five Feet Apart*. The parameter for selecting the samples was the characters selected need to be actively engaged in conversations with healthcare professionals. The specific characters were chosen because they interact directly with healthcare professionals in medical communication portrayed in the film.

1.5.2 Data Analysis


Data analysis is followed the model proposed by Miles & Huberman (1994), which includes three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/ verification.

- a. Data reduction: selecting data from the script and focusing on the conversations between nurses, nurses and patients, nurses and patients' mothers, doctors and nurses, and doctors and patients. Classifying the conversations into distinct categories based on Joos' (1967)

theory of language style and identifying the social factors influencing language style as outlined in Holmes' (2013) theory.

- b. Data display: the categorized data is displayed in tables, accompanied by detailed explanations of conversation excerpts from the scripts.
- a. Conclusion drawing/verification: The results from the research questions are summarized and concluded.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms



Sociolinguistics:	Sociolinguistics is the science that studies the relationship between language and society. It functions to better understand language structure and communication (Wardhaugh, 2006).
Language style:	Language style refers to how someone conveys information, either through spoken and written, to make a good impression on the reader or listener (Ningsih, 2023).
Social factors:	Social factor are the elements that influence how people use language in certain circumstances (Holmes, 2013).
Medical communication:	Interdisciplinary field that combines medicine and communication, and it is directly related to the practice of increasing public access to scientific knowledge (Wang, et al., 2020).