

# AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE STYLE IN *FORREST GUMP* MOVIE

Nadya Anindra Salsabillah<sup>1</sup>, Diana Chitra Hasan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Student of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University  
E-mail: [nadyasalsabillah22@gmail.com](mailto:nadyasalsabillah22@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Lecturer of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University  
E-mail : [diana.hasan@bunghatta.ac.id](mailto:diana.hasan@bunghatta.ac.id)

---

## ABSTRACT

This research uses Joo's theory (1967) and Holmes theory (2013) to investigate the way the characters in the film *Forrest Gump* speak. This research aims to investigate the types of language styles and the social factors found in these language styles which cause these language styles to be used in the most common dialogues in films. This study used qualitative descriptive methods to examine data in reliable information. The focus of the research is to identify five styles that appear in films. There are total of 60 data points from all styles including: Frozen style, Formal style, Consultation style, Casual style, and Intimate Style. Casual style 17 utterances, intimate style with 15 utterances, followed by formal 13 utterances and consultative styles with 14 utterances each, then 1 frozen style was found. The results of this data lead to the conclusion that language style is a form of language that is based on the situation and the communicator. These five formats represent how emotions, events, and relationships between users are expressed.

**Keywords:** *Language styles, Forrest Gump, Sociolinguistic*

## INTRODUCTION

According to [1] sociolinguistic studies examine how language is used in different contexts by people as well as the connection between language and society. The depth and detail vary greatly, from thoughts about the terms in a particular place to an examination of the way men and women speak to each other in certain situations. Dialect is dynamic and ever-changing, which is the basic tenet of sociolinguistics. One way to see how language styles work in a film is to watch the film repeatedly. Film is a type of visual communication that uses music and moving images to tell stories or convey information and help others learn. People see watching movies as a way to pass the time and have fun anywhere in the world. The Netflix series "*Forrest Gump*" was the film chosen as a source of information for this investigation.

According to [2] people have a natural capacity for dialect securing, encouraging the consistent learning and generation of language in early advancement and recognized between surface structure (the sentences we express) and

profound structure (the basic theoretical implications), pushing the noteworthiness of getting a handle on the more profound rules and standards overseeing dialect. According to [3] the function of language style is to convey social or artistic effects. This means that language style can be a very important factor in group identification, group solidarity and signaling of difference, and when a group is attacked from the outside, signaling of difference may become more important and exaggerated.

The film "*Forrest Gump*" portrays the life narrative of a modest man named Forrest Gump, who is portrayed masterfully by Tom Hanks. Despite his lack of intelligence, Forrest has a great heart and a strong will to face life. The movie takes viewers through Forrest's life journey, from his childhood in Alabama marked by unpleasant treatment from his peers, to becoming a successful athlete, brave Vietnam War soldier, wealthy shrimp entrepreneur, and Medal of Honor recipient. Although his life was full of challenges and tragedy, Forrest faced them with a simplicity and honesty that inspired many around him. The writer chooses this topic because he was interested in learning more deeply about sociolinguistics, especially

regarding language style. The aim of this research is to identify various linguistic idioms used in the Netflix series "Forrest Gump". According to [4] language and society are closely linked. Society conditions have an impact on language change. There are many aspects in society that vary the use of language. According to [5] frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style are the five different styles.

## METHOD

This type of research is qualitative. According to [6] qualitative research methods are descriptive, meaning that the data collected is in the form of words or images, not numbers. Because the aim of this research is to describe the types of language styles found in the film *Forrest Gump* and the social factors that influence language styles, the writer uses a qualitative descriptive method. The writer uses qualitative methods to collect data. Based on the definition above, the writer wants to analyze the language in films and then classify them based on type and context and draw conclusions from them. The writer wants to explain the phenomenon of differences in language styles and the social factors that influence them.

This film is part of a Netflix series, which is a grouping of episodes or portions of a tale or stories linked by a common topic, plot, or characters in the context of television and entertainment. Every episode usually builds on the plot and character development of the one before it, resulting in a coherent and continuous narrative.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this research the writer found a total of 60 data divided into 5 language styles according to Joos (1967) theory from the Netflix series *Forrest Gump*. The writer found 1 frozen style data, 13 formal style data, 14 consultative style data, 17 casual style data, and 15 intimate style data used throughout the film. Apart from that, this research also uses Holmes (2013) theory about social factors that influence language style. Casual language style reflects the way young people communicate in everyday conversation. The casual language style is most often found because it is language that is often used in everyday conversations. Intimate language style is also influenced by the storyline which shows

that this is a story about love and family, so there are several main expressions of language style.

Sample data from language style and social factors that influence language style:

### (1) Frozen Style



Priest: **“Do you Forrest, take Jenny to be your wife?”**

“Do you, Jenny takes Forrest to be your husband?”

The language style used in the previous sentence is Frozen Style. This section contains sacred language, because it is used by the priest as a question to the bride and groom and ends with a statement regarding the validity of the marriage being carried out, and is also formal in language that already has a template. This proves that at a wedding a priest will speak the same language at every wedding. The structured language at each wedding that differentiates it is the name of the bride and groom, like Jenny and Forrest here.

The setting of the location for the frozen style expression in data 1 shows that this language expression occurred at the moment of Forrest and Jenny's wedding, which took place in the backyard of Forrest house which was solemn. The participant here was the priest who was making wedding vows and then there was also a question-and-answer process regarding readiness. Forrest and Jenny are in the process of getting married, the topic is getting Forrest and Jenny married. The function in this frozen language style expression is aim to be making Forrest and Jenny wedding run as it should.

## (2) Formal Style



Principal: **“Now, his IQ is 75”**

Mrs. Gump: “Well we’re all defferent, Mr. Hancock”

Principal: **“I want to show you something, Mrs. Gump. Now this is normal”**

In this dialogue, the previous conversation was conducted in a formal and polite manner. The formal names used by characters such as "Mr. Hancock" and "Mrs. Gump" and “Now, his IQ is 75” indicate formal environments and relationships. And the conversation situation was formal because apart from being in the principal's office, they also discussed serious matters regarding the process of accepting students at the school. One common characteristic of formal style is the use of formal titles or titles, such as referring to someone with an honorary or professional title.

Place setting at a formal conversation between Mrs. Gump with Mr. Hancock takes place in a special student reception room at school, the participant in it is Mrs. Gump as Forrest's mother who wants to enroll her child in a normal school and meets Mr. Hancock was the intermediary from the school, but he said that Forrest was not suitable to go to that school because Forrest was different from other normal children. The topic in this conversation is Mrs. Gump discusses her desire to enroll Forrest in school. The function of the conversation is so that Forrest can go to a normal school in general.

## (3) Consultative Style



Forrest: “Who I’m gonna be?”

Jenny: “Yeah”

Forrest: Aren’t I going to be me?”

Jenny: **“Well, you’ll always be you, just another kind of you”**

Then Jenny's expression also has provide counseling in it, stating "Well, always be you, just another kind of you", as well as information about Jenny's future wishes. Actions in these conversations help build shared understanding and lay the foundation for discussion and collaboration, and have advice in conversation.

The setting for this conversation is Jenny's house. So this conversation is informal and communicative. The participants are Forrest and Jenny, who have been friends since childhood. The topic was that they were discussing their dreams for the future and Jenny was trying to provide information regarding her point of view about the future. As well as what its function will be in the future when Jenny asks and Forrest answers in a consultative style.

## (4) Casual Style



Elvis: **“Say, man, show me that crazy little walk you just did there”**

Forrest: “I like the guitar”

The language used in conversation is informal and relaxed, resulting in a conversational tone. Elvis came as a guest there invited Forrest Gump to play music and from the way Elvis called Forrest with "Say, man, show me that crazy". The use of "man" and informal language contributed to the tone of informality. Forrest responds informally, saying he also likes playing guitar. The statements made by Elvis also include language that is usually used with friends and in very casual situations.

The setting is in Forrest's residence room, the participants are Forrest and Elvis rents a room in his house, the topic of the conversation above Elvis is interested in Forrest footsteps which follow the rhythm of the guitar the young man is playing, and the function seen in the conversation was that Elvis wanted Forrest to accompany his

guitar according to Forrest's tone and abilities. So it turns out that Forrest said that he also likes guitar.

### (5) Intimate Style



Forrest: "They was trying to grab you"

Jenny: "Just, you can't keep doing has all the time"

Forrest: **"I can't help it. I love you"**

In this conversation, Jenny told Forrest that he had stopped to save her from an incident that Forrest thought could hurt Jenny, then in this situation Forrest expressed his feelings of love for Jenny "I love you" showing that Forrest loves Jenny. This establishes a kind and loving tone that suggests they have a close relationship. It displays the degree of intimacy and emotional connection. With a "you don't know what love is" response, Jenny implied that Forrest had no idea what love was. Forrest loves Jenny, thus he chooses to convey his sentiments, and his vocabulary varies to reflect this intimacy, which indicates that his entire goal in life is to protect her.

In this data here is an intimate style, which has a setting on the side of the highway, the participants in it are Forrest and Jenny their relationship is that of friends since childhood. The topic is Forrest expressing his feelings to Jenny, that he loves Jenny but Jenny's response is that he says that Forrest doesn't understand what love is. And function that can be seen is that this expression is sincerely from Forrest that he loves Jenny, who is his best friend since childhood.

### CONCLUSION

In Conclusion, the writer discusses the social factors that influence the characters in the film Forrest Gump through the use of certain language styles. The writer tries to make this relationship using the theory of Joos and Holmes. The writer

conclude that each type of language style has differences in participants, settings, topics, and functions. In addition, these aspects cannot be separated to understand the language style used by each character in each of their speeches.

### SUGGESTION

This study analyzes the use of Joos' linguistic style theory in the Netflix series Forrest Gump and the social factors that influence it. For further research, if readers or future researchers want to deepen their understanding of language styles and their use, readers can also analyze language styles in other films and film series, as well as evaluate the application and effectiveness of Joos' theory in various language genres, media arts and literature. And can also analyze social factors in the use of language styles and understand culture in films which will be studied next.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer expresses the deepest gratitude to Diana Chitra Hasan, M.Hum, M.Ed, Ph.D as my supervisor guided and supervised throughout the preparation of this article with patience, dedication, and authenticity. The writer also expresses thank you to the examiners, Dr. Yusrita Yanti, S.S., M. Hum., and Dra. Nova Rina, M. Hum., for giving support, consideration, and insightful comments.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Eble (2005). *What-is-Sociolinguistics-Sociolinguistic-Basics*.
- [2] Chomsky. *Language and Mind*. In philosophy for Linguists.
- [3] Chaika (1982). *Language The Society Mirror*. Rawley Massachusetts: New house Publisher Inc.
- [4] Joos, M. (1967). *The Styles of The Five clocks*. Massachusetts: Winthrop Publishers.
- [5] Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic*. New York: Longman.
- [6] Gray, P.S. (2007). *Research Imagination: An introduction a Qualitative and Quantitative Method*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

