ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE STYLES IN *DJANGO UNCHAINED* BY QUENTIN TARANTINO MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the language styles used in *Django Unchained*, directed by Quentin Tarantino, based on Martin Joos's Five Clocks theory and Janet Holmes's sociolinguistic framework. This qualitative research analyzes 52 selected utterances taken from key characters, particularly Django, Dr. Schultz, and several plantation owners. The data were collected through observation and detailed analysis of the film's dialogues to identify the types of language styles and the social factors influencing their use. The findings reveal four language styles: formal (5 occurrences), consultative (28), casual (14), and intimate (4), while frozen style is not found in the data because the film does not contain fixed ceremonial or ritual expressions. Consultative style is the most dominant, reflecting frequent negotiation, explanation, and cooperation in situations involving differences in status and authority. Formal style appears in official or serious contexts, casual style is used in emotional or tense interactions, and intimate style occurs in close personal conversations. The study also shows that language style selection is strongly influenced by participants, setting, topic, and communicative function, which shape how characters communicate and reflect social hierarchy and institutional power within the narrative.

Keywords: language style, sociolinguistics, consultative, casual, social factors

INTRODUCTION

Language styles are important in social interaction because people do not speak in the same way in every situation. In sociolinguistics, language variation is influenced by social conditions, not by chance [1]. Speakers change their language styles depending on who they are talking to, where the conversation takes place, what they are talking about, and what they want to achieve. Therefore, language styles show differences in formality, relationship, and social distance.

According to Martin Joos [3], there are five types of language styles: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Frozen style is fixed and usually used in ceremonies or official texts. Formal style is used in serious and official situations. Consultative style is used in semi-formal conversations where explanation and clarification are needed. Casual style is used in relaxed conversations among friends or people who know each other well. Intimate style is used between people who have a close personal relationship. These five styles show different levels of formality in communication.

Janet Holmes [2] explains that language styles are influenced by four social factors: participants, setting, topic, and function. Participants refer to the relationship between speakers, such as differences in status or familiarity. Setting refers to the place or situation where the conversation happens. Topic relates to the subject being discussed, whether it is serious or informal. Function refers to the purpose of communication, such as giving information, asking questions, persuading, or expressing feelings. These factors help determine which language style is appropriate in a particular situation.

In film dialogue, characters use different language styles depending on these social factors. The variation of language styles shows how communication changes based on social relationships and interactional needs. This study aims to identify the types of language styles used in Django Unchained and to analyze the social factors that influence their use. The research focuses on selected key characters whose conversations clearly show differences in language styles. This study helps to explain how language styles are influenced by social factors in film communication.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze language styles in Django Unchained. The data

consist of 52 utterances taken from the dialogues of key characters in the film. The utterances were selected because they clearly show variations of language styles and reflect certain social contexts. This study follows Creswell [4], who explains that qualitative research aims to understand and interpret social phenomena based on meaning.

This research applies document analysis as the main method because the film dialogue functions as textual data. According to Bowen [5], document analysis is a systematic way to review and evaluate documents in order to interpret meaning. In this study, the film script and spoken dialogues are treated as documents to be analyzed.

The data were collected through several steps: watching the film repeatedly, transcribing selected utterances, identifying language style characteristics, and classifying them based on Martin Joos's Five Clocks theory [3]. After classification, each utterance was analyzed using Janet Holmes's sociolinguistic theory [2] to determine the social factors influencing the use of language styles, namely participants, setting, topic, and communicative function.

The analysis involved coding, grouping the data into categories, interpreting the context, and comparing the styles found. The researcher focused on linguistic features such as sentence structure, word choice, contractions, politeness markers, and emotional expressions to identify levels of formality and social distance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis identifies four language styles: formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Frozen style does not appear in the data because the film rarely presents fixed ceremonial language or memorized formal expressions typical of religious or legal texts.

Table 1. Distribution of Language Styles

No	Language Styles	Frequency
1	Formal	5
2	Consultative	28
3	Casual	14
4	Intimate	4

1. Types of Language Styles
A) Formal styles
From the 52 utterances analyzed, the writer found that formal style occurs 5 times in the film. An example of formal style can be seen in the following data.

Minutes 00:28:49
Dr.Schultz :**My good sir, perhaps we got off on the wrong boot. Allow me to unring this bell. My name is Dr. King Schultz. This is my valet, Django.** And these are our horses, Tony and Fritz

This utterance is classified as formal style because Dr. Schultz uses polite, respectful, and carefully structured language in a tense situation. The expression **"My good sir"** shows respect and social distance, while "Allow me to unring this bell" is a formal way to correct a misunderstanding. The introduction **"My name is Dr. King Schultz"** emphasizes authority through the use of a professional title. These features politeness, formal diction, and clear self-presentation ndicate that the utterance reflects formal style.

B) Consultative Style
From the 52 utterances analyzed, the writer found 28 data of consultative style. An example of this style can be seen in the following excerpt.

Minutes 00:27:46
Dr. Schultz :**And now, Django, you may choose your character's costume.**
Django :Youse gonna let me pick out my own clothes?
Dr. Schultz : **But of course.**

This utterance is classified as consultative style because it occurs in a semi-formal interaction where Dr. Schultz has higher authority but speaks politely and cooperatively to Django. The expressions "**you may choose your character's costume**" and "**But of course**" show respectful language used to give permission and clarify choices. According to Holmes, this type of guided and respectful communication between participants with unequal status reflects consultative style.

C) Casual Styles
From the 52 utterances analyzed, the writer found that casual style occurs 14 times in the film. An example of casual style can be seen in the following data.
Minutes 00:32:01
Betina : **What you do for your massa ?**
Django :**Didn't you hear him tell you I ain't no slave**
Betina : **So you really free ?**
Django :**Yes, I's free.**
Betina : You mean you wanna dress like that ?

This utterance is classified as casual style because

Django and Betina use informal, everyday language such as "**what you do for your massa?**" and Django respond "**Didn't you hear him tell you I ain't no slave**" and "**Yes, I's free**". The conversation happens in a relaxed, private setting and is spoken naturally without politeness strategies or formal structure. According to Holmes, this informal and spontaneous interaction reflects the characteristics of casual style

D) Intimate Style
From the 52 utterances analyzed, the writer found that intimate style occurs 4 times in the film. An example of intimate style can be seen in the following data.

Minutes 01:30:27
Calvin : **Darlin', you are a tonic for tired eyes.**

This utterance can be classified as an intimate style because Calvin speaks to his sister with warmth and affection. The use of "**Darlin**" and the compliment "**you are a tonic for tired eyes**" shows closeness and emotional familiarity. The tone is soft and personal, reflecting the intimate relationship between them.

2. Social Factors Influenced the Language Styles
A) Setting

Minutes 00:28:49
Dr.Schultz :**My good sir, perhaps we got off on the wrong boot. Allow me to unring this bell. My name is Dr. King Schultz. This is my valet, Django.** And these are our horses, Tony and Fritz

The setting of this utterance is public and tense, taking place on a plantation where hierarchy and authority are strongly enforced. This situation leads Dr. Schultz to use formal expressions such as "**My good sir**," "Allow me to unring this bell," and "**My name is Dr. King Schultz.**" The use of formal language helps reduce tension, maintain order, and manage the seriousness of the situation.

B) Participant
Minutes 01:30:27
Calvin : **Darlin', you are a tonic for tired eyes.**

The social factor influencing this intimate style is the close relationship between the participants. Calvin Candie and his sister share emotional closeness, allowing him to use warm expressions like **"Darlin',"** which show familiarity, comfort, and affection. This close bond makes the language personal and intimate.

C) Topic
Minutes 00:22:01
Dr.Schultz : Marshal Tatum**, may I address you and your deputy and apparently the entire town of Daughtrey as to the incident that just accorred?**

The social factor influencing this utterance is the topic, as Dr. Schultz is addressing a serious legal incident. The phrase "**the incident that just occurred**" shows that the focus is on explaining and clarifying a specific event. Because the conversation concerns an official matter that requires justification and accountability, the topic determines how the interaction is structured and expressed.

D) Function

Minutes 00:39:38
Dr, Schultz : **Now, may I please remove the warrant from my pocket so you may examine it ?**

The most prominent social factor in this utterance is the function of the speech, which is to justify authority and legitimize action. By politely asking, "**may I please remove the warrant from my pocket so you may examine it**?", Dr. Schultz aims to clarify the legal basis of his actions and prevent further conflict

The results of this study show that four types of language styles are found in Django Unchained based on Martin Joos's theory, namely formal, consultative, casual, and intimate style, while frozen style is not found in the data. From 52 utterances analyzed, consultative style appears most frequently with 28 occurrences, followed by casual style (14), formal style (5), and intimate style (4). The dominance of consultative style indicates that many interactions in the film occur in semi-formal situations where characters need to negotiate, explain, or cooperate despite differences in social status. Formal style is mainly used in serious or institutional situations, casual style appears in relaxed or emotionally intense conversations, and intimate style is used in close personal relationships. The findings also reveal that language style is strongly influenced by social factors proposed by Holmes, including participants, setting, topic, and communicative function. Among these factors, participants play the most significant role, as differences in power, authority, and social distance affect how characters choose their language style. Overall, the study shows that language style in the film is shaped by social context and reflects levels of formality and social relationships between characters.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study concludes that consultative style dominates language use in Django Unchained, reflecting negotiation and strategic interaction in unequal power relations. Formal style appears in institutional contexts, casual style in emotional confrontation, and intimate style in close personal relationships. Language style is strongly influenced by participants, setting, topic, and communicative function. The findings demonstrate that language in the film functions as a social practice that constructs hierarchy, expresses resistance, and reflects racial and institutional power structures. Future research is suggested to analyze other films or explore different sociolinguistic perspectives to broaden the understanding of language style in cinematic discourse.

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