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## SPEECH STYLE USED IN THE NOVEL "NEMESIS" BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

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### Abstract

Speech style can be interpreted as the variation of language that is influenced by the level of formality. The level of formality is determined by several aspects, such as the topics of the conversation and the social status of the speakers. Martin Joos (1967) classifies speech style into 5 types, including Frozen style, Formal style, Consultative style, Casual style and Intimate style. Furthermore, it is known that everyone uses different speech styles depending on the reason they use it. In order to comprehend the speech style, the researcher chooses one of the works by a novelist named Agatha Christie entitled *Nemesis*. The purposes of this research are to find out the speech styles used by the main character of the novel "Nemesis" by Agatha Christie and to explore the reason for the speech styles used by the main character of the novel "Nemesis" by Agatha Christie. To conduct this research, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. There are 2 theories which are used in this research, the first theory is Speech style theory from Martin Joos and the second theory is Holmes' theory of aspects that affect language variation. There are 2 outcomes of this research. The first, the main character of the novel "Nemesis" by Agatha Christie – Miss Marple – uses 4 types of speech styles out of 5 types, including Formal style with 18 data, Consultative style with 143 data, Casual style with 92 data, and Intimate style with 8 data. The second, the main reasons why Miss Marple uses those speech styles is the participants followed by the factors of the setting, the topic as well as the function.

**Keywords:** Speech Style, Main Character, Novel, *Nemesis*, Agatha Christie

### INTRODUCTION

In this life, human and language are a thing that cannot be separated. As human beings, we cannot deny the fact that we need language to interact and communicate with others, whether it is to express emotions and feelings or also to exchange ideas. Language is also not only about speaking directly by making a sound, but language can also be through facial expressions, gestures or body language.

In language, there is what is known as Linguistics. Linguistics is a science where its concern is the nature of language (Akmajian et al., 2010, p. 5). At this point, we can conclude that linguistics is a knowledge of language where this field will study in depth about language.

As a field of science, linguistics has experienced very rapid development so that this field of science does not only discuss language itself but also in terms of various aspects, such as in terms of word meaning, sentences, signs, human sounds, classified sounds. One of which is sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics is knowledge which focuses on how language works in society. The concept of sociolinguistics itself is not as simple as the combination of two disciplines – linguistics and sociology - which takes the concept and finding of two disciplines, but sociolinguistics is a serious scientific approach to language and society. As the leading figure in theoretical linguistics, Noam Chomsky observed that sociolinguistics does not focus on 'grammar' but sociolinguistics is more concerned with other different concepts, one of which is 'language' (Romaine, 2000, p. 1). For example, in everyday life, people use language styles that are quite varied, which is influenced by several factors. They use a variety of language styles with a specific purpose. This is known as Speech Style.

Speech style is the variation of language that we use. Joos (1976, p. 156) states that speech style is the way speakers use language in conversation which is influenced by the level of formality (Hamdany & Damanhuri, 2017). Here, the speaker means who is talking to whom and the level of formality depends on several aspects, such as the topics of the conversation, the social status of the speakers, the setting indicates where the conversation takes place, age and it also can be from the relationship between the speakers and it is very important to us to know how to speak nicely to the interlocutor so that you can use the appropriate style for our situation. The same as when we read literary works, especially a novel, there will definitely be parts where we as readers will be confused by the conversations in the literary works. Sometimes our confusion comes from how the characters communicate so that it creates confusion in the reader's minds. Therefore, it will be very important to understand the speech style in order to make it easier for the reader to understand the context of the reading.

In order to understand the speech style, the researcher chooses one of the works by a novelist named Agatha Christie which is entitled "Nemesis."

There are two problems formulated based on the background of the research above, they are:

1. What types of speech styles are used by the main character of the novel "Nemesis" by Agatha Christie?
2. Why does the main character of the novel "Nemesis" by Agatha Christie use these speech styles?

## **Review of Related Literature**

### **Language**

The part of language is the manifestation in conveying feelings whether it is a happiness or sadness in the social interaction. Hence, language has an important part in social life, as well as emotions or feelings that play a role in expressing an idea. Brown (2002, p. 5) as cited in Jamil and Nasrum (2018) explains that language is a structure of language is a system of arbitrarily customary voice, writing, or gesture symbols that allows members of a particular community to communicate with each other in an easy-to-understand manner.

In short, language is a symbol of a system that functions as a communication medium that is needed by humans to exchange messages, ideas, expressions, and desires.

### **Sociolinguistics**

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the study of the relationship between language and society. Georgieva (2014, p. 4) as cited in Jamil and Nasrum (2018) explains about sociolinguistics, which is the field of studying language in the context of society. This means that the use of language is used for everyday communication between different people in different social situations. The relationship between language and society can be in the form of mutual influence which has consequences that are considered dialectical. This arises because of a verbal and social behavior when in an interaction that produces a diversity in language.

Moreover, Wardaugh (1992, p. 12) explains that sociolinguistics is the study of diversity in language. This aims to identify what diversity exists in the language and the speaker's 'knowledge' about the language. What is meant in this case is knowledge that the speaker is not aware of about subtle linguistic differences (Masluchah & Zaman, 2018).

### **Speech Style**

In communication, language has a variety of styles depending on who we speak to or on what occasions we speak. Holmes (2001) explains that style is the selection of types or variations of speech that can change depending on the context of the conversation and to whom the conversation is addressed (Astika, 2018).

Joos (1976) mentions that social factors also influenced the way a person speaks (Putra & Rosa, 2019). The social factors itself can be anything, including social status, environment, participants' relationship, age and gender. For example, when we are in the worship's house we will definitely use the formal style instead of the informal one considering where we are now.

In addition, Chaika (1982) finds that some people use a certain language to achieve a goal (Putra & Rosa, 2019). Like a lawyer, they use their words to defend their clients by corroborating the evidence with their style of language. A salesperson from a company uses words to convince people that the product they have is worth buying so that people will think about buying the product.

In short, speech style carries messages conveyed by words as a way for people to manipulate and control others when they interact with others. A person usually uses a certain style of speech to get attention, or also to influence people.

## **Types of Speech Style**

### **1. Frozen Style**

Selingson (2017, p. 12) in Jamil and Nasrum (2018) mentions that frozen style is a style that is printed and for reading or recitation. This style is quite complicated compared to other styles. Frozen style has a complex sentence structure, this style also requires a high level of skill and is used almost exclusively by professionals, lawyers, and preachers. In general, this style is used in churches, mosques, ceremonies, state ceremonial speeches and other occasions. This style is called frozen because it has no variations and has a fixed pattern.

Frozen style is marked by complex sentences where the speech tends to be monologue, the grammar is very concerned, the subject matter is concrete and uses intonation permanently.

### **2. Formal Style**

Joos (1976, p. 156) states that formal style is a style that is intended to welcome the audience, generally the audience is not too large so as to allow for an effective exchange between the speaker and the listener (Hamdany & Damanhuri, 2017). This style is typically used in formal situations where there is a shared background in knowledge, one-way communication with little or no feedback from listeners. In this style, the vocabulary uses a broad standard utterance and also the speaker must arrange the words or sentences before being presented to the listener.

Besides that, Joos (1967, p. 37) also mentions that formal style's pronunciation is precise to the point of clattering, grammar accepts no ellipsis and cultivates elaborateness, and the semantics are exacting.

### **3. Consultative Style**

Stebbins (2016, p. 253) Jamil and Nasrum (2018) describes a consultative style where this style includes two-way communication, has a less formal nature, but the words are chosen carefully. For example, a dialogue between a doctor and his patient, a lawyer and his client, or a lecturer and his students. This style occurs between two people where one person speaks and the other responds briefly.

This style has several positive characteristics, namely: *yes, no, Mmm, uhuh, I think so, that's right* and this style is usually used in group discussions, meetings with school principals or also between sellers and buyers.

#### **4. Casual Style**

Joos (1967) in Astika (2018) mentions that this style is a type of speaking style in which participants in this style feel relaxed, quite spontaneous and very self-sufficient. For example, gossip, opinions, or jokes. This style generally occurs when communicating with friends, family or coworkers.

Joos (1976, p. 154) mentions that there are two groups of casual styles: ellipsis and slang. Ellipses distinguish between casual and consultative grammar and necessitate a simplified form. Slang is known as a non-standard word that is used by certain groups (Hamdany & Damanhuri, 2017).

#### **5. Intimate Style**

Joos (1976, p. 155) as cited in Hamdany and Damanhuri (2017) mentions that intimate style is a conversation that avoids giving information to the interlocutor outside the speaker's skin. This style is very personal and is used by family, very close friends, couples, etc. This style also has indications with ellipsis, deletion, prompt, unclear speech, nonverbal communication, and personal code features.

#### **The Aspects that affect language variation**

Everyone communicates using a language that varies depending on what this affects it. Along with this statement, Holmes (2013) classifies the aspects that affect the variation of language into 4 (Wahyuni & Zaim, 2021). The explanations of those as follows:

##### **1. Participants**

Generally, everyone communicates or uses language in a different way. The difference is based on who we are talking to, such as teachers, parents or peers.

##### **2. Setting**

The second aspect that affects language variation is the setting. The use of language must be considered to see the location where we are. For example, if we are in a worship house, we should use polite language to be heard.

##### **3. Topic**

The next aspect that affects language variation is the topic of the conversation. According to Wahyuni and Zaim (2021), The speaker's topic is what he or she is saying or discussing. For example, when a patient consults his health to a doctor, of course the language they will use is consultative style.

##### **4. Function**

The last aspect that affects language variation is the function. The function in question is the reason they communicate or the goal of their communication.

#### **Novel**

These days, literary works have become very popular. Sulaeman (2020, p. 53) as cited in Wahyuni and Zaim (2021) mentions that literature is not only about a work that gives satisfaction and inner pleasure to the reader, but more than that, literary works are also means of conveying moral value or messages to their readers based on a reality that exists in public.

Nowadays, more and more people are interested in novels, either because of the genre or because of the writing style presented by the author. The novel itself contains the story of a person's life but the presentation is not in the form of a documentary (Wahyuni & Zaim, 2021). Novels are more about the story of a person's life which is described in such a way, polished with some special tragedies that must be experienced

by the character so that it will attract public interest to read it. For example, a novel with a historical theme, the author will make the character in the setting of a famous tragedy and make the character have to survive in that tragedy.

## ***Nemesis by Agatha Christie***

*Nemesis* is the work of Agatha Christie, a British writer, published in November 1971. *Nemesis* tells the story of a woman named Jane Marple – or also called Miss Marple. Miss Marple was surprised by the arrival of a letter from her old friend, Mr. Rafiel, who had died a week after the letter arrived. Mr. Rafiel asked Miss Marple to investigate a murder case, but the letter did not provide any information regarding the case. Therefore, Miss Marple must try to figure out about that crime and who is the murderer.

## ***Crime Fiction Genre***

Crime fiction is one of the popular fiction genres. Crime fiction is a novel genre that contains a long narrative about a crime. As Worthington (2011) explains in his book, crime fiction is a genre in which the reader is given a new perception and drawn into a culture by those who produce it. As one of the most popular literary works, this genre can easily put a shift in both cultural and social life into the story.

Crime fiction genre stories display the reality of existing crimes and the characters (the criminals) are shown to have psychological disorders such as anxiety or also often do social deviations. Based on this statement and the fact that the location used is in the real world, it can be said that the genre of criminal fiction can be the only fiction that deals with fact, such as in one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels, *A Study in Scarlet*, which takes place in London, England.

The genre of crime fiction became in great demand in the 19th century among many emerging genres. The content presented in a criminal novel, if the author does not intentionally include it, can fix the unavoidable criminal act. And over time, crime fiction, which initially had a criminal focus, shifted its focus to detectives (Worthington, 2011).

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

In this research, the researchers used a descriptive qualitative method in order to examine and discover the speech style used in the novel “*Nemesis*” by Agatha Christie.

Mukhtar (2013) states that descriptive qualitative research is one type of research where the focus is on paying attention to what facts exist in the society and then these facts are analyzed using a certain theory that has been applied to an appropriate field of study (Setiawan and Kuntjara, 2017). Instead of calculating the data, the data in qualitative research will be presented in a descriptive way where the researchers will analyze the data in the form of words (Purba et al, 2021, p. 4).

### **Source of Data**

In this research, the researchers took the data from a novel by Agatha Christie entitled *Nemesis*. *Nemesis* is a story of an old woman named Miss Marple who tries to solve a case at the request of her old friend who has died but she does not know what the case is about. The data were taken from the utterances of Miss Marple – Jane Marple as the main character of the novel *Nemesis*.

In this research, there is no informant because the data deals with the texts. In this research, the researcher used other sources such as books, articles or journals and other sources to make it easier for the researcher to complete this research.

### **Data Collection Procedures**

In order to conduct this research, the researchers collected the data by using descriptive methods which carried out through data collection procedures as follows:

- a. The first procedure for collecting data in this research is the researchers read carefully the novel that has been downloaded so that the researchers can easily understand the story.
- b. The second, the researchers identified the data which has been obtained from the novel and tabulated it based on the types of speech style by Martin Joos.
- c. The next stage was called collection. In this stage, the researchers collected the data which has been taken before.
- d. After that, all the data elaborated. In this step, the elaboration data process was carried out thoroughly and in detail to produce a finding.
- e. The last step is drawing a conclusion. In this step, the researchers drew a conclusion based on the findings.

## Technique Data analysis

In order to conduct this research, the researchers analyzed the data using technique of data analysis that fit with qualitative research based on Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) methods as follows:

### 1. Data Condensation

At this stage, the data will be condensed using the theory of speech style by Martin Joos and linked to the utterances of the main character of the novel *Nemesis* – Miss Marple.

### 2. Data Display

After condensing the data, the next step that the researchers did is display data. In this step, the data that has been collected will be compressed, which gives the researcher the possibility to take a new step, namely drawing conclusions.

### 3. Drawing and Verifying Conclusions

In the final step, the researchers drew conclusions from all the data that has been collected. The process of drawing conclusions was carried out after all data had been collected. This stage means that the researchers made a review based on the findings that have been described previously and will draw an outline from the existing data.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Findings

#### Types of Speech Style

After doing the research, the researchers found that there are 4 of 5 types of Speech Style utilized in this novel, including formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. The detail will be displayed beneath:

#### Formal Style

Based on the research that has been done, the researchers found that in Miss Marple's utterances, there are 18 data categorized as Formal style that appears in Agatha Christie's novel entitled *Nemesis*.

Extract 1

Chapter 18

Archdeacon : "Miss Marple. Miss Jane Marple?"

Brabazon

Miss Marple : "Yes, that is my name. You wanted..."

Archdeacon

Brabazon : "I am Archdeacon Brabazon. I came here this morning to attend the service for a very old friend of mine, Miss Elizabeth Temple."

Miss Marple : "Oh yes? Do sit down."

Based on the extract 1 above, it can be seen that Miss Marple uses Formal style. It is said to be Formal style because in her utterance "**Yes, that is my name...**" shows that she

uses correct grammar. Furthermore, in the sentence “**Yes, that is my name. You wanted...**” can be interpreted that they just met for the first time and Miss Marple's interlocutor is someone who has a higher degree than her, namely an Archdeacon. So, it can be concluded that Miss Marple uses Formal style.

## **Consultative Style**

Based on the research that has been done, the researchers found that in Miss Marple's utterances, there are 143 data categorized as Consultative style that appears in the Agatha Christie's novel entitled Nemesis.

Extract 2

Chapter 2

Mr. Broadribb : “I hope that chair is comfortable. I'll pull that curtain slightly, shall I? You may feel the sun a little too much in your eyes.”

Miss Marple: : “**Thank you.**”

Based on the extract 2 above, it can be seen that Miss Marple uses consultative style in her conversation with Mr. Broadribb which is characterized by a brief response from Miss Marple by saying “**Thank you**” and the conversation above is classified as two-way communications where there is feedback from the interlocutor which is also one of the characteristics of the consultative style.

## **Casual Style**

From the analysis that has been done, the researchers found that in Miss Marple utterances there are 92 data categorized as Casual style that appears in the novel Nemesis by Agatha Christie.

Extract 3

Chapter 1

Cherry : “Did you say something?”

Miss Marple : “**I was speaking to myself, I just wondered if I could ever be ruthless.**”

Cherry : “What, you. Never! You're kindness itself.”

Miss Marple : “**All the same, I believe I could be ruthless if there was due cause.**”

Cherry : “What would you call due cause?”

Miss Marple : “**In the cause of justice.**”

Based on the extract 3 above, it can be seen that Miss Marple uses the Casual style. It is said to be casual style because it happens between Miss Marple and her nurse - Cherry - where they are quite close. In addition, the above conversation took place in her house with a relaxed situation which is the characteristic of Casual Style.

## **Intimate Style**

From the analysis that has been done, the researchers found that in Miss Marple utterances there are 8 data that are categorized as Intimate style that appears in the novel Nemesis by Agatha Christie.

Extract 4

Chapter 13

Miss Temple : “Good. Good. Which, which of them? That's what one has got to know. Do you know what I am talking about?”

Miss Marple : “**I think so. A girl who died-Nora Broad?**”

Miss Temple : “No, no, no. The other girl. Verity Hunt.”

Based on the extract 4 above, it can be seen that Miss Marple uses the Intimate style. One of the characteristics of Intimate style is that it occurs between family members, couples and also close friends. During the tour, Miss Marple became very close to Miss

Temple and got to know each other. Their closeness is also evidenced in the dialogue above in Miss Marple utterance, "***I think so. A girl who died-Nora Broad?***" even though Miss Marple guessed wrong about the girl, she knew what Miss Temple was talking about.

## **The Reason that influenced the main character's speech style**

The researchers used theory from Holmes' theory about aspects that affect language variation which is classified into 4, including the participants, settings, topic and function. The detail display beneath:

### **Formal Style**

Extract 5

Chapter 18

Archdeacon : "You are an old friend of hers?"

Brabazon

Miss Marple : "**I only met her on this tour. That's why I was surprised. We had expressed ideas to each other, occasionally sat next to each other in the coach, and had struck up quite an acquaintanceship. But I was surprised that she should have expressed a wish to see me when she was so ill.**"

The extract 5 above is classified as a formal style with the factors that influence it are the participant, topic and function. It can be seen that the interlocutor of Miss Maple is an Archdeacon where he has a higher degree than Miss Marple so that Miss Marple must use formal language where Miss Marple's utterance above shows the correct grammatical pattern. Another factor is that the topic Miss Marple discusses with her interlocutor is about someone they know - Miss Temple - and the purpose is for Miss Marple's interlocutor to find out whether Miss Marple is an old friend of Miss Temple or not.

### **Consultative Style**

Extract 6

Chapter 2

Miss Marple : "**Did he not give you any explanation of it?**"

Mr. Broadribb : "No, he did not."

The extract 6 above is classified as a consultative style because the factors that influence it are the participant, function, and setting. The dialogue above occurs between Miss Marple and a lawyer named Mr. Broadribb in his office in a semi-formal situation. One of the characteristics of consultative style is that it requires feedback from the interlocutor. It can be seen in one of her utterances above, "***Did he not give you any explanation of it?***" Miss Marple asks a question to her interlocutor so that she knows about the description of what they are going to talk about.

### **Casual Style**

Extract 7

Chapter 4

Miss Marple : "**You look very well and very gay.**"

Esther : "So do you, Miss Marple."

Anderson

The extract 7 above is classified into casual style because the factors that influence it are the participant, the topic as well as the setting. The dialogue above occurs between Miss Marple and Esther Anderson - Miss Marple's old friend - when visiting Esther Anderson's house. In her utterance, "***You look very well and very gay,***" there is slang in the sentence "***very gay***" which means very cheerful which is one of the features of Casual style, namely the use of slang.



## ***Intimate Style***

Extract 8

Chapter 13

Miss Temple : "Miss Marple. You are Jane Marple?"

Miss Marple : "**That is right. Yes, Jane Marple.**"

Miss Temple : "Henry often spoke of you. He said things about you."

Miss Marple : "**Henry?**"

Miss Temple : "Henry Clithering, an old friend of mine-very old friend."

Miss Marple : "**An old friend of mine too. Henry Clithering.**"

The extract above is classified as intimate style because the factors are the participant and the setting. The dialogue above takes place between Miss Marple and Miss Temple - Miss Marple's close friend during the tour - in Miss Temple's hospital room where there are only two of them because the person Miss Marple is talking to is quite weak. Miss Temple kept mumbling Miss Marple's name so the hospital called Miss Marple to come and accompany Miss Temple and the situation in the dialogue above is a serious situation.

## **Discussion**

This research aims to analyze the use of speech style by the main character of Agatha Christie's novel entitled "Nemesis." This research applies the theory of Martin Joos (1967) where there are 5 types of speech styles, including frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style, but there are only 4 types found used by the main character in the novel Nemesis, namely formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style.

In this research, the researcher found that the dominant type in this research is Consultative style because the main character in the novel nemesis - Miss Marple - mostly interacts with professor Wanstead who is sent by Mr. Rafiel to look after Miss Marple during the tour and in investigating the murder case. Although Professor Wanstead can be said to be Miss Marple's friend on tour, their conversation is always about the murder case and Professor Wanstead's profession itself is a doctor so that Professor Wanstead can be considered as miss marple's work partner rather than a tour friend.

In contrast to that, Astika (2013) in her research which entitled "The Analysis of Speech Style Used in Kick Andy Talkshow" found that there are 4 types that appear in the kick andy talk show including formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. In the Kick Andy talk show, the host and guest stars dominantly use casual style so that the situation in the talk show is relaxed and not awkward.

In addition, this research also examines the reasons why the main character of the novel Nemesis uses those types of speech styles. In analyzing this research, the researchers use Holmes' theory of social factors that influence language variation, namely participants, topic, setting and function. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the main reason or factor that influences Miss Marple to use those speech styles is because of the participants. As opposed to that, Sapriyani, Syarif and Ardi (2013) in their research which entitled "Analysis of Language Style Found in the Novel The Last Tycoon written by F. Scott Fitzgerald" which also uses the theory of Holmes found out that the topic is the main factor why the characters uses those speech styles.

## **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the novel, the researchers found that the main character in Nemesis uses 4 types of speech style, namely formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style with a total of 261 data. In this study, consultative style is the most common type with 143 data with a percentage of 54.78%. The next type is Casual style with a total data

of 92 with a percentage of 35.24%. The third type is formal style with a total of 18 data with a percentage of 6.89%. The last type is Intimate style with 8 data with a percentage of 3.08%.

There are 4 factors that affect language variation, including participants, setting, topic and function. Based on several extracts that have been discussed previously, it is known that participants are one of the main factors why Miss Marple uses those speech styles followed by the factors of the setting, the topic as well as the function.

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