

ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE REGISTERS USED IN DISCUSSION AND INTERVIEW

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Abstract: *This study is focused on discussing Analysis of Language Registers Used in Discussion and Interview. The purposes of this study are to identify the registers used in discussion and interview and to understand in what situation each register is used. This study investigated the types of language registers used in discussion and interview context. The method used in this study is a qualitative method. The data was collected from MICASE transcription. The researchers analyzed six transcriptions from discussion and interview context. The data was analyzed using Martin Joos' theory on types of language register. This research showed that there were three types of registers found in discussion and interview context. They are formal, consultative, and casual registers.*

Keywords: *Register, Discussion, Interview*

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Register is a dominant feature of sociolinguistics. According to Fishman in Chaer (2004:3), sociolinguistics is the study of the characteristics of language variations, the characteristics of their function, and the characteristics of their speakers as these constantly interact and change one another within a speech community. So, register in sociolinguistic studies is about the connection between language variation and social context. We use all these connections when we analyze language from a social perspective.

Traditionally, sociolinguistics has subscribed to the belief that one of the branches of sociolinguistics is the register. Register is a conventional way of using language that is appropriate in a specific context, which may be identified as situational (e.g. in church), occupational (e.g. among lawyers) or topical (e.g. talking about language) (Yule: 2020). We can recognize which register the speaker uses based on the speaker's choice of words, situation, place, and audience.

Register is fundamental to understand the choice of words that are appropriate to use for a particular situation. It is important to use a certain register that suits the situation. Based on Martin Joss' theory of language styles, registers are divided into five categories of language styles. They are frozen or oratorical, formal or deliberative, consultative, casual, and intimate styles. For instance, in delivering a speech, the speaker has to use a technical vocabulary or proper definition. The speaker will choose the word 'female' instead of 'women'.

The objectives of this study are to identify the registers that are used in discussion and interview and to understand in what situation the registers are used. When the situation is clear, the speaker can accurately choose the language register to use. The examples of registers that the researchers found out in discussion and interview will help the readers be more aware of the application of different registers. The researchers found that both situations use three types of registers. Those are formal, consultative, and casual registers. The speakers used formal registers when they gave explanation which did not need any feedback. Consultative registers are used when the speakers wanted to sound formal but still needed responses. Meanwhile, the speakers used casual registers when they talked to each other to create a friendly atmosphere.

The study offers some important insights to the use of registers in discussion and interview. The results of this research are expected to give information and knowledge of the uses of register in discussion and interview. It also can be used as a reference for the next researchers who want to analyze the relevant study.

1.2 Literature review

Tut Yanti (2019) in her thesis entitled “An Analysis of Register in the Conversation of Police Members of Gowa Police Resort”, the aim of this research is to identify the types of register in the conversation of traffic unit members of Gowa police resort. The method of this research is using qualitative method elaborating the real situation to support the data. The result of this research shows that there were four types of register that are found in the conversation of traffic unit members of Gowa Police Resort. They are frozen, formal, consultative, and casual register.

In her research, the data was taken from the utterances used by the members of traffic unit members of Gowa police resort when they raided on the road. This research was conducted for 3 times. In this study, the researcher did not directly appoint a policeman as informant 1, informant 2, and so on. The researcher took the overall video of the police officers on their duty. It means, the researcher did not determine directly which police officers will use as informant.

In this study, the researcher found that the members of traffic unit Gowa Police Resort used four language registers. The first one is frozen language register. They used it when the driver and the rider broke the rule. So, they used the constitution as their law basis. Secondly, it is the formal language register which is usually used in one-way participation. Next, in the consultative register, the speaker supplies background information, and the listener works actively to understand. While communicating, it moves to casual style, or the conversation breaks off. The words in casual register are more general rather than technical. This register may include more slang and colloquialisms.

METHOD

This research used a qualitative method because the type of that research is textual analysis which is intended to analyze language registers that are used in discussion and interview context. Based on Creswell (1994) qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. A qualitative research study is needed to explore this phenomenon from the perspective of distance education students. The collecting data are derived especially in the form of word, sentences or pictures that have more meaning than number or quantity or frequency (Sutopo, 2002: 35).

The researchers used six transcriptions that were taken from Michigan Corpus of Academic Spoken English (MICASE). The researchers analyzed three transcriptions in discussion context and three transcriptions in interview context. In discussion context, researchers used “Intro Astronomy Discussion Section”, “Intro Anthropology Discussion Section”, and “Intro Biology Discussion Section” transcriptions. In interview context, researchers used “Interview with Botanist”, “Graduate Student Research Interview 1”, and “Graduate Student Research Interview 2” transcriptions. The researchers identified the use of registers in each context. The technique that the researcher used to analyze the data was based on Joos’s theory. Martin Joos (1976), an American linguist, identified five degrees of formality in language: intimate, casual, consultative, formal, and frozen. These are sometimes referred to as registers.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Findings

This study found that there are three registers that are used in discussion and interview context based on Martin Joos’ (1976) theory. They are formal, consultative, and casual registers. The researcher used the symbol S which means Speaker, as the informants. S1 means Speaker 1 or informant 1, S2 means Speaker 2, and so on. The researchers also used symbol D which refers to Discussion, as the transcription which is analyzed. D1 refers to transcription one entitled Intro Astronomy Discussion Section, D2 refers to transcription two entitled Intro Anthropology Discussion, D3 refers to transcription three entitled Intro Biology Discussion Section. The researcher used symbol I which refers to Interview, as the transcription which is analyzed. I1 refers to transcription four entitled Interview with Botanist¹, I2 refers to transcription five entitled Graduate Student Research Interview 1, I3 refers to transcription six entitled Graduate Student Research Interview 2.

a. Types of registers

1. Formal register

Martin Joos (1976) said formal register is one-way participation; no interruption; technical vocabulary or exact definitions are important; includes presentations or introductions between strangers. The researchers found that in discussion and interview transcription, the speakers used formal register when they started giving explanation and asking questions.

Extract 1: D1

S1: *First of all if you look to the four corners of the planetarium, we see north up here, and west, south, east. and these are the actual directions of the building.*

S1: *There are a few planets that are really really bright right now, so you ought to be able to find those.*

Extract 2: D2

S2: *You look back in time, before like monotheistic religion, and they would sacrifice people, to God. as long as you believe like, you have that faith.*

S1: *We were talking about consequences and um, i mean there could be cases where consequences and morals are not, related. so, um, and this is something also to think about. with this, with this typology actually.*

Extract 3: D3

S1: *Because they have half the genetic information as the original unreplicated parent, and it just so happens that they all lined up together.*

S1: *So, basically, something from the S is getting into R, transforming it to becoming S, and killing the mouse.*

Extract 4: I1

S2: *Was it sort of... your interest in science that allowed you to choose mycology or was it because you got interested in mycology that, you developed, you know more scientific, techniques chemical tec- or is that a bad question?*

S1: *That I would go ahead and write the paper up but he insisted that it be named after this Stunz, my personal preference would not be to name it after somebody, and especially in that at that time Stuntz was alive, and I would be very reluctant to name it after somebody else living.*

Extract 5: I2

S2: *I, worked for two different environmental consulting companies. Um one was a, contractor to the E-P-A, and we, evaluated um, hazardous waste sites.*

S1: *How inexplicable in a way it is when somebody managed to really like shift the, thinking in a whole field.*

Extract 6: I3

S1: *Oh they have plant science.*

S2: *No, I am, I am interested in those.*

Those extracts are the examples of the use of formal registers that are used by the speakers in the context of discussion and interview. The speakers tend to use polite expression and scientific words to direct the participants towards the subject. The speakers avoid using slang words, abbreviation, and contraction.

2. Consultative Register

Martin explained that consultative register is two-way participation; background information is provided – prior knowledge is not assumed. "Back-channel behavior" such as "uh huh", "I see", etc. is common. Interruptions are allowed. For example, teacher/student, doctor/patient, or expert/apprentice. The researchers found that in discussion transcription, the speakers used consultative register when they want to get feedback from the participants.

Extract 7: D1

S1: *There's no class next week, if you have questions you can stay after or talk to me in office hours on Monday or send me an email.*

S1: *This is my fourth semester teaching and my first semester, like the third week of lab, a person in the back was like uh, we didn't go over this in lecture.*

Extract 8: D2

S1: *Why do you think that there are not as many consequences?*

S1: *Somebody else have something they wanted to say?*

Extract 9: D3

S1: *You should be able by now to probably do half of it at least okay?*

S2: *Isn't that when chromosomes overlap?*

Extract 10: I1

S1: *Jack Tyler my PhD professor, was a student of his, this involved lineage but, uh worked with Doctor Stuntz, and Tyler's the one that wanted to name it Destuntzia.*

S1: *I've had the Great Basin project's is in its second three-year funding from the National Foundation so, and they they're the ones that have told me not to go on a for third, grant because they want to see a, book.*

Extract 11: I2

S1: *What do you think you can contribute to the group?*

S1: *So how's that working out so far?*

Extract 12: I3

S2: *I have some question to ask you, how long have you been in the U.S?*

S2: *how'd you pick Michigan?*

From those extracts, the researchers found that the consultative registers are used when the speakers wanted to make two-way participation. The words that are used are still sound formal, however, they are in more friendly tone. Mostly, the speaker who spoke in consultative registers are the speaker one who are the lecturer.

3. Casual Register

Martin explained that casual register is in-group friends and acquaintances; no background information provided; ellipsis and slang common; interruptions common. This is common among friends in a social setting.

The researchers found that in discussion transcription, the speakers are used casual registers when they discussed something in a friendly way.

Extract 13: D1

S1: *If I've got stars, uh crossing, which way are they gonna cross this way or this way?*

S1: *Did ya catch it?*

Extract 14: D2

S1: *Janine she's, um, gonna tell you a little bit more about what she's doing that's why we have a microphone.*

S6: *Cuz they aren't gonna like, throw six-year-old in jail for like stealing something or like make him pay a big fine (he'll) probably just turn-return it.*

Extract 15: D3

S1: *Okay um, couple things i'm just trying to, tell you what's gonna, go on next week, keep you ahead.*

S1: *I wanna go over a couple things that you need, before we actually, start the chromosome dance, and that, involves genetic recombination.*

Extract 16: I1

S2: *So automatically even whether Bob was still here as a curator for you, you hafta, you know work with Rich or whatever it is and (xx) or the technician?*

S1: *I'd be wrong a lotta the time too.*

Extract 17: I2

S1: *Well we can talk a little bit about your participation and, kinda role in th- in these group meetings.*

S2: *Um... cuz I... I was pretty sure that it it was important to him but I didn't know how important i-it it was to him.*

Extract 18: I3

S2: *It's shocking looking isn't it.*

S1: *I don't understand what I'm saying, any of I, I don't understand a thing I'm saying.*

From those extracts, the researchers found that the speakers used casual registers to attract the participants' attention. These registers are used by the speaker to keep the discussion last longer and make it more interesting. Also, the choice of words that are used are more informal, for example, slang words, abbreviation, contraction.

3.2 Discussion

In this discussion, the researchers identified the registers which are used in the transcription. Based on Martin Joos' (1976) theory, registers consist of five types. They are frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. The researchers found three types of registers which are used in both discussion and interview context. They are formal, consultative, and casual registers.

The first type of register that is found is formal register. According to Martin Joos' (1976) theory, formal register is one-way participation; no interruption; technical vocabulary or exact definitions are important;

includes presentations or introductions between strangers. In discussion and interview context, the researchers found formal register in extract 1-6. The speakers used this register when they wanted to direct the participants into the subject, and they did not need any feedback from the participants. The speakers tend to use polite words, no abbreviation, and no contraction. For example, planetarium; ought to; monotheistic; religion; typology; genetic information; un-replicated parent; mycology; scientific; Stuntz; environmental.

The second type of register is consultative register. Based on Martin Joos' (1976) theory, consultative register is two-way participation; background information is provided – prior knowledge is not assumed. In discussion and interview context, this type of register is found in extract 7-12. The speakers used this register when they wanted to attach participants' attention and make them more engaged in the conversation. The speakers still wanted to sound formal, but they used contraction in their utterances. Consultative registers that are found in discussion and interview context can be identified by recognizing the choice words. The speakers are likely to use the words that address someone with title such as Doctor, Professor, and Mr/Mrs. From the extracts above, we can find the use of these words in extract 10, I1, S1 'my PhD professor', 'Doctor Stuntz'.

The last type is casual register. Martin Joos (1976) explained that casual register is in-group friends and acquaintances; no background information provided; ellipsis and slang common; interruptions common. In discussion and interview context, these registers are found in extract 13-18. The speakers used this register when they wanted to bring the discussion more alive and interesting. Also, the speakers used this register to create a friendly atmosphere. This register can be identified by recognizing the use of contraction, abbreviation, slang, and colloquialisms. In extract 13-18, we can find the use of those characteristics of the casual register. For instance, gonna; ya; that's why; cuz; hafta; you know; lotta; kinda.

Based on the previous research, this research has compared and found some similarities and differences to the research that has been done by Yanti (2019) entitled "*An Analysis of Register in the Conversation of Police Members of Gowa Police Resort*". Her research aims to know the type of registers that are used by the Police Members of Gowa Police Resort based on Martin Joos' (1976) theory. She found four of five types of registers, which are frozen, formal, consultative, and casual registers. The researchers found that there are differences between this study and the previous study. The differences are the object and the types of registers that are used by the speakers. The similarity is the theory which is Martin Joos' (1976).

CONCLUSIONS

This study found that there are three types of register based on Martin Joos' theory, which are used in the discussion and interview context. They are formal, consultative, and casual registers. Each register has their own characteristics and functions as explained above. When the speakers want to use register, they should consider which type of registers are suitable for the situation. Using registers will help the audience to understand the intention of the speakers' utterances.

For the next researchers who want to study the same topic about language register, they should consider comparing the differences of language registers that are used in two different contexts, for example, in discussion and interview.

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