

**LEVEL OF LANGUAGE FORMALITY
IN 'PERAHU KERTAS' (2009)
BY DEE LESTARI: A TRANSLATION PERSPECTIVE**

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Abstract

As time progresses, variations or diversities in language are growing, either in terms of words, phrases, clauses or sentences. Something that is not missed from the spotlight is the difference in language procedures based on placement or situation. Diversity in language use can also be visible in any society life, such as in professional, education, business, or even daily interaction or conversation. This research is sociolinguistic research. One of the discussions in this research is the level of language formality. This research aims at analyzing the translation of the level of language formality. This research analyzes the translation of various forms of language formality from the 2009 Indonesian novel *Perahu Kertas* by Dee Lestari and the English version of *Paper Boat* (2017), which is translated by Tiffany Tsao. This research used the Language Formality theory by Joos (1967) from his book *The Five Clocks: A Linguistic Excursion Into the Five Styles of English Usage*. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, using qualitative data (textual), which is described descriptively. This research found that the novel used four types of levels of formality language, which are 57 data of casual style language, 43 data of consultative style language, 40 data of intimate style language, and seven data of formal style language. The frozen-style language has not been found

Keywords— Language varieties, Level of formality, Sociolinguistic, Translation

Introduction

The translation is an important tool and activity in our life. Translation helps us to understand various informations from different languages across the world. Translation helps people to gain knowledge from other countries that use different languages. Nida and Taber (as cited in Kusumo & Wardani, 2019) stated that translation means a process of translating a message from the source language to the target language. Translation is a series of activities that have stages systematic and logical. The translation processes consists three phases, such as 1) source language text analysis, (2) message redirection, and (3) restructuring.

Nida and Taber pointed out that the process of text analysis means that before transferring the message from the source language to the target language, first a translator must understand the content or message in the source language text, understand the context, language style, and culture in the source language text. After that, the translator can continue the process of transferring the message which then ends with the restructuring stage. Restructuring is carried out so that the translation results obtained are natural and have a form that is commensurate with the source language in terms of message, meaning, context and language style.

Fishman (as cited in Hasnitah, et al., 2023) said that sociolinguistics is the study of the characteristics of language varieties, the functions of language varieties, and language users where these three elements interact with each other, changed, and change each other in a speech

community. Jiang (2017) stated that sociolinguistics is interdisciplinary, which combines linguistics with sociology, because the object of the research is the relationship between language and social factors in a speech community.

Fairclough (2006) pointed out that in sociolinguistics, language is viewed as an individual phenomenon and social phenomenon. Language and language use are determined not only by linguistic factors, but also by non-linguistic factors. Non-linguistic factors consist of social factors which include social status, education level, age, economic level, gender, and many more, then situational factors relating to with who is speaking, with what language is used, to whom, when, where, and what the problem is about. These factors cause the diversity of languages possessed by world communities, which are called language diversities. In practice and use, language has various variations. One of the sociolinguistic studies in the object of this research is language variety, especially in terms of formality.

Sociolinguistic is a one of the linguistic studies which has been discussed several times in some research. Several topics related to sociolinguistics are language varieties and level of formality language. There are three articles that discussed these issues. The first research is language varieties translation that analyzed slang word and level of formality language in daily conversation (Harahap, et al., 2024), they used novel *All The Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han. The second research is analyzed movie *Home Alone 2* with level of formality translation, the research explained about the sentence and language style that used by main character named Kevin (Silta, et al., 2023). And the last is the research that written by Hamdi (2022). Unlike Harahap and Silta who used fiction stories in their research, Kevin used Operah Winfrey's talkshow as the main data of his research.

This research focuses to examines the analysis of language variety in terms of formality on Dee Lestari's *Perahu Kertas* novel. Dee Lestari is a Indonesian famous singer and writer. She was the member of Rida Sita Dewi vocal group, and her most known works as a writer are Supernova series novel, *Perahu Kertas*, and a short story *Filosofi Kopi*. The novel is tell about a younger woman named Kugy, who college in Literature Faculty has an ambition become fairy tale writer. Someday she meets Keenan, a younger who is a talented painter that has internal conflict with his father because they have differences of vision and mission

Literature Review

Several of translation experts put different definitions of translation. Brislin (as cited in Bueke, et al., 2023) explained that translation is a general term for the activity of transferring ideas from Source Language to Target Language, whether the language is in written or spoken form, both languages have been arranged orthographically or not standardism yet. Meanwhile, Newmark (2001) defines translation as a work that consisting of an effort to replace a written message or statement in one language (SL) into another language (TL). Larson (as cited in Galingging & Tambunsaribu, 2021) argues that translation is basically the activity of transforming the form of language. In this case, it is a change in structure from one language (SL) to another language (TL). This means that in translation, the transferred meaning must be maintained, namely by considering the selection of equivalents. This means that in translation, the transferred meaning must be maintained, which is by considering the selection of equivalents.

Language variety is the main topic of discussion in sociolinguistic studies. (Meechan and Rees-Miller, 2001) defined that sociolinguistics as a branch of linguistics which examines the characteristics of language varieties and determines the relationship between the characteristics of language varieties and social elements. (Fishman, 1972) stated that sociolinguistics is a science that studies the characteristics and functions of language varieties and the relationship between language and the characteristics and functions of a language community.

One classification of language varieties is a variety of languages that seen in terms of formality. (Martin Joos, 1967) from his book *The Five Clocks: A Linguistic Excursion Into the Five Styles of English Usage* explained that language varieties including the formality divided into five styles, that is :

A. Frozen style (very formal language style). Frozen style is a variety of formal language used in solemn situations and official ceremonies such as state ceremonies, religion ceremonies, laws and decrees. In communication characteristics, a frozen style does not allow for any interaction between the speaker (or writer) and the audience. Because there is no feedback, the only person who can speak is the speaker, while the audience just keeps quiet and listens, or in some cases the audience only follows what the speaker says.

Example of frozen style : *"In the name of the father, and of the son, and of the holy spirit. Grace to you and peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ"*.

B. Formal style (formal language style). Formal style is a language that used or spoken at a formal level, generally used in official situations or conditions such as official meetings, presidential speeches, textbooks, reports, and essays. In communication characteristics, there is usually no interaction between the speaker and the audience. This includes language that the context is common, including those of an academic and professional nature, following grammatical conventions and involves more complex language. The level of formality is usually not expressing personal opinions or emotions, nor does it require an emotional connection between the speaker and the audience.

Example of formal style : *"I really appreciate you all for attending this meeting today"*.

C. Consultative style (semi formal language style, between formal and informal). Consultative style is a language that spoken whose level is between formal or informal. In communication characteristics, generally used in formal settings, with a professional and academic nature. Usually occurs in conversations between two parties that are slightly hierarchical in nature, such as conversations between the boss/head and employee/worker, principal to teachers and students, teacher or lecturer to students, doctor or nurse to patient, police to the complainant, prosecutor to the defendant, etc. as long as the matter is professional. Example of consultative style : *"It looks like you've damaged a tendon in your knee which means you'll have to try and restrict movement and weight-bearing as much as possible until it heals, or you risk further damage"*.

D. Casual style (informal language style). Casual style is a language that used or spoken at an informal level. In communication characteristics, generally used in informal situations such as when taking a break, having a vacation/holiday, hang out, having fun, attending a party, or in own home. Generally, the circle that involved in this kind of communication are people who has quite close relationship or at least already know each other because they are often in the same scope, such as school friends, college friends, hangout friends, office friends, or even with family members. When they communicating, usually some words are shortened to make it easier to speak.

Example of casual style : *"I guess she sounds kind of like a badass"*.

E. Intimate style (very informal language style). Intimate style is a language that used or spoken at very informal level. In communication characteristics, generally a circle who use this variety of language have a closer relationship, such as family, close friends/best friends, and partners/spouse. Generally includes several unique terms such as slang, idiom, and does not follow conventional grammar rules. Consequently, although suitable for informal situations, however, it is not suitable for formal things such as a public, academic, or professional contexts. Example of intimate style : *"Holy cow, I can't believe that person cut you off in traffic!"*.

One of the things discussed about various languages in terms of formality is the background of the characters in several conversation in this novel. This background can be seen from the situations and conditions that happened, and the age range of the characters involved in the novel, including topics of conversation that influence the variety of formalities, depending on the topic being discussed.

Research Method

Research methods are procedures carried out in an effort to obtain data or information

to acquire answers to problems research that has been put forward. Therefore, the following research stages are determined. This type of research technique uses descriptive qualitative with analytical methods. Bogdan and Taylor (as cited in Setyowati & Hilmi, 2021) state that research qualitative is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behaviour. Qualitative research relies on a holistic natural background, positioning humans as research subjects, carrying out inductive data analysis, more prioritizing the process rather than the results of the research carried out is agreed upon by researchers and research subjects used must reflect relevance to research phenomenon.

Analysis of the research data is descriptive method. (Sudaryanto, 2015) pointed out that there are two methods of analysis, there is informal and formal. The informal presentation method is formulation with formal words, while the formal presentation is the formulation with what is commonly known as signs and symbols, including diagram and table.

In this research, the writer use descriptive-qualitative method. Descriptive-qualitative method is part of Qualitative research. The reason why the writer use descriptive-qualitative method, because the writer will find the answer from problem formulation previously, and the writer interested in investigating the problem. Bogdan and Taylor (as cited in Setyowati & Hilmi, 2021) proposed, qualitative method is research procedure which produce descriptive data including words or verbal from the people and behavior which can be analyze

This research used descriptive analysis method. (Sugiyono, 2009) stated that descriptive analysis is a method to describe or provide an overview of the object under research through data or samples that have been collected as follows existence without carrying out analysis and making conclusions that apply to general. In other words, analytical descriptive research takes a problem or problem focuses attention on the problems as they exist at the time of research held, the research results are then processed and analyzed to be taken the conclusion.

Data analysis techniques used sociolinguistic research stages, based on the theory of language variety in level of formality that was proposed by Martin Joos (1967). Analysis is carried out by describing, identifying each word or sentence quotes in the novel, classify types of language style in level of formality, and conclude the results of the analyzed data.

The data that will be use in this research is an Indonesian novel book *Perahu Kertas* by writer Dee Lestari, released on 2009 by publisher Mizan Media Utama, Bandung. The English version was translated by Tiffany Tsao with the title Paper Boat, published on 2017 by Amazon Crossing in Seattle. The reason why this book had been chosen is because there are differences in the interactions of the characters based on their age, which also influences language use based on the level of formality.

Results and Discussion

Based on the results of linguistic style analysis of Indonesian language novels according to Joss's theory (1967), it was found that the translator applied four style of formality level language in her translation. The most dominant form of language style is casual language style with a frequency of 57 data, and followed by a consultative language style with 43 data, intimate language style with 40 data, and formal language styles were only found in seven data. Frozen language style was not found. The following is about the distribution of language styles based on the level of it formality that has been found.

No.	Language style form	Data Frequency	Percentage
1	Casual Style	57	39%
2	Consultative style	43	29%
3	Intimate Style	40	27%
4	Formal Style	7	5%

5	Frozen Style	-	0%
TOTAL		147	100%

A. Casual Style

Casual style is a language that used or spoken at an informal level. In communication characteristics, generally it used in informal situations such as when taking a break, having a vacation/holiday, hang out, having fun, attending a party, or in own home. Generally, the circle that involved in this kind of communication are people who has quite close relationship or at least already know each other because they are often in the same scope, such as school friends, college friends, hangout friends, office friends, or even with family members. When they communicating, usually some words are shortened to make it easier to speak.

Source text	Target text
“Tapi jelek-jelek gitu, Jeroen banyak yang naksir , ma”	“Disgusting, isn’t he, Mom? And all the girls still <i>fall</i> for him”
Lestari, Dee. (2009). <i>Perahu Kertas</i> . Bandung: Mizan Media Utama, p.15	Tsao, Tiffany. (2017). <i>Paper Boat</i> . Lestari (trans.). Seattle: Amazon Crossing, p.17

In the source text, the word of **naksir** is translated to target text become *fall*. This sentence shows the using of a casual style language form. In the source text, **naksir** word usually means falling in love and when a person attracts or being attracted by someone. This language style relying on more familiar, informal words, or maybe contain idiom such as *fall* word, which from the idiom from the word falling in love, is commonly used in daily conversation or spoken within a casual circle such as circle of friends or family. This word is simple, familiar, and easy to understand in the context of informal conversation.

B. Consultative Style

Consultative style is a language that spoken whose level is between formal or informal. In communication characteristics, generally used in formal settings, with a professional and academic nature. Usually occurs in conversations between two parties that are slightly hierarchical in nature, such as conversations between the boss/head and employee/worker, principal to teachers and students, teacher or lecturer to students, doctor or nurse to patient, police to the complainant, prosecutor to the defendant, etc. as long as the matter is professional.

Source text	Target text
“dan kalau saya nggak menghasilkan apa-apa, saya merasa nggak berguna tinggal di sini”	If I <i>can’t</i> paint anything, I’m useless to you all.
Lestari, Dee. (2009). <i>Perahu Kertas</i> . Bandung: Mizan Media Utama, p.279	Tsao, Tiffany. (2017). <i>Paper Boat</i> . Lestari (trans.). Seattle: Amazon Crossing, p.164

In the source text, the word of **nggak** is translated to target text become *can’t*. This sentence shows the using of a consultative style language form. In the source text, **nggak** word is originally from the word *tidak*, means no. And in the target text, the *can’t* word is an abbreviated form of the original words can not, is commonly used in conversation which the situation is semi formal (between formal and informal). A consultative language style allows for

polite and effective communication without seeming stiff.

C. Intimate style

Intimate style (very informal language style). Intimate style is a language that used or spoken at very informal level. In communication characteristics, generally a circle who use this variety of language have a closer relationship, such as family, close friends/best friends, and partners/spouse. Generally includes several unique terms such as slang, idiom, and does not follow conventional grammar rules. Consequently, although suitable for informal situations, however, it is not suitable for formal things such as a public, academic, or professional contexts.

Source text	Target text
“Lu kebelet pipis ?”	“Do you need to <i>pee</i> or something?”
Lestari, Dee. (2009). <i>Perahu Kertas</i> . Bandung: Mizan Media Utama, p.137	Tsao, Tiffany. (2017). <i>Paper Boat</i> . Lestari (trans.). Seattle: Amazon Crossing, p.87

In the source text, the word of **pipis** is translated to target text become *pee*. This sentence shows the using of an intimate style language form. In the source text, **pipis** word is an Indonesian slang, that means urination. And then, in target text, the translator find a suitable match by giving slang word *pee* that has the same meaning. Intimate conversation is really informal, because using several words that are deemed inappropriate or forbidden to be discussed in a formal situation. The intimate language style in this translation reflects the desire to convey the message personally

D. Formal Style

Formal style is a language that be used or spoken at a formal level, generally used in official situations or conditions such as official meetings, presidential speeches, textbooks, reports, and essays. In communication characteristics, there is usually no interaction between the speaker and the audience. This includes language that the context is common, including those of an academic and professional nature, following grammatical conventions and involves more complex language. The level of formality is usually not expressing personal opinions or emotions, nor does it require an emotional connection between the speaker and the audience.

Source Text	Target Text
Sudah pak, ia sudah berada disini dari setengah jam yang lalu	Yes, sir. She has been here for half an hour.
Lestari, Dee. (2009). <i>Perahu Kertas</i> . Bandung: Mizan Media Utama, p.90	Tsao, Tiffany. (2017). <i>Paper Boat</i> . Lestari (trans.). Seattle: Amazon Crossing, p.60

In the source text, the word of **sudah berada disini** is translated to target text become *has been here*. This sentence shows the using of a formal language form. Formal style usually using formal language, because they are in an formal place or situation, such as official meeting or make an important reports.

Conclusion

Based on research results, there are four varieties of language style based on the level of formality that have been found in this novel. Amount of data and percentage that occur in the novel are casual style with a total of 57 data (39%), consultative style with 43 data (29%),

intimate style with 40 data (27%), and the least is formal style with a total of seven data (5%). The only variety of language that is not found is frozen style. The casual style is more dominantly used in the novel because this style of language is used in informal situations and is based on daily life. So that a translator tries to find an appropriate equivalent so that it is more acceptable to readers and easier to understand.

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