

LANGUAGE STYLE ANALYSIS OF TOP GUN: MAVERICK (2022)

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Abstract

This research aims to: (1) identify the types of language styles used by the main character, Captain Maverick, based on Martin Joos' theory in the film Top Gun: Maverick (2022), and (2) determine which language style is most dominantly used by the main character. This study uses a qualitative research approach by analyzing conversation transcripts from the film to identify and classify language styles. Data were collected through film dialogues and transcribed into textual form. The analysis revealed four types of language styles: formal (74 instances), consultative (155 instances), casual (33 instances), and intimate (25 instances). The frozen language style was not present in the film. The findings indicate that the consultative language style is the most dominant, with 155 instances.

Keywords: *Language Styles, Captain Maverick.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a complex communication system that humans use to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas. According to (Yule, 2010), language is not just a series of words, but also includes rules and structures that enable humans to communicate effectively in various contexts. Yule states that language is the primary tool humans use to interact and understand the world around them. Each individual has a different way of using language, which is known as language style. (Febrina et al., 2023) state that no two people speak the same way, even when discussing the same topic, because everyone has different ideas, concepts, or feelings. (Holmes, 2013) states in his book "Introduction to Sociolinguistics" that language style is the way someone speaks or writes, reflecting their social identity. This social identity can be influenced by many factors, such as age, gender, social status, ethnic background, and situational context.

The language style that a persons uses in communication can vary greatly depending on several factors. (Wardhaugh, 2010) also explains that differences in language style are influenced by the type of event or situation, social and age differences between communication participants, the specific task involved such as writing or speaking, and the level of emotional involvement of the participants. For example, in formal situations such as state speeches, the language used

tends to be more formal and restrained compared to casual conversations between close friends.

Moreover (Meyerhoff, 2006, as cited in Ayer & Julianti, 2023) points out that the style of language a person uses even can also reflect an individual's character, mindset, and overall condition. Their manner of speaking can be influenced by their mental state and is not usually intended or preplanned when they are in a normal state.

(Joos, 1967) Language styles can be divided into five main categories based on Martin Joos theory, each suited to different contexts and level of formality namely frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. The frozen style is very formal, unchanging, and is often used in rituals, religious services, legal proceedings, and formal ceremonies, such as the language of the constitution, marriage vows, or traditional prayers. Formal Style is used in formal settings such as a presentation at a conference, a business meeting, or an academic lecture, characterized by careful and deliberate language. Consultative Style is a standard form of communication used in professional or academic settings where interaction is expected. It is

less formal than the formal style but still respectful and structured, such as conversations between teachers and students or doctors and patients. Casual is informal and conversational, used among friends and peers, and includes slang and colloquial language, such as in chats between friends or text messages. Lastly, the Intimate Style is used in personal communications between close family members, partners, and close friends, featuring pet names, private language, and non-verbal cues, which are typical in conversations between parents and children or partners.

(Putu Ananda Cintya Dewi et al., 2023) stated that every day, people use various language styles when interacting with others. These language styles are not only used in everyday life but also can be found in literary works, one of them is films. According to Purba, variety of different language styles can be learned in a enjoyable way through watching film because they reflect everyday expressions that people used in real life. The films represent authentic conversations from various cultures, and each film has its own unique style that is seen in its characters' dialogue with other characters (Purba et al., 2021)

From the explanation above, it is clear that films are literary works that are interesting to study for their use of language style. This research aims to analyze the use of five language styles according to Martin Joos' theory in the main characters in the film "Top Gun: Maverick" (2022). By analyzing the dialogue and interactions of the main character, Captain Maverick, this research identify how different language styles are used to reflect social roles, relationships between others characters, and situational dynamics. Apart from that, this research also find what language styles are most dominantly used by Captain Maverick in various conversational contexts in the film.

Top Gun: Maverick (2022) was chosen because it is a sequel to the iconic film Top Gun (1986), which continues the story of Pete "Maverick" Mitchell as an instructor at Top Gun. The film is popular because it stars Tom Cruise and Jennifer Connelly, and it received a high score of 8.2 on IMDb, ranking it among the top 141 films. Additionally, the film received 107 wins and 235 nominations. This makes it an interesting choice for researchers to analyze as a subject for language style research.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses descriptive qualitative methods based on guidelines from (Taylor & Bogdan, 1998). According to Bogdan and Taylor, qualitative research is an approach that emphasizes in-depth understanding of social and cultural phenomena through exploratory and descriptive analysis. The focus of this research is to collect descriptive data, especially those obtained from analyzing the language styles used by the main character, Maverick, in the film "Top Gun: Maverick" (2022). Data is taken from films via streaming platforms and transcript documents. This approach involves examining written and visual data, emphasizing behavior observed in a cinematic context. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, this research can provide in-depth insight into the use of language styles in film contexts. This approach allows flexibility in accessing and analyzing data at the researcher's convenience, without disrupting participants' daily routines. In addition, film analysis and transcripts together provide a more comprehensive view of the language styles used in films (Creswell, 2007).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

As written in the introduction section, the aim of this research is to find out what language styles are obtained from the film top gun maverick 2022 used by the main character namely Captain Maverick and to find what language style is most dominant in the film.

Tabel 1. Data finding of language style

No	Language Style	Amount of Data
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1	Frozen	-
2	Formal	74
3	Consultative	155
4	Casual	133
5	Intimate	25
Total Data		387

From the data table above, researchers found that a total of 387 data were found. There are four language styles founded. The language styles found were formal, consultative, casual and intimate, while the language styles that did not exist were frozen. The most dominant type of language style used by the main character is consultative style. The following is a further explanation regarding each language style found in the main characters in this film!

Formal Style

No	Dialog	Language Style	Context	Interlocutor
1.	Maverick: Good morning. The F-18, NATOPS.	Formal	Formal greeting and introduction in a training setting.	Audience (pilots)
2.	Maverick: I'm assuming you know the book inside and out.	Formal	Setting expectations in a training setting.	Audience (pilots)
3.	Maverick: But what the enemy doesn't know is your limits.	Formal	Highlighting the strategic advantage in a formal context.	Audience (pilots)

Formal language style is used in very formal contexts, with a regular language structure and strict etiquette. It is often used in formal situations such as presentations, speeches, or instructions that require a high level of seriousness and clarity (Joos, 1967)

Utterance Analysis 1

A greeting of "Good morning" followed by a direct reference to the aircraft manual "The F-18 NATOPS" indicates a very formal opening. Maverick addresses his audience in a polite and formal manner, consistent with norms in a military training environment. This dialogue occurs in the training room, where Maverick is giving an initial briefing to the pilots. This environment is inherently formal, and the use of formal language is appropriate for setting a serious and professional tone.

Utterance Analysis 2

This statement sets expectations in a firm and formal manner. Maverick uses clear and formal sentence construction to ensure that pilots understand their responsibilities in understanding the aircraft manual. The context is training where adherence to procedures and knowledge of details are essential. This use of formal language reflects the importance of the material being discussed and the professionalism expected of pilots.

Utterance Analysis 3

The statement "But what the enemy doesn't know is your limits." used by Maverick in a training context to highlight strategic advantages to pilots. This sentence, although strategic and motivational, is delivered with a formal and serious structure. The use of the words "enemy" and "limits" suggests a discussion of critical and technical aspects of military training. In a formal language style, there is the use of well-structured sentences and a focus on important information that must be conveyed clearly and effectively to a professional audience.

Consultative

No.	Dialog	Language Style	Context	Interlocutor
4.	Maverick: Was there a reason you didn't communicate with your team?	Consultative	Request clarification regarding communication failures.	Coyote
5.	Maverick: Why didn't you anticipate the turn? You were briefed on the terrain.	Consultative	Ask about failure to anticipate a previously briefed situation.	Phoenix
6.	Maverick: Why are you, why is your team dead?	Consultative	Request an explanation from the team leader regarding the overall failure of the team.	Hangman

The consultative language style is somewhere between formal and casual. It is used in situations where there is a need for a clear and two-way exchange of information. This style involves conversation that is polite but not stiff, with the hope that both parties will communicate with each other and clarify information (Joos, 1967)

Utterance Analysis 4

In this dialogue, Maverick uses a consultative language style by asking why Phoenix failed to anticipate the twist that was explained previously. This question shows that Maverick expects Phoenix to be able to understand and apply the information given in the briefing. In a serious yet polite tone, Maverick emphasized the importance of attention to detail in flight situations, which is a key element in consultative communication.

Utterance Analysis 5

In this dialogue, Maverick uses a consultative language style by questioning Phoenix's failure to anticipate the changes previously explained. This suggests that Maverick expects Phoenix to understand and apply the information provided in the briefing. By asking this question in a serious tone, Maverick highlights the importance of attention to detail and situational awareness in flight operations. The consultative nature of these questions aims to understand the reasons behind the oversight and aims to encourage learning and improvement.

Utterance Analysis 6

In this dialogue, Maverick uses a consultative language style by asking the reasons behind the team's overall failure. This question is addressed to Hangman as the team leader, and shows that Maverick is looking for an in-depth explanation of what went wrong and why the team failed. Even though the questions are direct and critical, the consultative language style used by Maverick still shows the hope of obtaining clear and detailed information, and shows attention to the results of this evaluation for future improvements.

Casual

No	Dialog	Language Style	Context	Interlocutor
7.	Maverick: Hey Bradley! Bradley! You got this.	Casual	Maverick uses Rooster's real name for encouragement, showing personal support and confidence.	Rooster
8.	Maverick: This is a nice moment. Let's not ruin it.	Casual	Use a joking tone to keep the atmosphere light.	Iceman
9.	Maverick: Penny, What are	Casual	Informal greeting and	Penny

	you doing here?		question.	
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Casual language style is a form of informal communication that is often used in everyday conversations between friends or individuals who have close relationships. This style is characterized by relaxed language and a looser structure, reflecting less formal personal relationships (Joos, 1967)

Utterance Analysis 7

Maverick uses the greeting "Hey" and the first name "Bradley" to address Rooster. This shows a close and informal relationship between them. Maverick's tone is very relaxed and full of friendliness, which can be seen from the way he encourages by saying "You got this." This shows personal support and trust. The sentences Maverick uses are simple and direct, in line with the characteristics of casual communication. The casual language style is clearly visible in this dialogue through the use of informal greetings, a relaxed tone of voice, and simple sentences, showing the close relationship between Maverick and Rooster.

Utterance Analysis 8

Maverick uses a joking tone with the line "Let's not ruin it," indicating an effort to keep the atmosphere light and fun. The sentences are simple and direct, in line with a casual, informal communication style. The language used is everyday language that is easy to understand, without formality. The casual language style in this dialogue is demonstrated through a joking tone, simple sentences, and the use of everyday language which keeps the atmosphere light and informal.

Utterance Analysis 9

Maverick uses the first name "Penny" and directly asks her where she is in an informal manner.

The questions are asked in a casual and friendly tone, indicating an informal relationship between Maverick and Penny. His sentences are direct and simple, indicating a relaxed and informal communication style. The casual language style in this dialogue is demonstrated through the use of first names, a relaxed tone of voice, and simple sentences, reflecting the close and informal relationship between Maverick and Penny.

Intimate

No	Dialog	Language Style	Context	Interlocutor
10.	Maverick: You and Amelia, you seem a lot closer than when I last saw you.	Intimate	Commenting on the changes in the relationship, personal observation.	Penny
11.	Maverick: Ice, please, don't ask me to send someone else to die. Send me.	Intimate	Using very personal and emotional language to appeal to Iceman to not send rooster but himself instead.	Iceman
12.	Maverick: I don't know what to do.	Intimate	Maverick expresses his confusion and uncertainty in a very vulnerable moment after his friend Iceman died.	Penny

Intimate language is used in highly personal and emotional communications, usually between individuals who are in a close relationship. It involves the use of very personal language

and the expression of deep feelings(Joos, 1967)

Utterance Analysis 10

Maverick uses this line to comment on the changes he observes in the relationship between Penny and Amelia (Penny's daughter). The use of words like "you seem a lot closer" shows Maverick's personal attention to the dynamics of their relationship. Maverick expresses very personal observations, showing that he notices and cares about Penny and Amelia's relationship. This dialogue is delivered in a friendly and relaxed tone, indicating that Maverick is comfortable talking about intimate topics.

Utterance Analysis 11

Maverick uses the nickname "Ice" to refer to Iceman. The use of these nicknames indicates a high level of familiarity and closeness, which is a characteristic of intimate language styles.

The sentence "please, don't ask me to send someone else to die" contains a very strong emotional charge. Maverick expressed his deep personal feelings and made a very personal and emotional request. This is a form of communication that only occurs in very close and trusting relationships. This dialogue deals with life and death decisions, which is a very personal and serious topic. Maverick expresses his reluctance to send someone else (Rooster) on a dangerous mission and prefers to take the risk himself.

Utterance Analysis 12

In the dialogue "I don't know what to do," Maverick expresses deep confusion and uncertainty after losing his best friend, Iceman. This moment is one of the most vulnerable moments in the film, where Maverick shows an emotional side that is rarely seen. The phrase reflects the confusion and helplessness he feels, and he chooses to share these feelings with Penny, someone he trusts completely. This shows that the relationship between Maverick and Penny is very close, as Maverick feels comfortable enough to open up and express his vulnerabilities. This dialogue is not just an admission of confusion, but also a moment in which Maverick seeks emotional support from Penny, indicating a high level of intimacy in their relationship.

Discussion

These findings answer two research objectives, namely identifying what language styles Maverick uses and determining which language styles appear most often. The absence of a frozen language style in Maverick's dialogue can be explained by looking at the social context and language function. Frozen language style is usually used in very formal and unchanging situations, such as state ceremonies or legal documents (Joos, 1967). In the film, Maverick is in a very dynamic and risky military environment, namely the world of military and combat aviation. In this world, communication must be fast and able to change according to the existing situation. This is different from situations that require a frozen language style that tends to be stiff and not easily adjusted.

Maverick's dominance of a consultative language style shows that interactions with teams require a balance between formality and openness. In sociolinguistic theory, a consultative language style is used when the speaker has authority but needs to communicate clearly and openly to ensure effective understanding and cooperation (Gumperz, 1982). This is important in the military, where instructions must be clear but must also allow for feedback from team members. Maverick uses this language style to manage power while maintaining good relationships with his team, which is important for operational effectiveness (Labov, 1973; Traugott, 1975).

These findings shows that in complex military situations, a consultative language style functions as a link between authority and cooperation. This shows the importance of flexible use of language for clear and effective communication at crucial moments. According to Holmes' theory, language style not only reflects social identity but also adapts to the situational context. In this case, the use of a consultative language style in the film Top Gun: Maverick reflects the

adjustments required in military interactions. The absence of frozen language styles in films also reflects dynamic adaptation in communication, in accordance with Holmes' view that language styles must be adapted to changing social situations (Holmes, 2013).

CONCLUSION

The research results show that Captain Mitchell Maverick in the film *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022) uses four language styles based on Martin Joos' theory, namely formal, casual, intimate and consultative, while frozen language styles were not found. The formal style is used in official situations, the casual style in casual interactions, the intimate style in personal and emotional conversations, and the consultative style in exchanging information and clarification. Frozen language styles cannot be found because communication in films requires flexibility and speed. The most dominant language style is consultative, reflecting the importance of clear and effective communication appropriate in these films where the situation or setting is more often in a military environment.

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