

ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE STYLE IN NOVEL DIALOGUE: THE MAZE RUNNER

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ABSTRACT

Language style can be found in any form such as in daily conversation, magazine, newspaper, short story, novel, etc. Language style may refer to the writing style used by the author or writer as the way or technique chosen upon sentence structure, word choice, and tone. This study took novel entitled *The Maze Runner* as the source of data. The objective of conducting this study was to analyze the language styles used in the dialogue of the novel. There were 260 pages in total. The data collection was limited only from page 1 to 100. The design used in this study was descriptive qualitative. The data were collected by reading the novel, analyzed the types of language style, and tabulated the obtained data. The steps used to analyze the data such as identified, listed, and classified the types of language style, counted the percentage, obtained the dominant language styles, described the findings, and displayed data in table. There were 126 dialogues which were analyzed. The findings showed that there were 4 types of language style used in the dialogue. They were colloquial, casual, slang, and consultative style. The percentage obtained such as colloquial style with 55 or 44%, casual style with 37 or 29.36%, slang style with 27 or 21.42%, and consultative style with 7 or 5.5%. From this percentage, it was obvious that the most dominant style used by the author of the novel was colloquial style.

Keywords: language styles, dialogue, novel, *The Maze Runner*,

ABSTRAK

Gaya bahasa dapat dijumpai pada percakapan sehari-hari, majalah, surat kabar, cerita pendek, novel, dan sebagainya. Gaya bahasa dapat merujuk pada gaya menulis yang digunakan oleh pengarang atau penulis sebagai cara atau teknik dalam memilih struktur kalimat, pilihan kata, dan nada. Kajian ini mengambil novel berjudul The Maze Runner sebagai sumber data. Tujuan melaksanakan kajian ini adalah untuk menganalisis gaya bahasa yang digunakan dalam dialog pada novel. Ada 260 halaman seluruhnya. Pengumpulan data dibatasi hanya dari halaman 1 hingga 100. Desain yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dengan cara membaca novel, menganalisis jenis gaya bahasa, dan mentabulasi data yang diperoleh. Langkah-langkah yang digunakan untuk menganalisis data seperti mengidentifikasi, mendaftar, dan mengklasifikasikan jenis gaya bahasa, menghitung persentase, memperoleh gaya bahasa yang dominan, mendeskripsikan temuan, dan menampilkan data dalam tabel. Ada 126 dialog yang dianalisis. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa ada 4 jenis gaya bahasa yang digunakan dalam dialog yaitu gaya colloquial, casual, slang, dan consultative. Persentase yang diperoleh yaitu colloquial style sebanyak 55 atau 44%, casual style sebanyak 37 atau 29.36%, slang style sebanyak 27 atau 21.42%, dan consultative style sebanyak 7 atau 5.5%. Dari persentase ini, jelas diperoleh bahwa gaya bahasa yang paling dominan digunakan oleh pengarang novel adalah colloquial style.

Kata kunci : gaya bahasa, dialog, novel, *The Maze Runner*

A. Introduction

Style in writing literature works such as novel, short story, etc. is inseparable from the language style used by the author or the writer. Different works, different author, different style in language may create something different for the readers. Language style in term of literature may refer to some components that exist in the author's way of writing such as word choice, sentence structure, figurative language, connotative or denotative meaning which all work together to convey the imagery of the text. As Ward (2022) elaborated that style in literature is the way a writer chooses to write in any endless choices made by the writer, using word choice and sentence structure as the tools in order to create a 'voice' for a piece of writing. She also added that 'Voices' are as unique as the writers who create them and the stories they share.

For the authors or writers, the use of language style expresses their feelings and thought through a text which can make the reading alive. As mentioned by Sahara (2018) it is interesting to know how the writer or speaker uses their language style in conveying their thought to other. While Jamil and Nasrum (2018) wrote that language style is the element and kind of utterance that describe the sentence in speaking the ways that the author uses words. In addition, Tarihoran and Pasaribu (.....), the styles of language are used differently depend on the context in terms of subject matter, audiences, mode of discourse (speaking or writing), and the formality of the occasion.

Thus, it can be said that language style in term of writing is like the writer's way of selecting words (vocabularies), phrases, and sentence structure in order to create a lively and imaginary written story.

According to Somia and Meisuri (.....) there are five types of language style: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Frozen style refers to the most formal and elegant variety of language style which reserved for very important or symbolic moments. Formal style refers to variety of language style used for important or serious situation. Consultative style refers

to a formal enough dialogue or situation where words are chosen with some care. Casual refers to variety of language style used in very usual situation such the conversations with friends. Intimate style refers to a selection of private language used within families, lovers and the closet of friends. Rahmawati, Harahap, and Mahroza (2021) also elaborated the language style into five classes such as frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. They provided as well the example of each language style in their research.

Quoting from online website <https://www.englishfn.com> that the linguist Martin Joos confirmed there are five language styles in linguistics.

1. Consultative Style
Consultative style or also known as sharing style is a style shows a mutual understanding since there is a two way communication which involves speaker and listener in exchanging information and roles. Interruptions may occur in this style as in the conversation between doctors and patients, teachers and students, seller and buyer, lawyer and a client, etc.
2. Casual Style
Casual style is a form of language used with friends, family members and others people who know us casually. Interruptions occur commonly, speakers and the listeners share their thoughts using very informal words, phrases, sentences, slang words, and informal manner.
3. Formal Style
Formal style refers to a one way communication where the speaker stands alone in front of the audience or listener. There is no interaction between the speaker and the listener. The choices of vocabulary and sentence structure are very formal and fix to the rules. This style can be seen in the situation like boss and subordinators, between strangers, in a seminar, etc.
4. Intimate Style
Intimate style refers to a very private or non-public discourse. Usually it is a situation such as private talk, serious

discourse of close conversation, between very close and intimate friends. In this style, signs and gestures have important role.

5. Frozen Style

Frozen style is used in ritualistic communication. There is limited selection of words, phrases, and structures used. This frozen style can be found in instruction or in ritualistic conversation.

Nay (2011) in online web quoted that there are three general types of language style according to McCrimmon: formal style, informal style, and colloquial style.

1. Formal Style

Formal language style has characteristics such as relatively long sentences; keep away from using abbreviations, colloquialisms and slang; often ignores conservative grammar on a less formal level; subject and reader are taken seriously and with dignity.

2. Informal Style

Informal language style stands between the formal and colloquial styles. It has several characteristics such as using medium standard length sentences; keep away from using formal grammar; occasionally using fragments; using easy idiomatic expressions and words; usually using “you” to address readers; using more narration and description which reports events.

3. Colloquial Style

Colloquial language style has characteristics such as using short simple sentences, incomplete grammatical sentences; using lots of contractions (I’ll, we’ve, didn’t, can’t), clipped words (cab, exams, ads, phone), and omitting relative pronouns (who, which, that); a simplified grammar; using words that give the impression of being intimate or try to speak intimately; usually use slang like brass for army, ham for theatre, on the beam for radio, southpaw for baseball, etc.

Moreover, Nay (2011) also quoted from Kirszner and Mandell who mentioned there are four levels of language style: slang style, colloquial style, informal style, and formal style.

1. Slang Style

Slang style is commonly used in informal speaking or situation and uses colloquial words, impolite words and meanings; used in a specific group or circle. For example the expressions like “screw up” or “ripped off” used in speech.

2. Colloquial Style

Colloquial is similar to slang. It may give impression of ordinary speech and not too strong as slang. Colloquial word is less formal and easy conversational style. Often uses contractions or shortened forms such as ad for advertisement, sub for submarine.

3. Informal Style

Informal style is between colloquial and formal styles. This style usually does not follow standard or official rules. It can easily be found in informal essays, informal report or writing tests.

4. Formal style.

Formal style is used at special occasions or events which give of dignity and seriousness. No contractions used and uses very formal to absolute accepted grammatical rules.

However, understanding language style is not easy for readers. They may experience difficulty in identifying language styles used by the author. Most of the readers do not know to distinguish the types of language style. This resulted that the readers are difficult in understanding and recognizing the language styles.

This current present study focused on analyzing the dialogues which use language style in a novel entitled *The Maze Runner* written by James Dashner in 2009. It has been also awarded as a best seller novel and has been adapted in to a movie as well. This novel was chosen because the novelist or the writer's styles created a unique work of literature. He tried to convey the messages from the novel to the readers using various language styles. The style used can invite readers to experience the intensity of the messages in the story. The most interesting part was the post-apocalyptic vibe and the action feel that enriched the dialogues with different language styles. According to Rahayu and Parmawati (2020) the language style in the novel is referred to language

mixed with stylistic elements, that is a figure of speech or language style that build a line story.

Analyzing language style used in the dialogues of the novel *The Maze Runner* can reveal more information concerning language styles. It is expected that by applying the concept of language style, there will be a deeper understanding of the dialogues as the object of analysis in education. It is necessary to know the types of language style and which language style is typical to certain context of situation in the novel. Therefore, this study tried to describes types of language style used on the dialogues in the novel *The Maze Runner* in order to find out the novelist's stylistic word choices used in the novel.

The fact that there is difficulty in understanding and recognizing style of language in many different forms of literary works, especially in novel, encouraged to conduct a study concerning the topic. It aimed to describe the language styles and to see whether the language style has been the choice for many writers of literature in creating their works. Thus, the types of language styles found in the novel *The Maze Runner* are expected to also influence the linguistic phenomenon in writing literary work.

B. Research Method

This study was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative design. The aim was to analyze the data obtained and describe the types of language styles obtained from the dialogues in the novel *The Maze Runner* written by James Dashner as the source of data. The classification of the types of language style combined the types based on Martin Joos, McCrimmon, and Kirszner and Mandell respectively.

In conducting this study, there were some steps arranged for collecting and analyzing the data obtained such as the following.

1. Read the novel completely from page 1 to 100. There were 26 pages but the source of data only taken up to age 100.

2. Identified and underlined all dialogues containing language style.
3. Analyzed and classified the types of language styles.
4. Listed all language styles found.
5. Tabulated the data based on the types of language style.
6. Counted the percentage of language styles.
7. Elaborated the findings.
8. Drew conclusion.

C. Result and Discussion

After analyzing the data taken from the dialogues in the novel *The Maze Runner*, there were identified some language styles used by the author in delivering the story. From 126 dialogues, there were identified four types of language style. They were consultative style, colloquial style, slang style, and casual style. Below table shows the frequency of language style identified from the dialogues.

Table 1 Frequency and Percentage of Language Style

No.	Types	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Frozen	0	0
2	Formal	0	0
3	Consultative	7	5.5
4	Casual	37	29.36
5	Slang	27	21.42
6	Colloquial	56	44.44
7	Intimate	0	0
	Total	126	100

The above table showed that there were 7 types of language style tried to be identified in the dialogue. Frozen style, formal style, and intimate style were not found in the dialogue. There were 37 dialogues categorized as casual style, 27 dialogues categorized as slang style, and 56 dialogues categorized as colloquial style.

The table above also shows the frequency of each type. There was 0% for frozen style, formal style, and intimate style

since they were not found in the dialogue. While consultative style was 5.5%, casual style was 29.36%, slang style was 21.42%, and colloquial style was 44.44%. It can be seen that colloquial style was the most frequent language style used in novel *The Maze Runner*. The following paragraphs elaborated the language style found in the dialogues.

Consultative Style

Sample 6, page 12

A : This place is called the Glade, all right? It's where we live, where we eat, where we sleep-we call ourselves the Gladers. That's all you-

B : Who sent me here? How'd-

From the statements, it can be seen that the conversation of the speakers use consultative style. This conversation happened in regular situation which is in the "Glade". All the sentences are easy to understand by the readers.

Sample 23, page 19

A : You got it. But first we should get you some food from fry pan.

B : I don't know if I can ever eat again.

A : *Yeah*, you will. I'll meet you at the same tree as before. Ten minutes.

The conversation belonged to consultative style because it can be seen both speakers less communicating by self-impost style and filled with filler such as *yeah*.

Casual Style

Sample 8, page 14

A : A beetle what?

B : Beetle blade,

A : Won't hurt *ya*. Unless, you're stupid enough to touch one of them.

The conversation above belonged to casual style because in the conversation it can be found the labels of casual style such as *ya*, the word *ya* is actually the pronounce of *you* in a casual conversation. It was used simple and short sentence that easy to understand by the reader.

Sample 14, page 16

A : What's your name?

B : What?

A : Your name? You still haven't told us- and I know you remember that much.

B : Thomas.

A : Nice to meet you, Thomas.

The conversation above belonged to casual style because it happened between friends and non-formal situation.

Slang Style

Sample 14, page 16

A : Griever got *ya wettin'* yourself?

B : A little scared now? Don't wanna get stung, do *ya*?

A : If Newt went up there, then I *wanna* talk to him.

B : You know what? You're right, Tommy-I shouldn't be so mean to Newbiex. Go on upstairs and I'm sure Alby and Newt'll fill you I Seriously, go on. I'm sorry.

The conversation above belonged to slang style. The word *wettin'* in the true meaning the water action to make something has wet by it. But in the context meaning the word *wetting* is slang version that means *sweating* in human body. And the word *wanna* in the true meaning is *want to*. But in the context meaning the word *wanna* is slang version that means challenge.

Sample 17, page 16

A : Hey, look, it's the Greenbean.

B : This shank probably *klunked* his pants when he heard old Benny baby scream like a girl. Need a new diaper, *shuck-face*?

A : My name's Thomas.

B : Hold on there, *Greenie*.

A : Newbies aren't allowed to see someone who's beentaken. newt and Alby won't allow it.

The conversation belonged to slang style. The words such as *klunked*, *shuck-face*, and *greenie* have negative meaning. *Klunked* means *pooped*, *shuck-face* is euphemism for *f--word*, *greenie* refers to derogatory nickname for anyone who has newly arrived to the Glade.

Colloquial Style

Sample 13, page 15

A : *Don't worry*. *You'll* be all whacked for a few days, but then *you'll* get used to this place. I have. We live here, this is it. Better than living in a pile of klunk.

B : *Klunk's* another word for poo. Poo makes a klunk sound when it falls in our pee pots.

A: That's nice.

The conversation above belonged to colloquial. It is proven the conversation uses construction such as *don't* is colloquial version of *do not*, *you'll* is colloquial of *you will*, *klunk's* is colloquial version of *klunk is*. The word did not mean to create completely new words but only the change of spelling to shorten pronunciation.

Sample 5, page 11

A : Seriously, Where am I?

B : If you *ain't* scared, you *ain't* human. Act any different and *I'd* throw you off the Cliff because *it'd* mean *you're* a psycho.

A : The Cliff?

B : Shuck it, *Ain't* no way to start these conversations, you get me? We *don't* kill shanks like you here, I promise. Just try and avoid being killed, survive, whatever, Man. I *ain't* good at this *you're* the first Greenbean since Nick was killed.

A : Wait for the bloody Tour, Alby,

B : *Kid's gonna* have a *buggin'* heart attack, *nothin'* even been heard yet.

A : *Name's* Newt, Greenie, and *we'd* all be right cheery if *ya'd* forgive our klunk-for brains new leader, here.

The conversation belonged to colloquial. It is proven that speakers use short simple sentences, use of constructions (*ain't*, *I'd*, *it'd*, *you're*, *kid's*, etc.), and use familiar tone which tries to create the impression of speaking substandard.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

In relation to the findings, the conclusion can be drawn as the following.

1. There were four types language styles mostly used in the dialogues of the novel *The Maze Runner*. They were colloquial style 44.44% casual style 29.36%, slang style 21.42% and consultative style 5.5%.
2. The most dominant language style was colloquial style. From the previous analysis, it can be seen colloquial style used by speakers in the novel *The Maze Runner* dominantly. It meant that the speakers in the novel were dominated by teenager who liked to shorten and simplify their dialogues by making contractions, using clipped words and

using incomplete grammatical form to straight to the point when they were talking. They avoided using frozen style, formal style and intimate style in the conversation.

In line with the conclusions, some suggestions also are provided based on this study. First, the students of English are advised to study more about language style, so they can get better understanding and information how language are used, especially in the novel. Second, the readers are suggested to know how language styles can be us to develop their understanding in communication or use language styles in their daily communication to avoid misunderstanding.

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