FORMAL AND CASUAL REGISTER IN CRAZY RICH ASIANS MOVIE: SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY

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Abstract

The correlation of language, culture and society focuses on how social aspects have influenced the use of language. It is necessary to know the style of language used in social environments as it can determine someone's social identity. The theory used for this research is Sociolinguistics which concerns the relationship between language and the context[1] register as a language item associated with discrete occupational or social groups [2] language use is correlated with social factors. The research entitled "Formal and Casual Register In "Crazy Rich Asians Movie: Sociolinguistics Study" is relevant to the use of language in social life closely related to where and how the environment plays an important role in it. The objective of this study is to investigate the characteristics of formal and casual register and to analyze the most influential social class from the use of formal and casual register that affect the characters. The research using qualitative description method; data collection using observation method through listening and noting techniques taken from characters' dialogues; data analysis using pragmatics and referential identity method. The results are obtained as follows; the characteristics of formal and casual register are different from the vocabularies; both have different lexical and grammatical functions. In addition, the use of formal and casual register is influenced by the character's social class that is concluded if types of register are specified by some special structural characteristics and social factors.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, register, formal, casual, crazy rich asians

Introduction

Communication is a process of transmitting information conveyed from someone to others. Humans use language as the tool of their communication to express their thoughts and emotions in daily interaction. Language is used as a communication tool in social interactions at the group level, such as gender, age, social status, and occupation [3]. Human language is absolutely unique; it has a set of rules that connect words together to be sentences such as statements and questions. Language as human communication is a set of rules to produce and understand direct or indirect information that becomes a benchmark of social aspects in society such as culture and social stratification; it can be changed to describe new things. Due to its function as an arbitrary system of vowel symbols, language is the result of an agreement of social groups [4-7].

Language becomes a part of culture which has a relevant relationship with the norms in society and the study is known as sociolinguistics which is one of branches of linguistics study. Sociolinguistics is a descriptive study of social influence on every aspect in society, including the influence of society on language, cultural norms and how language is used in social life. Some social scientists consider language as the basis for the formation of culture in society. Therefore, language development has been influenced by culture [2]. Humans have some complex communities such as various regions, social status, education levels, and different types of other social interactions. The correlation of language, culture and society is focused on how social aspects have influenced the use of language. Therefore, language, thought, and culture are interrelated with each other[8, 9].

Crazy Rich Asians is a movie about the couple's romantic relationship with different social status backgrounds; the movie is used as research objects as it tends to be simpler to understand; it represents a lot of relationships among social, cultural and language that actually exist in society. In fact, movies can be entertaining and motivating as a very valuable teaching resource that stimulates the use of language as a powerful learning tool that can help students acquire something easier to understand [10]. Therefore, films have become an alternative in language research as a number of studies investigated the effect of watching movies on incidental vocabulary learning and the use of language.

This research using qualitative methods through observation method in listening and noting techniques taken from characters' dialogues; the data analysis using pragmatics and referential identity method. The study aims to identify the characteristics between formal and casual registers used by the characters and to analyze the most influential social class from the use of formal and casual registers that affect the characters based on their environments.

Sociolinguistics has a variety of languages focused on how social factors affect language variety according to the user and the use. This research reveals the influence of society on language and proves sociolinguistic theory of language varieties as there are significant differences related to the use of language styles and register at certain groups in society that are influenced by some social factors. In addition, there are speech communities using more than two varieties of languages that are used by several speakers in different conditions [11] it states clearly that the use of language is influenced by styles, register and social factors in society in order to achieve a certain communication purpose in certain social communities.

Literature Review

Humans are social creatures which must be able to engage with other individuals in social situations. Language is the most essential social communication instrument as the link between society and language is so intimate. Sociolinguistics is the study of how language is utilized differently in various social contexts [3, 4]. The study is

concerned with understanding the social functions of language in terms of how society influences language and language affects society through the ways language is used to convey social meaning. In a short term, it is a study of the interactions between language and society. In other definition, Sociolinguistics is a sub-discipline of linguistics that studies language related to social factors, including language in a social and cultural context that links linguistic factors, language characteristics, language diversity, situation, social and culture. In addition, it examines social functions and the variety of language use in society [5, 12].

Register is the tool that people use for communication in the form of verbal and non-verbal language as daily interaction based on certain social groups in different situations and conditions. It is a set of language items related to work or certain social groups where certain communities in society use different registers when interacting [13]. People who participate in situations or conditions that need recurrent communication tend to have comparable vocabulary, intonation, syntactic, and phonological traits [8]. Individuals and communicators have a strong inclination to generate register variances across various dimensions, which can assist in communicating identity at a specific moment or location. In this manner, a person might convey his or her identity to others.

Language as texts and their contexts can be identified by the use of a register that describes how individuals use language and how language is structured for use in certain situations. The study of cultural context involves observing how a language is structured and authorized for the use based on certain social contexts. Therefore, register refers to certain lexical and grammatical choices made by speakers depending on the situational context, the participants of the conversation and the function of language in the discourse [3, 14].

Basically the type of registers is divided into five kinds such as high formal, formal, neutral, casual and vulgar but in general, there are only two types of registers in sociolinguistics theory such as formal and casual as the concern of this study to recognize the characteristics. Both types of registers in sociolinguistics are commonly implemented in daily interactions, especially in certain community groups.

Formal Register is described as the language style used in direct contact that is not interrupted when spoken, as well as the language used in impersonal and formal situations to demonstrate respect to the receiver, such as when making introductions, the language used in rhetoric remarks and inquiries or announcements, and the language used between strangers (someone who has never met before). It is also possible to use it as the default language at work, academic language in the classroom, schools, governmental offices, commercial contexts, or used for interviews (lectures. mini-instructions) and public speaking. The language is frequently of the standard form. There are some characteristics of formal register in lexical and grammatical structure. The characteristics of formal style are found in the use of single verb, no contraction, the use of modal verbs, complete sentences, and the use of formal alternatives.

Casual register is language spoken amongst friends in the casual (informal) situation and condition. It is typically quite casual and focused on simply getting the facts out; slang is frequently utilized in these situations. There are some characteristics of casual register in lexical and grammatical structure. The characteristics of casual style are found in the use of casual alternatives, the use of ambiguous language, the use of grammatical ellipsis, the use of discourse markers, the use of contractions, and the use of phrasal verbs.

The relationship between language and social class has become a prominent topic in applied linguistics and social factors. The study of sociolinguistics discovered that language use is correlated with social factors such as social class, age, and gender, that it has a foundation in social realities such as authority, control, poverty, and life opportunity, and that the meanings associated with class are also created in discourse [15]. Theoretical framework of class refers to behaviors and interactions

that give uneven access to and control over means of provisioning and survival, to which gender and race have varied levels of access.

Class-related instantiations of inequality may be seen and quantified by paying attention to class-related social divides, much as racializing and gendering processes can be unearthed when the conceptual shift indicates a movement in language. Intra-speaker style variation is connected to intergroup variation, thus speakers model their most formal style on the speech behavior of groups that rank somewhat higher on the social scale. Thus, class stratification in society is mirrored in speakers' own style behavior, attesting to the fact that speakers' everyday activities have traces of wider social structure[16].

Style is a stylistic word that relates to the selection of certain language forms to express social or aesthetic effects; it may affect how the speaker talks and how the listener perceives the meaning of communicating correctly. The style of spoken and written language may be examined from a variety of perspectives, including vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. ([6].

Methods

The research method using qualitative methods by observing the data on the movie "Crazy Rich Asians" with a descriptive analysis approach and it is focused on analyze the data. Qualitative research is a form of systematic empirical inquiry into meaning; it is used to examine, uncover, describe, and explain the characteristics or aspects, as well as social effects, that cannot be explained, quantified, or described quantitatively [11, 13]. Empirically, it implies that this sort of investigation is grounded in the realm of experience. In addition, qualitative research approaches are important for obtaining data sources, data collection techniques, and data analysis related to narrative data where there is no statistical data processing.

The descriptive technique is a process that methodically explains something by categorizing, analyzing, and explaining the data obtained. The descriptive technique is a way of assessing the current state of a group of people, an item, a set of conditions, a system of ideas, or a series of occurrences [16]. Researchers seek for data sources, which are subsequently examined using descriptive analytic methodologies and conclusions drawn from the results.

Researches take the following steps for data research to be analyzed:

Data Collection

The researchers are using observation methods for data collection in this research. This method is done by listening and the researchers listen to the language usage [10]. Observation metode is usually known as metode simak. There are two kinds of metode simak such as Simak Libat Bebas Cakap (SLBC) and Simak Libat Cakap (SLC). This research is using Simak Libat Bebas Cakap (SLBC) where the researchers do not involve directly to get the data through conversation toward the respondent. The researchers only pay attention to get data in SLBC observation method using note techniques and record technique where the researchers must note the words produced by speakers and record the data through listening.

Data Analysis

The researchers are using the pragmatic and referential identity method for analyzing the data in this research. Pragmatic identity method is a method that requires a speech partner and it means that each utterance causes a certain action reaction depending on the context of the situation with the interlocutor while referential identity method is a method that uses the referent to figure out the

linguistics unit. The reference can be an object, place, work, nature, and condition referred to the identified of linguistics unit.

Research Question

What are the characteristics of formal and casual registers in the movie "Crazy Rich Asians"?

What is the most influential social class from the use of formal and casual registers that affect the characters in the movie "Crazy Rich Asians"?

Objectives

The study aims to identify the characteristics between formal and casual registers used by the characters.

The study aims to analyze the most influential social class from the use of formal and casual registers that affect the characters based on their environments.

Results and Discussions

Based on the findings on the movie, the author categorized and analyzed the data by using identifications through the data. In this section, the author took 10 data from the movie script which contained casual and formal register.

Data 1 (12:20)

FLIGHT ATTENDANT: You are welcome. After takeoff, would you like to enjoy the lounge chairs or should we convert your suite into a bedroom?
RACHEL: We are good. Thank you

Analysis:

There are the conversation between flight attendant and Rachel. The type of register used by the character in the first data is a formal type based on interlocutor, certain situations and conditions that require language formality. In the conversation, instead of using the word of phrasal verb "change over" as an idiom phrase of informality, the flight attendant chooses the word of "convert" as showing formality based on interlocutor, situation and condition. In addition, the expression of "you are welcome" shows the formal condition instead of using the word of "anytime" that indicates the use of formal alternative word as an expression.

The characteristics of formal register are lexically and grammatically marked by some sentences. The sentences "would you like to enjoy the lounge chairs" and "should we convert your suit" which both have the words of "would" and "should" as modals in the past forms where lexically have the same meaning but they have different function grammatically between the use of formal and informal condition based on the use of modals in present or past forms. Besides that, the sentence of "we convert your suit" has a singular verb using the plural subject "we" even though there is only one speaker but she refers to herself using formal pronoun grammatically. In addition, the sentences of "We are good" and "You are welcome" have no contractions as indicating the use of formal register grammatically.

The first dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of formal register on the character, including the influence of social class and certain positions such as job titles. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of formal register based on the interlocutor which is indicated by the fact that Rachel is an elite class passenger who must be respected as well as her status as a conglomerate lover.

Data 2 (01:52)

ORMSBY   :   Good evening. I am Reginald Ormsby, hotel manager. Is there a problem?
ELEANOR   :   I am Mrs. Eleanor Young. My family and I would like to be shown to our suite. We have had a long flight.

Analysis   :

There are the conversation between hotel manager and Eleanor. The type of register used by the character in the second data is a formal type based on interlocutor, certain situations and conditions that require language formality. In the conversation, the hotel manager uses the formal greeting "Good evening" as showing formality because it absolutely indicates the use of formal alternative word as an expression. In addition, the sentence of "I would like to ……" shows the formal condition instead of using the word of "I want to ……".

The characteristics of formal register are lexically and grammatically marked by some sentences. The sentence "I would like to ……" has a modal which the word of "would" is a modal in the past form where lexically has the same meaning but it has different function grammatically between the use of formal and informal condition based on the use of modals in present or past forms. In addition, the sentences of "I am Reginald Ormsby ……" and "I am Mrs. Eleanor" have no contractions as indicating the use of formal register grammatically.

The second dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of formal register on the character, including the influence of social class and certain positions such as job titles. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of formal register based on the interlocutor which is indicated by the fact that Eleanor is an elite class hotel visitor who must be respected as well as her status as a conglomerate mother.

Data 3 (29:12)

WYE MUN :   You're not a model.
RACHEL : I'm definitely not.

Analysis:

There are the conversation between Wye Mun as Rachel's friend's father, and Rachel. The type of register used by the character in the third data is a casual type based on interlocutor's relationship as close friend that requires language informality.

The characteristics of casual register are lexically and grammatically marked by some sentences. The sentences "you're not ……" and "I'm not……" which both have contractions and lexically have the same meaning with "You are not …" and "I am not …", but they have different function grammatically. In addition, the sentence of "I'm definitely not" is a grammatical ellipsis where the sentence has no object as a complete sentence but the object depends on the context of the conversation.

The third dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of casual register on the character, including the influence of social class and close relationship between characters. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of casual register based on the context in the conversation which leads to something high class like "you're not a model".

Data 4 (02:34)

ORMSBY   : Lord Calthorpe! My apologies for this disturbance –
LORD CALTHORPE   :   Eleanor! I just got off the phone with your husband.

Analysis:

There are the conversation between Ormsby as hotel receptionist and Calthorpe as the noble of hotel owner. The type of register used by the character in the fourth data is a formal type based on interlocutor, certain situations and conditions that require language formality. In the conversation, instead of using the word of "Sorry" as a common word in informality, the receptionist chooses the word of "My apologies" as showing formality based on interlocutor, because it absolutely indicates the use of formal alternative word as an expression; however both words have the same lexical meaning. In addition, the word of "Lord Calthorpe" shows the use of formal alternative word as a greeting expression where the word of "Lord" is mostly used for the nobility.

The fourth dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of formal register on the character, including the influence of social class and certain positions such as job titles. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of formal register based on the interlocutor which is indicated by the fact that Calthorpe is a noble who must be respected from the use of the word "Lord".

Data 5 (53:16)

ARAMINTA : Ladies, come on! We're wheels up in five
RACHEL   : Let's go.

Analysis:

There are the conversation between Araminta as Collin's fiancé, and Rachel. The type of register used by the character in the fifth data is a casual type based on interlocutor, certain situations and conditions that require language informality.

The characteristics of casual register are lexically and grammatically marked by some sentences. The sentences "We're wheels up" and "Let's go" which both have contractions and lexically have the same meaning with "We are…" and "Let us go", but they have different function grammatically. In addition, the use of casual register is also showed by the word of "wheels up" as an idiom phrase of informality that indicates the use of phrasal verb that has different meaning lexically in the use of casual register. Other thing indicates the sentence of "Let's go" that is a grammatical ellipsis where the sentence has no object as a complete sentence but the object depends on the context of the conversation (e.g. let's go home).

The fifth dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of casual register on the character, including the influence of social class and close relationship between characters. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of casual register based on the situation and condition where the conversation take place among the nobles.

Data 6 (15:10)

RACHEL   : I remember Astrid. She's like who I wanna be when I grow up.
NICK   : Astrid is awesome. And she's probably the only one I'm actually close with. And she's really grounded and down to earth once you get to know her.

Analysis

There are the conversation between Rachel and Nick. The type of register used by the character in the sixth data is a casual type based on interlocutor's relationship as lovers that requires language informality.

The characteristics of casual register are lexically and grammatically marked by some sentences. The words "She's …", "wanna…", "I'm…" which they have contractions and lexically have the same meaning with "she is…", "want to…", and "I am…", but they have different function in grammatical.

The sixth dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of casual register on the character, including the influence of social class and close relationship between characters. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of casual register based on the situation and condition where the interlocutor is a noble.

Data 7 (27:38)
RACHEL   :   Hi!
NEENAH   :   Singapore is so hot. Come in and enjoy the aircon. Come, come on. Whole family waiting to meet you. Very excited.

Analysis

There are the conversation between Rachel as Nick's lover and Neenah as Rachel's friend's mother. The type of register used by the character in the seventh data is a casual type based on interlocutor's relationship as close friend that requires language informality.

The characteristic of casual register is lexically and grammatically marked by the sentence "Very excited" which is an ellipsis or omission of words from the original structure, "They are very excited". It is a grammatical ellipsis where the sentence has no subject as a complete sentence but the subject depends on the context of the conversation (e.g. I am very shocked). However, those varieties of sentences have the same meaning in lexical but both indeed have different function in grammatical at the use of formal and casual register.

The seventh dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of casual register on the character, including the influence of social class and close relationship between characters. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of casual register based on the situation and condition where the conversation take place among the nobles.

Data (20:32)
COLIN   : All right, dig in, guys.
ARAMINTA: Oh, really? So yummy, isn't it?

Analysis

There are the conversation between Colin and Arminta. The type of register used by the character in the eighth data is a casual type based on interlocutor's relationship as lovers that requires language informality.

The characteristics of casual register is lexically marked by the word of "All right…" which is included in discourse markers including the particles oh, well, now, then, you know, and I mean, and the discourse connectives so, because, and, but, and or.

The eighth dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of casual register on the character, including the influence of social class and close relationship between characters. However, the influence of social class as high social

status on the characters dominates the use of casual register based on the situation and condition where the interlocutors are such upper middle class people.

Data 9 (32:02)
NEENAH   : Astor! Vanderbilt! Rockefeller! Naughty, naughty boys, stop barking. Hey, Rachel!
RACHEL   : Hi!

Analysis

There are the conversation between Neenah as Rachel's friend's mother and Rachel. The type of register used by the character in the ninth data is a casual type based on interlocutor's relationship as close friend that requires language informality.

The characteristics of casual register is lexically and grammatically marked by the word of "Hey, Rachel!" which is an informal exclamation, instead of using the greeting like "good morning" as a formal greeting of exclamation. However, those expressions have the same meaning in lexical but both indeed have different function in grammatical at the use of formal and casual register.

The ninth dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of casual register on the character, including the influence of social class and close relationship between characters. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of casual register based on the situation and condition where the interlocutors are such high class people.

Data 10 (01:30:07)

ELEANOR : Oliver.
OLIVER   : Yes, Aunty?
ELEANOR : Be a dear and take care of that.

Analysis:

The register used by the character in the tenth data is the casual type which is caused by the interlocutor's factor which does not require the use of formal language. The characteristics of informal register in the tenth data is lexically marked by the sentence "Be a dear and take care of that". It is a vague language where the vague is implicative, namely quantifiers and redundant expressions where the meaning is not clear and sounds ambiguous. The tenth dialogue above indicates the influence of social factors towards the use of casual register on the character, including the influence of social class and close relationship between characters. However, the influence of social class as high social status on the characters dominates the use of casual register based on the high social class environment.

Conclusion

The conclusion are obtained by the researchers based on the theory, findings, and discussion, regarding formal and casual language styles in Jon M. Chu's Crazy Rich Asians film, follows the result that the use of formal and casual register has some characteristics that distinguish each other. According to the data analysis, the use of casual register dominates the character's conversation as much as 70% out of 10 data with some characteristics, including the use of phrasal verb (5%), the use of casual alternative word like greeting, expression and exclamation (5%), the use of contractions (25%), the use of grammatical ellipsis (25%), the use of discourse marker (5%) and the use of vague language (5%). While the use of formal register has only 30% out of 10 data from the character's conversation with some

characteristics, including the use of singular verb (5%), the use of formal alternative word like greeting, expression and exclamation (10%), the use of modals verb (7.5%), and no contraction (7.5%). The results showed that the characteristics of formal and casual register are different from the vocabularies; both have different lexical and grammatical functions. In addition, the use of formal and casual register is influenced by some social factors but the character's social class is the dominant as high social class becomes the most influential social class from the use of formal and casual registers that affect the characters in the movie "Crazy Rich Asians" and it is concluded if types of register are specified by some special structural characteristics and social factors.

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