

THE BRIEF INVESTIGATION OF CONTEMPORARY SPEECH STYLES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ANNOTATION

Language is a means of communication and its verbal and non-verbal components are always important fundamental factors to perceive and conceive our surroundings. In order to communicate appropriately among human interactions, speech styles ought to be chosen based on understanding and identifying the speech utterances. This article provides the introduction of the research which deals with explanation of the underlying reasons for choosing speech styles as the topic of the research. In addition, various features of speech styles and frequent problems of using these styles in communication will be addressed systematically.

Keywords: speech styles, frozen, casual, consultative, formal, intimate speech styles

INTRODUCTION

Language is a basic human tool to communicate with people around the world. Hoslett explains that language can be viewed as the symbolic code that underlies verbal and written communication. As a tool of communication, language has its own style based on the different interaction between humans. Language is the mirror of culture. A certain language is certainly related with a certain culture, so languages should be studied in the cultures they are interwoven in, for language is the outcome of its culture, and meantime functions as a medium in the communication in different cultures. Communication is conducted and processed through language, which has two means—speech and writing. There is already many researches on the styles in the written form by others, so this thesis, will take “speech” as my focus. That is how language mirrors culture with speech styles. It has long been recognized that language is an essential and important part of a given culture and that the impact of culture upon a given language is something intrinsic and indispensable. Whatever people may do when they come together or get contact with each other, they use language to express or exchange their ideas. According to outstanding linguist Joos (1976), he describes that language five styles which embedded frozen, formal, intimate, consultative and casual. In his research, a well-known scholar claims that the ceremonial occasions almost undoubtedly require very formal speech, public speech which can be seen in various incidents, is somewhat less formal, furthermore, casual conversation is quite informal and conversations between intimates, close people on matters of little significance may be extremely informal and casual.

Selecting the appropriate and adequate language and style to communicate with others is really essential quality because speaker's style would interfere with speaker's ability to convey the speaker's message, additionally, it impacts on continuity of rapport or conversation with other people. This refers to how formal and informal it ought to be or how well adapted the language

is to the audience's sensitivity, reactions and expectations. In general, speakers tend to strive for a more formal style, when they are uttering to a bigger audience and a less formal style with smaller audiences. For example, speakers try to be tactful to choose sufficient language style when they are among co-workers, conversely they freely use different language chunks and slangs when they hang out with friends.

The more we know about the various speech styles of communication, the more sufficient we can be, not just in making our own points, but also in comprehending what other people are trying to communicate to us. Speech styles indicate not only the degree of formality but also the type of relationship between interlocutors. In their seminal work study of personal pronouns, Brown and Gilman (1972) describe how the choice of personal pronouns among speakers of many languages such as German, French or Spanish can index status, power difference and degree of formality. There are many ways to learn speech styles such through articles, rule, movies, books, letters, speeches and others.

People use language according to their situations and purposes. The social background of any person influence and play an important role in the kind of language he has. Style is the way we speak or communicate to others according to the addressee, the style that we use when we speak to children is different from, absolutely, style speak to elders subconsciously. Holmes (2013) explains how the speaker's relationship to the addressee is crucial in determining the appropriate style of speaking: "How well you know someone or how close you feel to them – relative social distance/solidarity – is one urgent dimension of social relationships. Many factors may contribute in determining the degree of social distance or solidarity between people – relative age, gender, social roles whether people work together, or are part of the same family, and so on. These factors may also be relevant to people's relative social status (pp, 240-241)." People generally talk differently to children and to adults – though some adjust their speech style or accommodate more than others. Holmes states people's style of speech, written communication index not only aspects and social background, they also indicate the contexts in which language is being used. The way people talk in court, in school, at business meetings and at graduation ceremonies is influenced by and simultaneously contributes to the formality of those contexts and the social roles people take in them. The way people write letters, emails, text messages and blog entries similarly indicates awareness of the different audiences of these different genres. We use more informal language at home with those we know well, we are adapting or accommodating our language to our audience. The types of speech styles, their clear explanation and examples for each styles and speech styles here mean the form of language that the speaker uses which characterized by the degree of formality as follows:

1. Frozen Speech Style

Joos (1976, p.156) states that frozen speech style is a style which is intended to be remembered and used in very formal setting such as in palace, church rituals, speech for state ceremony, and some other occasions. It is called "frozen" because it already has a pattern and cannot be changed. As most highly formal style, it uses the complex grammatical sentence structure and vocabulary known only to experts in a particular field, for example, the pledge of allegiance and the Constitution. This style involves very large group of people whose members are known to

one another. However, this style is not only addressed to strangers at that time but also to posterity as well. Nevertheless, the reader or the hearers are not permitted giving questions to the speakers. This speech style usually uses long sentence with good grammar and vocabulary.

2. Formal Speech Style

According to Joos, formal speech style is generally used in a formal situation where there is the least amount or shared background knowledge and where communication is largely one way with little or no feedback from audience. However, it may be used in speaking to a single hearer, for example between strangers. In a formal transaction such as one with the bank manager in his office, or at a ritual service in church, the language used will be influenced by the formality of setting. Often degrees of formality are strongly impacted by solidarity and status relationships, but not always. A very formal setting, such as a law court, typically influences language choice regardless of the personal relationships between the speakers. When someone uses formal speech style in everyday conversation, it shows that they do not have close friendly rapport with each other.

3. Consultative Speech Style

This speech style depicts our standard of communication when we are talking with strangers who speak our language but whose personal stock of information may be different. Consultative style happens in two-way participation. It is the most operational among other styles. It is used in negotiating with strangers or work colleagues. It is also applied in small group discussion, regular conversation at school, companies, trade conversation and others. The speaker has to deliver background information about a topic, and it does not presume to be comprehended without it. The addressee usually participates by giving feedback such as “Oh”, “uh – uh”, “I see”, and “Yes”. Interruptions are allowed, if the speaker gives too much information, the feedback might be given like “I know, stop it”, there are some examples of consultative style, such as conversation between teacher – students, doctor – patient and the expert – apprentice.

4. Casual Speech Style

Joos defines casual speech style as a style which is utilized among friends and co – workers when an informal atmosphere is appropriate and desired such as outside the classroom where students have a chat. There are two devices of casual speech style. First, ellipsis (omission) that usually shows the differences between casual grammar and consultative grammar. For example:

- I believe that I can find one (Consultative grammar)
- Believe I can find one (Casual grammar)
- Thank you (Consultative grammar)
- Thanks (Casual grammar)

The unstressed word can be omitted particularly at the beginning of the sentence. As a result, the sentence structure of casual style becomes incomplete. Second device of casual style is slang which is a prime indication of group relationship, slang is non-standard word which is known

and used by certain groups like teenager groups, for example, in formal language, young female called “girl”, while in the slang language it is said as “chick”.

5. Intimate Speech Style

Joos states that intimate speech style is a completely private language developed within families, lovers, and the closest friends. Intimate speech style relates to private language developed with the family, loved one, and close friends. It can be in the form of labelling nickname for someone that the speaker really knows well and close. Intimate speech style is used in relax situations because the speaker and the hearer have intimacy to one another.

In conclusion, as a social creature we utilize language for various purposes differently in formal and casual context, our language is adopted in variety of situations and conditions, as well as our aspirations. The way we talk with children, friends, customers, authority representatives, and colleagues is obliged to be distinguished from one another. To carry out this crucial task, people need to be aware of various speech styles and how to use them appropriately in different context.

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