

# The Use of Language Style by Native and Non-Native Speakers of English in the Ellen Show

Ade Dwi Cahyanti\*, Rudi Hartono

Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: [adedwicahyanti21@gmail.com](mailto:adedwicahyanti21@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** Language style can help the speaker which includes native and non-native speakers of English to communicate with the interlocutor in a suitable context. Here, the speaker has to consider the use of language style based on the place and person who talk to. By applying language style properly, the speaker can avoid social consequences. This research aims to investigate the language style used by the native and non-native speaker of English in The Ellen Show. This research was qualitative research. Furthermore, the source of data was three native speakers of English and three non-native speakers of English as the guests in the talk show program namely The Ellen Show. In analyzing the data, the researcher employed the language style suggested by Martin Joos (1967). There are five types of language style that focus on the level of formality such as frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. The findings revealed all types of language styles occurred on the utterances of both native and non-native speakers of English in The Ellen Show. The native speakers of English used two frozen styles, two formal styles, sixteen consultative styles, nineteen casual styles, and one intimate style in their utterances. Moreover, the non-native speakers of English used six formal styles, twenty-seven consultative styles, and thirteen casual styles in their utterances. Additionally, all of the user of communication both native and non-native speakers of English used language style in their utterances. However, the speaker applied it relating to the relation with the interlocutor and the occasion.

**Keywords:** language style; native speaker; non-native speaker; talk show.

**How to Cite:** Cahyanti, A.D., Hartono, R. (2021). The Use of Language Style by Native and Non-Native Speakers of English in the Ellen Show. *ISET: International Conference on Science, Education and Technology*, 7(1), 1-5.

## INTRODUCTION

People share their information, meaning, ideas, and emotions toward languages to interact with others everywhere and every time. Language has important role which is as the facilitator of our relationship with others and helps us to understand everything in the world from the simplest thing to the most difficult ones. Through the language, the speaker can communicate freely with the interlocutor to share their idea. Thereafter, in comprehending the meaning of the speech for interlocutors, the speaker has to deliver it properly by considering the intonation, the structure of language, choice of words, etc. to avoid misleading in the communication. Amanda and Donal (2019) stated that a good speaker has to select the appropriate sentence structure and context to gain the listener's comprehending. In order to accomplish it, the speaker has to consider the interlocutor's position.

Language style occurs in the communication unconsciously. However, the speaker has to learn it appropriately in order to the speaker avoid social consequences in their communication. Furthermore, language style can be seen when the speaker tells the same information by using a different choice of word based on the interlocutor (Holmes, 2013). In applying language style, the speaker has to consider whom they speak to and

where they are speaking to. It is because different interlocutor has different level of formality based on the occasion and the relation between the speaker and the interlocutor. Here, it has same meaning although it has different level. Here, it changes the structure of the speaker's sentence and choice of words based on the interlocutor position.

Language style becomes an important part to be learned because it has different way of talking but has same meaning which has different level of formality. Relating to Joos theory (1967), language style has five categories such as frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. Frozen style requires high skill and almost used exclusively by specialists, professional orators, and preachers. Furthermore, formal style in an important or serious situation which is following a commonly accepted format and one way with little or no feedback from the audience. Then, Consultative style occurs in a semiformal communication situation which can be seen in the dialogue of first meeting between strangers such as in host and guest conversation, doctor-patient, a meeting with the school principal, lawyer and client, marketing and client, counsellor and client, etc. Next, casual style occurs in the conversation of friends or sometimes members of a family, such as outside

the classroom, when the students have a chat which is in a relaxed or normal situation. Last, intimate style occurs on the private communication which means there are strong and close relations between both speaker and interlocutor.

Regarding the language style as important role in the communication, it invited some researchers to conduct the research by investigating the phenomena of language style in spoken and written area. Wati and Setiawan (2015), conducted a research to investigate the language style used by Snow White in the movie entitled *Snow White and the Huntsman*. They used descriptive qualitative research to analyze the data which selected based on the utterances in the movie. Here, they used Martin Joos theory to classify language style used by the Snow White as the subject to be analyzed. Here, they found that Snow White applied all of those types of language style in her utterances. It can be happen because she used different level of formality when she talked to Highness, stranger, and her friends. Other researcher analyzed language style in written area specifically in Facebook status (Siregar, 2019). He wanted to find out the language style used by male and female in Facebook status. Also, he analyzed the purposes of communication of male and female in Facebook status. He analyzed 66 Facebook status which contained 33 adult male and 33 adult female by applying descriptive qualitative research. Additionally he found that those of subjects of the study used formal style, consultative style, and casual style. Then, the purposes of communication of male and female in Facebook status were entertainment, integration into community, relationship maintenance, and identity construction. Furthermore, other researcher analyzed language style in talk show. Anggraini and Sudiran (2014) investigated language style used by Barack Obama and Michelle Obama in *Oprah Winfrey Show*. They investigated kinds of language style and the most dominant language style that occurred in Barack Obama and Michelle Obama utterances. Here, they analyzed subjects' utterances by using qualitative research. As a result, they found that Barack Obama and Michelle Obama attended to use formal style, consultative style, and casual style as the most dominant used in their utterances. In line with previous research, Khotimah (2019), Santoso (2019), and Sakti and Weda (2020) do not found all types of language style occurred in the

speakers' utterance. It means that the speaker has to apply language style properly based on the context which related to the interlocutor.

In this research, the researcher analyze language style that occurred on the native and non-native speakers of English as the user of communication in *The Ellen Show*. Because the environment and social culture each country is different, it makes the country applies different way of talking especially in language style. Furthermore, *The Ellen Show* was chosen because the program is one of favorite worldwide talk show which has guest stars from all over the world. The aim of this research to find out the language style used by native and non-native speakers of English in *The Ellen Show*. It is important to know the types that occurs while the speaker is talking in the spontaneous occasion like talk show. The benefit of this research is to provide an enrichment of the knowledge about language style used by native and non-native speakers of English based on the context. Besides, through this research, the researcher assumed that the finding will motivate the teachers or learners for learning it to sound like a native English speaker and avoid misunderstanding, especially in speaking skill.

Based on the background of the research, the researcher formulates the question of the problems that will be answered in the following session. They are mentioned as follows:

1. How is the use of language style by native speakers of English in *The Ellen Show*?
2. How is the use of language style by non-native speakers of English in *The Ellen Show*?

## METHOD

The researcher used the qualitative method which focuses on content analysis to conduct this research. The source data of this research were three native speakers and three non-native speakers of English as the guests in *The Ellen Show*. The three native speakers of English consisted of Andrew Thomas Weil as doctor, Christina Applegate as actress, and Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> president of USA. Then, the three non-native speakers of English consisted of Malala Yousafzai as education activist, Naomi Osaka as Japanese professional tennis player, and Deepika Padukone as actress. Furthermore, the research focused on six episodes that have one guest star for an episode and download from YouTube.

Furthermore, in analyzing the data, the researcher used theory of Martin Joos (1967) to

classify language style of native and non-native speakers of English utterances. Here, the researcher did several steps in order to collect the data. First, the researcher watched the video of *The Ellen Show* many times in order to understand the content in the video clearly. The last, the researcher made the transcript of the video. Moreover, there were some steps to analyze the data. First, the researcher identified the data by adding underline or bracket the words, sentences, or utterances that consisted of the data. Second, the researcher classified the data based on Joos theory. The last, the researcher described the conclusion and gave suggestion as the last step.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part is discussing the result of the research. After analyzing the data, the researcher found some language style appeared in the utterances of native and non-native speakers of English. The result found by employing the theory of Martin Joos (1967) which stated that there are five types of language style relating to interlocutor position. In the guests' utterances, all types of language style appeared.

### 1. Frozen Style

This style occurred when the speaker as a doctor explained about medical science. While explained about it, the speaker required high skill and almost used exclusively. Then, he used serious tone when he explained it. Also, the doctor spoke without any background knowledge towards other people they are speaking to. It is because the audiences of *The Ellen Show* came from different background. It can be seen in the example below.

Ellen : It's fantastic. We have to be careful to talk about this. But there are benefits of mushrooms that people are taking for PTSD, for all kinds of...

Weil : These are the psychedelic mushrooms. They are belong to a group psilocybis and they have a compound in them called psilocybin. Although, these at the moment are technically illegal not available for medical use. It is certain that they are going to be legalized in the very near future

### 2. Formal Style

This style occurred when the speaker explained special person for her that is her father.

Here, she used long sentence and proper grammar. Then, she does not use repetition in her utterances. Also, because the speaker was born to be non-native speaker, she used to be learn English by using Standard English. It affected in her speaking too. It can be seen in the example below.

Ellen : Yeah, there was a lot of love, a lot of people, and it really did raise awareness in a way that never had happened before. Your parents are in the audience right now, and I know that your dad empowered you tremendously. How did he do that?

Malala : My father always says, "Ask me what I did but ask me what I did not do, and I did not clip her wings." So he has not clipped my wings. He has allowed me to fly, high as I can, and this is how we want parents to be, to allow their children to fulfil their dreams, to achieve who they want to be. It's not that girls don't have the skill or don't have the talent to do something in their life. It's that they are stopped in society. So my father did not do that. He did not stop me, and I'm really thankful to him. Also, to my mother for giving me this strength and this courage to go forward

### 3. Consultative Style

This style occurred when the speaker answered it by using short response. Here, the sentence of consultative style usually is shorter than formal style and it is also required for everyday communication. Relating to the conversation below, it can be seen they were met for the first time which categorized as stranger. It can be seen in the example below.

Ellen : Welcome, this is your first American talk show.

Deepika : Yes.

### 4. Casual Style

This style occurred in a relaxed or normal situation. It can be seen in the conversation of friends which means the user of this style can talk freely. Here, the speaker can apply vulgarities, colloquialism, and slang normally. It can be seen in the example below.

Ellen : You're probably not kidding-

Obama: I'm kinda not kidding.

## 5. Intimate Style

This style occurred because both of speaker and interlocutor know each other specifically. It can be happen because both of them have strong and close relations which refers to private communication. Here, the user of intimate style can use darling, baby, and honey freely. It can be seen in the example below.

Ellen : Yeah! I love that show. Please welcome my friend, Christina Applegate. Hi.

Applegate : Hi, honey.

From the result of the research above, all findings of language style above can be presented in the table 1 as follows:

**Table 1.** Calculation of Language Style used by Native Speakers of English in The Ellen Show

Name	Language Style				
	Frozen Style	Formal Style	Consultative Style	Casual Style	Intimate Style
Andrew Thomas Weil	√	√	√	√	-
Frequency	2	2	1	9	0
Christina Applegate	-	-	√	√	√
Frequency	0	0	8	7	1
Barrack Obama	-	-	√	√	-
Frequency	0	0	7	3	0

Based on the table above can be summarized that all types of language style occurred in the utterances of native English speakers such as frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. However, not each person of native English speaker applied those language style in their utterance. It can be seen that Andrew Thomas Weil used frozen style when he explained medicine, formal style when he gave advice, consultative style when he talked for the first time to Ellen, and casual style when he called Ellen by using her first name. Furthermore, Christina Applegate used consultative style when she answered Ellen by giving short response, casual style when she answered Ellen by giving uncompleted sentence, intimate style when she greeted Ellen because they close to each other. Last, Barrack Obama used two kinds of language style such as consultative when he answered Ellen by giving short response and casual style when he used slang in his utterance.

**Table 1.** Calculation of Language Style used by Native Speakers of English in The Ellen Show

Name	Language Style				
	Frozen Style	Formal Style	Consultative Style	Casual Style	Intimate Style
Malala Yousafzai	-	√	√	√	-
Frequency	0	4	3	2	0
Naomi Osaka	-	√	√	√	-
Frequency	0	1	14	6	0
Deepika Padukone	-	√	√	√	-
Frequency	0	1	10	5	0

Based on the table above can be summarized that not all types of language style occurred in the utterances of non-native English speakers such as formal style, consultative style, and casual style. It can be seen that Malala Yousafzai formal style when he explained about her father, consultative style when she answered Ellen by giving short response, and casual style when he talked about herself. Furthermore, Naomi Osaka used formal style when she refused to follow Ellen's wish, consultative style when she answered Ellen by adding some repetition in her utterance, and casual style when she answered Ellen by giving uncompleted sentence. Last, Deepika Padukone used three kinds of language style such as formal style when he talked someone that she admired, consultative style when he answered Ellen by giving short response and casual style when she used slang in his utterance.

Based on the findings above, it can be seen that native speakers of English used all types of language style such as frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. Meanwhile, non-native speakers of English used three types of language style such as formal style, consultative style, and casual style. Furthermore, both speakers applied formal style, consultative style, and casual style in their utterances. However, non-native English speakers did not apply frozen style and intimate style like native speakers in their utterances. Also, the speakers used language style because it affected by the factors that influenced the use of language style. It affected by the participant, the setting, the topic, and the function.

Additionally, from those table above can be concluded that all types of language style occurred in the speakers utterances based on the context. However, each speaker do not applied all types of language style in their utterances. This result also relates to the relevant research conducted by Sakti & Weda (2020), Aggraini & Sudiran (2014), Khotimah (2019), and Santoso (2019). In their researches, not all types of language style occurred in the speakers'

utterances. Because in applying language style, the speaker has to consider interlocutor position such as the occasion and the relation of the speaker and the interlocutor. Meanwhile, the dominant language style used by native English speakers found by this research also same as the result of the research conducted by Astika (2018). She found that casual style occurs easily in spontaneous speech. However, non-native English speakers used consultative style as the dominant types in their utterances. Additionally, those language style appeared in native and non-native speakers of English utterances based on the occasion and the relation between speaker and the interlocutor.

In short, from this research, we learn about the consisting of the types of language style and how the user of communication especially native and non-native speakers of English used it properly. Besides, we also learn how native speaker of English used language style in their communication especially in spontaneous speech. Thus, this research is new findings of showing how native and non-native speakers of English used language style in their utterances. Hence, it supposed to be the stimulation for the students in learning language style for speaking area.

## CONCLUSION

Following the findings and discussions above, it can be summarized that all types of language style occurred in the utterances of native and non-native speakers of English. However, each person did not applied all of language style in their utterances concurrently. The native speakers of English used frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style as dominant language style, and intimate style properly based in the topic and the relation between the speaker and Ellen as host. Meanwhile, non-native speakers only used three types of language style such as formal style, consultative style as dominant type of language style, and casual style. Sometimes, not all of the types of language style are used or applied in the written and spoken area. In fact, the use of those types of language style depends on the interlocutor position in the communication.

## REFERENCES

Amanda, V., & Donal, A. (2019). Students'

grammatical error in delivering the impromptu speech. *Journal of English Education*, 5(2), 78-87. <https://ejournal.upp.ac.id/index.php/jee/article/view/1965>

Anggraini, D. P. A., & Sudiran. (2014). An analysis of the language style used by Barack Obama and Michelle Obama in Oprah Winfrey Show. *A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature, and Linguistics*, 1(2). 1-10. <http://ejournal.umm.ac.id/index.php/celtic/article/view/4661>

Astika, S. (2018). The analysis of speech style used in Kick Andy Talk Show. *Research in English and Education Journal*, 3(2), 154-162. <http://www.jim.unsyiah.ac.id/READ/article/view/9253>

Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (4th ed.). Routledge.

Joos, M. (1967). *The Five Clocks*. Harcourt Brace World, Inc.

Khotimah, K. (2019). A study of language style used in The Queen movie. *E-Link Journal*, 6(2), 206-211. <https://dx.doi.org/10.30736/el.v6i2.173>

Sakti, A. E. F., & Weda, S. (2020). The kind of speech styles in Allan Plenderleith's "The Bunker (2017)" movie. *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, 3(3), 376-392. <https://doi.org/10.34050/elsjish.v3i3.9858>

Santoso, M. F. (2019). The speech style used by pastor Brian Houston on Youth and Public Service. *Seminar Nasional Ilmu Terapan*, 1(1), 1-8. <https://ojs.widyakartika.ac.id/index.php/sniter/article/view/157>

Siregar, A. G. (2019). Language style in Facebook status. *Journal of Language, Literature, and Education*, 15(1), 1-18. <http://jurnaltarbiyah.uinsu.ac.id/index.php/vision/article/view/482>

Wati, I. S. P., & Setiawan, S. (2015). Interlocutors' speech styles toward Snow White as the main character in the movie Snow White and The Huntsman. *Language Horizon*, 3(1), 95-101. <https://jurnalmahasiswa.unesa.ac.id/index.php/language-horizon/article/view/11735>