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# A Sociolinguistic Study of Formal and Casual Language Style in the Film *Crazy Rich Asians* by Jon M. Chu

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## ABSTRACT

This research is entitled "A Sociolinguistic Study of Formal and Casual Language Style in the Film *Crazy Rich Asians* by Jon M. Chu". The purpose of this research is to describe the characteristics of formal and casual language style and to describe the function of speaker utterance in using formal and casual language style which are used by the characters in the film "Crazy Rich Asians". It is important to know the appropriate time and situation in using whether formal or casual language style in society because style can reflect people's identity in their social life. This research is categorized as descriptive qualitative research. *Crazy Rich Asians* film is the subject of this research and the research object are formal and casual language style. The data are taken from the dialog in *Crazy Rich Asians* that contain formal and casual style. In collecting the data, the researcher used metode simak and noting technique. Then in analyzing the data, she used metode padan pragmatik. The research findings show that the characteristics of formal and casual language in the film "Crazy Rich Asians" style are listed respectively: The characteristics of formal style found in *Crazy Rich Asians* are the use of single verbs, no contraction, the use of formal alternative, complete sentence, and the use modal verb. On the other hand, the characteristics of casual style found in the film are the use of phrasal verbs, the use of casual alternative, the use of contractions, the use of discourse markers, the use of grammatical ellipsis, and vague language. The function of speakers' utterance found in the movie are expressive, phatics, referential, directive, and phoetics.

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**Keywords:** *sociolinguistics, formal style, casual style, utterance function.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of communication with a set of rules which allows human to produce and understand direct messages without any outside stimulus. People use language to express their ideas, opinions, emotions, desires and many more in their daily interaction. Language is utilized for any sort of human life activity and it is closely connected to a certain community's cultural and social structure that uses the language. The complex community, the various regions, social statuses, educational level, and the different types of social interaction will produce variety in language (language variation). According to Holmes (2013), language varies according to its uses and users, where it is used and to whom it is used and who utilizes it. The addressees and the context affect our choice of code or variety, whether language, dialect or *style*. Style refers to ways of speaking. It explains how speakers project different social personalities and create different social connections through their style choices, and how speech-style inter-relate to social context. Martin Joos in his book called *The Five Clocks* (1962) divides styles into five types that he called The 'clocks' namely frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate according to levels of formality in spoken and written English. It was based on an intuition of degrees of familiarity / intimacy among individuals that had an impact on communicative style. Formal and casual are styles that are commonly used in everyday life as reflected in *Crazy Rich Asians* movie that is chosen as research subject. In the movie, Casual is mostly the one that is used in the daily communication. It is used to speak to almost all of the people around someone in many kinds of conditions and situation. But there are some conditions and situations which require people to use formal style in society. That is why the researcher are interested to analyze the formal and casual language style. This reasearch investigate the function of speakers' utterances in using formal and casual styles and the characteristics of formal and casual styles used in the movie *Crazy Rich Asians*.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

Minichiello (1990) mentions that a qualitative research is concerned with understanding human behavior from the informant's perspective. Descriptive research comes close to the similarity with qualitative. Descriptive research focuses on describing a phenomenon and its characteristics. It is more concerned with what rather than how or why something has happened. This research is categorized into descriptive qualitative research because there is no statistical data processing. The method that is used in this

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research is *metode simak* proposed by Mahsun (2005) with the intermediate base technique called noting technique from the very base technique named *teknik sadap* in collecting the data. *Metode simak* is a method where the researcher acquired the data by observe attentively of language utilizing. Noting technique means that researcher must note the words produced by speakers. *Metode padan* is a method whose determiner tools is not a part of language itself. The determiner tools are classified into five they are referential, articulatory, phonetic, translational, orthographic, and pragmatic. The appropriate method in this research is pragmatic. Pragmatic is a method which determiner tools are interlocutors. Thus, the researcher use *metode padan pragmatik* to examine the movie because determiner tools is outside the language itself which is language users (addresser and addressee).

### **3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

This chapter presents the finding of the study and the discussion of the finding. It concerns with the characteristics and function of formal and casual language style in the film *Crazy Rich Asians* by Jon M. Chu.

#### **3.1. LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FORMAL AND CASUAL LANGUAGE STYLE**

Lexical and grammatical characteristics of formal and casual language style that are found in the movie are explained below:

a. The characteristics of formal language style

There are eleven characteristics including the use of single verbs, the use of formal alternative, no contractions, limited run-on expression, adverbs within the verb, the use of split infinitive, the use of conjunction, the use of efficient words, the use of complete sentence, the use of complete response, and the use of formal modal verb. But, just the five of them are found in the movie.

(1) The use of single verb

The researcher finds one of this characteristic in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: ..... should we *convert* your suite into bedroom?

The stewardess offers the customer to change the set of their suite using formal language style because there is a different social status and they are in formal situation which enforce the stewardess to use formal style. The characteristic that

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justify the conversation belong to formal style in the data is the use of single verb “convert” rather than using phrasal verb like change over.

(2) No contraction

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker’s utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: I am sure .....

In the data the sentence is full without any omission from squeezing two words into one unit. It is one of the characteristics of formal language style which is no contraction.

(3) Complete sentence

The researcher finds four of this characteristic in the speaker’s utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: ..... *We have had a long flight.*

Speaker’s utterance in the data is formal because she uses complete sentence without any omission in it. Her words are clear and structured.

(4) Formal modal verb

The researcher finds three of this characteristic in the speaker’s utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: My family and I *would* like to be shown to our suite.

The characteristic of formal style in this data is the use of modal verb would to show a polite request in formal form.

(5) Formal alternative (greeting, addressing, expressing)

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker’s utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: Lord Calthorpe, *my apologies* for the disturbance.

The characteristic that justify the conversation consists of formal style in the dialog is the use of formal alternative in expressing something, in this case is saying sorry.

The speaker chooses to use more formal sentence with “my apologies” rather than using “I’m sorry” to express himself.

b. The characteristics of casual language style

There are eleven characteristics including the use of phrasal verb, the use of casual alternative, the use of contractions, the use of run-on expression, adverbs in the beginning of sentence, not using split infinitive, not using efficient words, the use

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of discourse markers, the use of grammatical ellipsis, the use of casual modal verb and vague language. But, just the five of them are found in the movie.

(1) The use of phrasal verb

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: We'll *wheels up* in five

The data is in conversation between friend which are considered close enough to talk casually with each other. The presence of phrasal verbs *wheels up* in the data is one of the characteristics of casual language.

(2) The use of contraction

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: *She's like who I wanna be when I grow up*

The data contain some contraction. The evidence is from the words *She's* and *wanna*. The words *she's* are compilation from the words *she* and *is* that are squeezed so as the words *wanna* that is from two words, *want* and *to*.

(3) The use of elipsis

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: *Whole family waiting to meet you. Very exited* Data: *Hey Rachel*

The characteristic of casual style is the use of ellipsis. The speaker said "very excited" in the data. It should be "They are very excited" in the formal form. There is also an ellipsis in the beginning of the sentence. It should be "my whole family is waiting" in formal style.

(4) The use of discourse markers

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: *All right, dig in guys!*

Speaker's utterance contain a discourse marker "all right" which is one of the characteristics of casual language.

(5) Casual alternative (greeting, addressing, expressing)

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

Data: *Hey Rachel*

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The utterance above are between Rachel and Mrs. Goh, who is her college friend's mother. They are talking casually because Rachel is really close with her daughter, Peik Lin. The characteristic of casual style that show is the use of casual alternative "hey" rather than using formal alternative like "good morning".

(6) The use of vague language

The researcher finds two of this characteristic in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

*Data: Be a dear and take care of that*

The expression above consist the vague language that belong to the characteristic of casual style. The words can be interpret differently if people just translate it based on sentence structure without pay attention to context.

### **3.2. THE FUNCTION OF SPEAKERS' UTTERANCE IN USING FORMAL AND CASUAL LANGUAGE STYLE**

Function are divided into six type according to Jakobson in Holmes. Each type of function have different purpose and meaning. There are some types of function that the researcher want to discuss in this part. The researcher found five type of function from the movie except the metalinguistics function.

#### **a. Expressive Function**

The researcher finds seven of expressive function in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

*Data: Russel, thank you so much. It's an honor to be photographed by you*

The speakers' utterance of casual language style in dialog is expressive. Eddie said "Russel, thank you so much. It's an honor to be photographed by you". It is used to express his thankfulness to the photographer who takes nice photos of him. He feels happy and honored to be photographed by him. Thus, it has an expressive function.

#### **b. Phatic Function**

The researcher finds two of phatic function in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

*Data: Don't stand on ceremony, Rachel.*

Phatic function is used in Mrs. Goh's utterance. It shows by the used of idiom in her dialog "Don't stand on ceremony, Rachel. This is simple food lah". According to Halliday in Pranowo (1996) idioms are used as an ice breaking which creates a comfortable

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atmosphere. It can keep the conversation going on which validate Mrs. Goh's utterance as phatic function.

**c. Directive Function**

The researcher finds twelve of directive function in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

*Data: Move on to Corinthians.*

Eleanor's utterance in the dialog has a directive function. The words "Move on to Corinthians. I'll catch up" shows that Eleanor orders them to do what she has said. Directive utterance make the interlocutor to do favor directed by speaker and it shows in data.

**d. Referential Function**

The researcher finds two of referential function in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

*Data: And meet up with that strange college roommate of yours*

The sentence "And meet up with that strange college roommate of yours" has a referential function because it has an information which refer to something. The words "strange college roommate of yours" refers to Peik Lin, who is Rachel's friend. There is a direct reference between words (strange college roommate of yours) and object (Peik Lin) which proves it has referential meaning.

**e. Poetics Function**

The researcher finds one of poetics function in the speaker's utterance in the movie. Here is an example of what the researcher has been found in the movie.

*Data: Be a dear and take care of that*

The words "Be a dear and take care of that" has poetics function because of the ambiguity in the meaning. The same words with different meanings causes ambiguity and confusion like in the words "Be a dear" in Eleanor utterance. The word "dear" in this case means to be a useful person and not to be a kind of animal. Ambiguity usually resolves by the context of speech to understand the actual meaning.

**4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the theories, outcome of the findings, and discussion, the researcher draws some conclusions regarding formal and casual language style in the film Crazy Rich Asians by Jon M. Chu in terms of characteristics and functions of speaker utterance.

- a. The characteristics of formal and casual language style
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The characteristics of formal style found in *Crazy Rich Asians* are the use of single verbs, no contraction, the use of formal alternative (greeting, addressing, and expressing), complete sentence, and the choice of formal modal verb. The characteristics that are showing the most in the conversation is the use of complete sentence. On the other hand, the characteristics of casual style found in the film are the use of phrasal verbs, the use of casual alternative (greeting, addressing, and expressing), the use of contractions, the use of discourse markers, the use of grammatical ellipsis, and vague language. The characteristics that are shown the most in the conversation is the use of contractions. The function of speakers' utterance in using formal and casual language style

b. The function of speakers' utterance

The function of speakers' utterance found in the movie are expressive, phatic, referential, directive, and poetics. The directive function was shown the most among the other functions.

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## BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS

Ulwiatur Rif'ah was born on November 16th, 1997 in Pemalang, Central Java as the fifth born of seven children. She completed her Elementary School at MI Al-Mu'awanah Kendalrejo in local school of her village. And then she entered into Mts. Al-Mu'awanah Kendalrejo as a junior high school student. In 2012, she continued her study in MAN Pemalang, an islamic state senior high school in her hometown.

After finishing her study at school, she enrolls at Universitas Ahmad Dahlan Yogyakarta and majors in English Education Department of Faculty of Teacher's Training and Education . The research area that she takes for her thesis is linguistic which focus on sociolinguistic study.

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