



## THE ANALYSIS OF SPEECH STYLE USED BY ELLEN DEGENERES IN ELLEN TALK SHOW

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### Abstract

The aim of this study is analyse the speech style used by Ellen Degeneres in Ellen Talk Show. The title “*Ellen Meets a 5-Year-Old Geography Expert*”. Ellen Degeneres talk show is a TV show. The objectives of the study are to identify the speech styles used by the host and the guest in Ellen Degeneres Talk show and to identify the dominant speech styles used by the host and the guest on Ellen Degeneres Talk show. The findings of data is quantitative data, is it present in numbers and percentages. In analyzed the data, the writer read the transcript of conversation between Ellen and Nate and analyzed the data based on Joos theory. Then, the data has been presented in the form of a percentage table. The result of this research the writer found there are four speech style used by Ellen and Nate and once of category didn't exist from this data (frozen style). This research is presenting of the data as main characters utterance containing speech styles. Based on Martin Joos theory (Frozen style, Formal style, Consultative style, Casual style and Intimate style) the writer found the speech styles used by Ellen and Nate, they are casual style that only occurs 11 times or 68%, consultative style that occurs 2 times or 13%, formal style that occurs 2 times or 13%, and intimate style that occurs once or 6%. The mostly used by Ellen and Nate occurs 11 times or 68%. Finally, the writer suggests the next researchers to explore more theories and the newest theory of speech styles.

**Key words:** *Speech style, formal, consultative, casual, intimate, frozen style*

### A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool of communication, to share ideas, information, and knowledge from the speaker to receiver. It is divided into two forms, spoken and written language. Spoken language is expresses idea with word and sound, but written language is expresses idea with form of media such as pen and paper. In this research the writer has just focus on spoken language, because in spoken language people have their own style in communication through language which

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called by speech style. In spoken language people have their own style in communication through language that is called speech style.

Speech style has been found at several linguistic discussing such as phonetic, dialect, pragmatic, stylistic and sociolinguistic. The focus of this research was the writer interest about sociolinguistic. Speaker in speech becomes a two factors that play an important roles in sociolinguistic. Confirming the idea to the audience for influence people or someone, while negotiate to conflict.

Sociolinguistic is a field of study which deals mostly with language use, particularly spoken language, but not the grammatical or phonetic structure in language. Sociolinguists do not study a language or a linguistic variety as a closed system with no reference to speaker and social life. Sociolinguists emphasize that language use – the sociolinguistic language system – is always variable and heterogeneous.

According to Joos (1976), speech style means the form of language used by the speaker which is influenced by the social factors. Speech style of a person is different from his or her partner's speech style because of their *status, sex, age, social distance, and occupation*. The differences play an important role when someone talks to certain person regarding the topic discussed.

Setting or where the communication takes place also influences the speech style. In a formal conference, it is impolite to use casual style or slang, while using formal language in an informal situation brings the conversation into boring situation. It means that the function of language is not only for communication, but also for other purposes.

In line with Joos and Chaika (1982) states that some people use language to achieve and reach an intention. Politicians use language to influence other's opinion, to create an agreement or support what they say and act or perhaps to control their power. A president, for instance, uses language in speeches to persuade and convince people, that he or she is qualified to be the next president and what he or she asserts about some issues is true based on his or her arguments.

In communication, there is a way to communicate with other people. It depends on the context, in a formal setting or daily life, and function of the speech. According to Leech (1981) style is the way in which language is used in given context, by a given person, forgiven purpose. So, the speaker should be appropriate to the topic discussed.

### **1.1 Identification of the Problem**

Through speech style, people can differentiate to whom they speak based on situation, function, and also the norm of social context. This research focuses on the speech style used by the host in Ellen Degeneres transcripts because speech

style is important to use in communication. The writer is interested in the study of speech style used in Ellen Degeneres because of several reasons. First, the writer is interested in the Talk Show program because the language used in a Talk Show has different styles in different social context. Social context that the writer means are formal, casual, consultative, frozen, and intimate. Second, the language used in Ellen Degeneres is unique and can make the listener easier to understand about the topic. Third, Ella has her own style to deliver the topic based on the situation. Therefore, it makes the situation alive, very friendly, and not awkward.

## **1.2 Limitation of the Problem**

This study focuses on the use of general types of speech style, namely: formal, informal, casual, consultative, frozen, and intimate. The problem of this paper is limited to the language styles which are used by the host Ellen Degeneres. However, the writer does not analyse all of the Ellen's utterances. The analyses of the writer is not totally true or right because it just according to the theory, maybe it will be different purpose from the script's writer's purpose.

## **1.3 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study the research questions are formulated as follow:

1. What are types of speech style used by the host and the guest on Ellen Degeneres Talk Show
2. What are the dominant speech style used by the host and the guest on Ellen Degeneres Talk Show.

## **1.4 Purposes of the Study**

Based on research questions stated above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To identify the speech styles used by the host and the guest in Ellen Degeneres Talk Show.
2. To identify the dominant speech styles used by the host and the guest on Ellen Degeneres Talk Show.

## **1.5 Significance of Writing the Paper**

The writer considers this study will give valuable knowledge and understanding for readers about the speech style used in an Ellen Degeneres Talk Show. In this case, Ellen uses speech style in order to make the show more interesting. Hence, this study will be useful to show the example for other students who are interested in studying about speech style. This study gives theoretical and practical contribution.

Theoretically, this study contributes to give more knowledge about speech style in daily conversation. Practically, it will be useful not only to students of the English department, but also to all readers of this study, especially to people who

concern with language styles used by the host and guest in the Ellen Degeneres Talk Show.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

1. Speech Style:

Speech style means the form of language used by speakers which is influenced by the social factors.

2. Ellen Degeneres Talk Show.

Ellen Degeneres Talk Show is a TV show, that interview the speaker to get information about their achievement.

### **1.7 Data and Source Data**

The data of this research are the utterances used by Ellen who involved in the dialogue in Talk Show to determine the speech style used by Ellen and the guest. The writer gathers all the speech in the Talk Show. All the data getting by the writer, through analysed the transcript of the conversation from the Talk Show to find the speech style from the host and the guest utterance used. Ratna (2010) said that there are several techniques in collecting the data; sampling, observation, interview, documentation, questionnaire, triangulation, reading.

### **1.8 Technique of Data Collection**

In the processed of collecting the data, the writer used several steps :

1. The writer downloaded the Talk Show from YouTube
2. The writer watched the Talk Show repeated 2 times.
3. The writer made the transcript
4. Re-watched the Talk Show to check and match the transcript

For the first time, the writer just watched the Talk Show from the beginning until the end. In the second time, the writer tries to understand the conversation deliver by the host and the guest. After watching the talks how, the writer makes the transcript of the dialogue. The writer is start with reading and observing to identify what style that Ellen and the guest use.

### **1.9 Techniques of Data Analysis**

In analysing the data, the using method by the writer is analytically and descriptively. According to Ratna (2010) analytical descriptive method is once of way for the writer conduct their research by describing and analysing the data at once. In short, the writer used this technique because the objective of the research is to describe Ellen and the guess speech style in an Ellen Degeneres Talk Show. In order to do that, the writer determined the data by describing the speech form and classifying them into a frozen, formal, informal, consultative, intimate and casual style.

There were some steps that the writer did in collecting the data:

1. The writer downloaded the Ellen Degeneres Talk Show
2. The writer listened and watched the Talk Show and made the transcript
3. Re-watched the Talk Show to check and match the transcript
4. The writer coded or underlined the utterances in the transcript that includes speech styles.

After get the data, the writer will classify the data based on Joos theory has five types which indicated the speech styles. They are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, intimate style, and casual style. The writer would be analyse and describe the meaning of it. The writer additionally created the result in the form of percentage. The percentage was showed by using chart so that the different total of each type of language style could be clearly seen. Here the writer presented the formula that was applied to produce the percentage form:

N : Each number of language style types x 100%

Total number of language style types

Chaika (1982) stated that a style used to convey a social and artistic effect refers to the selection of the linguistic forms. It can be a set of instructions because it determines the listener interpretation. Moreover, style may also tell listeners how to take what is being said; whether it is serious, ironically, or humorously. Usually a style of an utterance will be identified through his or her acts of saying whether through smile or laughs loudly to identify the humorous in an informal situation among close friends, for instance. Chaika statement, we understand that styles are the way how the people convey the message. The style tells us about the speaker's means, such as, seriously, humorously, ironically, or in some ways.

Sometimes with a smile and sometimes laugh loudly, it means that he wants to convey the message humorously and indicates informality and it happens between close friends. Thomas and Wareing (1999) stated that people use several ways to communicate with others. They usually put themselves in a current situation with a certain style. They do not always talk in exactly the same way all the time or even use the same grammatical forms because a style can be identified through tone of voice, choice of words and grammar indifferent situation.

According to Joss (1976) the speech style means the form of language that the speaker uses. Speech style determines the persons 'status, sex, age, social distance, and occupation. These differences have an important role in deciding the kind of speech style that a person uses while he or she communicates with others. For example; the higher the social status of the partner in a communication, the more formal speech style he or she uses. A speech style is also distinguished by the setting of where the conversation takes place. It is impolite for a student talk informally to a dean on his room, but it is polite for a teacher to speak casually when they met in a market.

Chaika (1982) mentioned intonation and inflection are the conveyer to deliver the messages. The style of language in a communication mainly focused on the intended social message rather than only get the message of communication. Actual words are used only on the rare occasions that the offending party is too abuse to get "the message". It must be emphasized that the social message conveyed by style is not coded directly into actual words that mean what intended social message is.

In addition, As Chaika (1982) said about words, grammar, and pronunciation that is chosen both unconsciously and consciously gives a great deal of information. Although, Joos (1976) states that speech style is influenced by the social factors. The speech style, which is used by a person, is different from his other partner speech style because they may have a different status, sex, age, social distance, and occupation. These differences have an important role in deciding the kind of speech style that people use while he or she communicates with others. For example; the higher the social status of the partner in a communication, the more formal speech style he or she uses. Another thing that also has an important role in deciding the kinds of speech style is the setting where the conversation takes place. In conclusion, speech style as the way people manipulates to other and control people in interacting with others bring the messages that are conveyed in words and tone of voice.

Chaika said styles tell how whether formally or informally interact with people. Style may also tell listeners how to take what is being said: seriously, ironically, humorously, or in some other ways.

## B. DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and discussion of this research. The finding section explains about the types of language styles used by the host and the guest in "Ellen Degeneres Talk Show with the title Ellen Meets a 5-Year-Old

This study reports the results of the data analysis. After analysing the language styles utterance from "*Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*" the writer finds 16 utterances that show language style. Then, the writer classifies the data based on Joos's theory such as formal style, casual style, consultative style, and intimate style.

The writer finds 4 of 5 types of language style used by Ellen and Nate Seltzer. They are formal style, casual style, consultative style and intimate style. They are presented in a table below:

No	Kinds of Speech Style	Frequency	Percentage
1	Casual Style	11	68%
2	Consultative Style	2	13%
3	Formal Style	2	13%

4	Intimate	1	6%
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**Table 3.1 Kinds of Language Style**

Based on Table 3.1, it can be seen that the highest type of language style is casual style, which is 11 data representing 68% of all data. While the lowest number is intimate styles, which is 1 data representing 6% of all data. Based on the table above, there are four kinds of language style that are found in the Talk Show. They are formal style (two data), casual style (eleven data), consultative style (two data) and intimate style (one data). The number shows of frequencies speech style each kind of style. The data are analyzed as follow:

### 3.1.1.1 Formal Style

Formal style is generally used in formal situation, where there is the least amount of shared background and the communication in this style is largely one way with little or no feedback from the audience (Joos, 1976). Formal style is grammatically well formed and easy to be understood. This style avoids contraction. It also uses pronunciation stress and intonation carefully. There are 2 data with the percentage of 13%. Below are some examples of formal style that are used by the host and the guest.

- Ellen : Our next guest can pretty much identify every place in the world and he's only five years old. From Stratford, Connecticut please welcome Nate Seltzer. You memorized the entire globe, right?
- Nate Seltzer : Uh-huh.
- Ellen : Do you have a favourite state in the United States?

Ellen says, “Our next guest can pretty much identify every place in the world and he's only five years old. From Stratford, Connecticut please welcome Nate Seltzer. You memorized the entire globe, right?”. Ellen also says “Do you have a favorite state in the united states?” It shows, it uses the right grammatical in her utterance. It means, Ellen uses organized sentence that is used in an formal situation. In addition, formal style is a speech style used a formal language and complete sentence with specific word usage. In formal speech style, people usually used complex sentences.

The next example also presents formal style

- Ellen : Yeah, it is. Smaller than I remember.  
All right. Tell me about this map.
- Nate Seltzer : Okay. First, we'll start with Antarctica.  
See this, of you know, black thing?

That's a penguin. And this is an iceberg and it's melting. And this is just the auto ice cube.

Nate Seltzer says, “*Okay. First, we'll start with Antarctica. See this, of you know, black thing? That's a penguin. And this is an iceberg and it's melting. And this is just the auto ice cube*”. He uses good grammatical structure and he uses pronunciation stress. On the other hand, this conversation can called as a formal style because Nate Seltzer answer the question with the complete sentence and grammatical correct. Moreover, this conversation above happen in informal situations, Ellen use the easy sentence to make the guest understand, but she is still dominant use the complete sentence with the correct grammar to deliver her question.

### 3.1.1.2 Casual Style

This style is used in informal situation and language. Casual style has a close relationship between two speakers. This style does not need well-structured in utterance. The utterance usually uses contraction, repetition, limited expression, slang, omission, and the sentence is usually shortened or elliptical sentence as it is more practical. According to Joos (1976) casual style is style used among friends and co-workers when an informal atmosphere is appropriated and desired such as outside the classroom where students have a chat. There are 11 data with the percentage of 68%. Below are some examples of casual style that are used by host and the guest.

Ellen : Okay, we're not gonna question anymore.[LAUGH] >> Here's some maps that you drew. Tell me about these maps right here? Okay?  
 Nate Seltzer : First, we do this one.  
 Ellen : Okay. Which one? First. This one?  
 Nate Seltzer : No. That one's not a map.  
 Ellen : That's not a map. That's a house.

Ellen says,” Okay, we're not gonna question anymore. [LAUGH]. Here's some maps that you drew. Tell me about these maps right here? Okay?”. The data refers to casual style. This style is used in informal situation and language. In addition, slang and omission may use in these instance. Ellen also says,” *That's not a map. That's a house*”. Ellen uses contraction. According to “your dictionary”, contraction is two words made shorter by placing an apostrophe where letters have been omitted. The contraction can be analysed that Ellen uses casual style. The next example also presents casual style.

Nate Seltzer : Yes.  
 Ellen : That's really sweet.



Nate Seltzer : That's Universal Studios.  
 Ellen : Look at that.  
 Nate Seltzer : See, look!

Ellen says, " *That's really sweet*". Ellen uses contraction. According GFClearnfree.org a **contraction** is a word made by shortening and combining two words. Words like **can't** (can + not), **don't** (do + not), and I've (I + have) are all contractions. The contraction can be analysed that Ellen uses casual style. Ellen also says, " *See, look*". The next example also presents casual style.

Ellen : Wow. And then that looks like termites  
 or bombom beans, or something.  
 Ellen : No. What is it?  
 Nate Seltzer : That's a tiger.  
 Ellen : Sorry. [LAUGH].  
 Ellen : So, sorry. Let's go over some of these.

Ellen says, " *Wow*". And then that looks lie terminates or bom. Ellen uses interjection sentence. Interjection sentence is a word that expresses a strong emotion. In these sentences, interjection happens at the beginning of the sentence. It expresses emotion of joy, sorrow, excitement, wonder surprise, pain, sadness, happiness, and etc. Ellen also says, " *Sorry*" " *So sorry*". Ellen uses repetition. Ellen uses the word that make listener easy to understand. The conversation happens in an informal situation. So, Ellen uses casual style. The next example also presents casual style.

Ellen : Let's look at flags, cuz you can identify  
 every single flag, right?  
 Ellen : All right. This is really impressive to  
 me, you're five years old.  
 Nate Seltzer : Yes.  
 Ellen : What is this?  
 Nate Seltzer : Canada.  
 Ellen : That is right. And this is?

Ellen says, " *Cuz you can identify every single flag, right*". The data refers to casual style. This style is used in informal situation and language. In addition, slang and omission may use in these instance. According to Joos (1976) slang is employed in someone speech and characterized as a casual style. Slang is non-standard word, which is known and uses by particular group. Ellen chooses words that make the listener easily to understand what the speaker means. It can be categorized as casual style.

Nate Seltzer : Mm-hm  
 Ellen : So, I got you a little gift. I think you're gonna like  
 it a whole lot.  
 Ellen : Look at it. Come over here.

Nate Seltzer : [SOUND] [APPLAUSE] >> My goodness.  
 Ellen : Isn't that.  
 Nate Seltzer : Is great.

Nate Seltzer says. "*my goodness*". It is interjection sentence. He chooses words that make the listener understand easily. And also she uses short sentence that indicates in an informal situation. So, Nate uses casual style. Ellen says, "*isn't*". It is also interjection sentence. According your dictionary an interjection is one of the eight major parts of speech, along with verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjective, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions. Some grammarians believe interjections are the least important part of speech. That might be because interjections are not generally required in order for meaning of a speech to be clear. That might be because interjections aren't generally required in order for the meaning of a sentence to be clear. Ellen also says, "*You're gonna like it a whole*". Ellen uses slang word and it refers to the casual style. The word "gonna" is called "slang" word because it comes from "going to" and it is the characteristic of casual style. According to Joos (1976) slang is employed in someone speech and characterized as a casual style. Slang is non-standard word, which is known and uses by particular group. In line with Joss, Fromkin, Hyams , and Rodman (2007) stated something that nearly everyone uses and recognized, but nobody can define. For instance word "going" to becomes "gonna". It means, the word "gonna" include in the casual sentence. This style usually used in the informal place. The next data also presents casual style.

Nate Seltzer : Look all the flags on it.  
 Ellen : The flags, the wheels have globes on then.  
 Ellen : Ain't that cool? Is yours, you can take that home.  
 Nate Seltzer : Thank you very much.  
 Ellen : You're welcome.

Ellen says, "*Ain't that cool?*". The data refers to casual style. Slangs are quite often used in these instances. This style is used in informal situations and language. Casual style does not need well-structured sentences. It is different with formal style. In formal style people usually uses right grammatical , but in casual they do not. So, in casual style identic with ommission, slang, and repetition.

### 3.1.1.3 Consultative Style

Consultative style is that shown our norm for coming to term with strangers who speak our language but whose personal stock of information may be different, Joos (1976). Consultative style uses a complete grammar but sometimes it is mixed construction. In this style, the pronunciation is clear and it will avoid to offend him with appropriate intimacy or involve him in an under formality. There are 2 data with the percentage of 13%. Below are some examples of consultative style that are used by the host and the guest.

Nate Seltzer : First, we do this one.  
 Ellen : Okay. Which one? First. This one?  
 Nate Seltzer : No. That one's not a map.  
 Ellen : That's not a map. That's a house.  
 Nate Seltzer : Yes.

Nate Seltzer say, "*Yes*". *He uses* consultative style. According to Joos (1976:154) consultative style is a style that shows our norm for coming to terms with strangers who speak our language but whose personal stock of information may be different. It means that these styles are thought formal enough but lower than formal style. The sentence in this style usually is shorter than formal style. The next data also presents consultative style.

Ellen : So does Montana.  
 Nate Seltzer : [LAUGHTER] And Michigan. And, and And Massachusetts. And Maryland. And Maryland. And Maine.  
 Ellen : And, yeah. But still, you chose  
 Nate Seltzer : And Minnesota.

Ellen say, "*Yeah. But still, you choose*". The data refers to consultative style. The sentence in this style usually is shorter than formal style and it is also required for everyday communication. Consultative style mostly has negative markers. It is marked say to say by the absence of all those markers which are characterized by the other styles individually. A few positive markers of consultative style can be listed such as *yes, yeah, no, uh-huh, Mmm, that's right, and I think so*.

#### 3.1.1.4 Intimate Style

Intimate style is completely private language used within family and very close friends. Normally, the intimate style is used in pair. It excludes public information and shows a very close relationship, Joos (1976). In this style, the utterances use grammar and vocabulary which is very short but have some special meaning each other. There are 1 data with the percentage of 6%. Below are some examples of intimate style that are used by the host and the guest.

Ellen : I know, That's yours  
 Nate Seltzer : Mommy. Has to see this.  
 Ellen : Mommy does has to see this  
 Nate Seltzer : Look all the flags on it.

Nate Seltzer says, "*Mommy. has to see this*". It shows that Nate's utterances uses correct grammatical pattern. Moreover, intimate style called private language used within family of very close friends or group. The sentence is typically very short but has special meaning for them. In addition, Nate Seltzer

utterances shows grammatical correct pattern. For sure both of them have very close relationship and know each other. Nate uses intimate style

### C. CONCLUSION

From the analysis of Ellen's Shows script, the researcher found that the dominant style used by Ellen Degeneres and the guest as the casual, formal, and consultative style. Nevertheless, frozen style are not found in their conversation because the frozen style is only for kings and its servants or from master to its slave; while the consultative style is only for stranger. Casual or informal style is often used in the conversations between close people that accrue in the informal or casual condition. Ellen uses an informal or casual style more often to adjust the guest style that mostly comes from children. Ellen style that is mostly put everything in a funny way.

**Note:** This article is written based on the Eric Trio Saputra's thesis under the supervision of advisor Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, M.Hum

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