

**LANGUAGE VARIATION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER  
IN THE MOVIE BLACK PANTHER (2018)**

Adhien Diani <sup>(a\*)</sup>, Sari Rejeki <sup>a)</sup>, Maulana Taufik <sup>a)</sup>

<sup>a)</sup>Universitas Pakuan, Bogor, Indonesia

(\*)Email correspondence : adhien23@gmail.com

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**ABSTRACT**

The occurrence of language variation is not only caused by homogeneous speakers but also because of diverse social interactions. This diversity will increase if the language is used by many speakers, because guidelines for social interaction is needed. This research discusses components of speech event, domain and the use of language variations of the main character in the movie Black Panther (2018). The purpose of this research is to identify the language variations used by the main character, and to show that the components of speech event which support the choice of the language variations. Using the descriptive analysis, and the proficient free listening techniques, the research yields to identify speech variations according to Martin Joss. The most frequently used of language variations by the main character is the casual style. The most scarcely language variations used are the intimate style and the consultative style. It can be proven that the component of speech event and domain strongly supports the use of the language variations.

**Keywords:** components of events; domain; language variations; main character.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Humans are social creatures that interact with each other. The interaction can be done directly or indirectly. In this process, language is also needed as a messenger in communicating between a person and the speaker. Language can be used to describe the emotions of users. Kridalaksana, as quoted by Chaer (2012: 32), says that language is an arbitrary symbol system used by a society that works together, interacts and identifies itself. Language is considered to have an important role for humans in interacting. The use of language in communication is often done by choosing a variety of languages according to the context of the conversation situation and the interlocutor. The variety of language used must be different depending on who the interlocutor is, what the situation is at that time, and what is being discussed.

Variations or language are the cornerstones of sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary science between sociology and linguistics, two fields of empirical science that have very close connections Rokhman (2013: 1). Sociolinguistics examines the correlation between these social factors and language variations. Language variations occur in bilingual or multilingual societies in a particular region so their language deviation contains in it. This will only happen if there is interaction. Existing social interaction is due to

talk activity between speakers and speech partners. The social interaction activities as aforementioned occur in various milieu, including social domains such as markets, schools, hospitals, supermarkets, to special places like home.

Holmes (2008: 235) says that in a variety of languages there are clearly factors that support the formation of a variety of languages. Not only speakers and situations are supporting factors, but there are several other factors such as the purpose and topic of the conversation. The supporting factor is the speech component or speech event. Holmes also said that in every situation, the choice of language is indirectly influenced by one or more speech components, such as the participant or speaker (who is speaking and to whom the speaker is speaking), the setting of the event or the place where it takes place (where they are speaking), and function (why speakers and interlocutors talk about it) these speech components are always found in every conversation, both in daily conversation and in film dialogue.

The characters in the film also use language as a medium to communicate with their interlocutors. One of the films that seems to realize the use of various languages as previously stated, and which is also supported by the speech components is the film Black

Panther (2018). Black Panther (2018) is an American superhero film based on the Marvel Comic character which tells the story of the new King of Wakanda, T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman). In this film, it is explained how T'Challa, who is the main character, must protect his country from attacks by criminals who want to seize their wealth.

In this study, the authors examined the use of various languages and relate them to the speech components used by the T'Challa characters. The theory of language variety used in this study is the theory proposed by Martin Joos, while the theory for speech events is the theory put forward by Holmes. The use of various languages is closely related to the events of his speech. Thus, the use of the variety of languages used by the main character and interlocutors in this film is analyzed based on the theory of language variety and the theory of the components of speech events which are the supporting factors.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a qualitative research that will be analyzed by using descriptive analysis method. The technique used in this research is the proficient free listening techniques by observing the corpus, which is the movie Black Panther. In this study, the theories used are types of language variety, the domain of language use and speech events. Language variation is the main topic in linguistic studies so Kridalaksana (1997) Chaer and Agustina in *Sosiolinguistik Perkenalan Awal* defines it as a branch of linguistics that seeks to explain the characteristics of language variations, establish correlations of characteristics of language variations with social societies. The occurrence of diversity or variance of language is not only caused by the speakers who are not homogeneous but also because the social interaction activities they carried out, each activity causes a diversity of languages, the diversity will increase if the language used by many speakers. The variety of languages included

to show and describe social factors such as the example mentioned by Joos in Chaer and Agustina (2010: 65). The variety of languages has its own sub-language called language style. The variety of languages is divided into five types, namely: frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style.

### 1. Frozen Style

Clark (1994: 25) gives an example of the use of a rigid variety of frozen languages, complete words and long sentences such as the following example; *"Let us consider the possibility of driving our business centre in Chicago to order to contemplate the possible purchase of denim trousers"*. Another example of frozen style is stated by Wardaugh (2006: 54), who stated that regarding grammatical structures that cannot be changed like; *"I do hereby bequeath for the use of frozen text and Our Father, which art in heaven is used as a prayer."* Thus, it can be said that the use of a variety of frozen languages is not only found in speech, but also in frozen text such as correspondence and official documents.

### 2. Formal Style

According to Joos (stated by Adam and Ali: 2017: 156) formal or deliberative styles are used in addressing audience. A typical university classroom lecture is often carried out in a formal style.

### 3. Consultative Style

The characteristic of this variation is the structure of the sentence; have a subject and predicate in each utterance, there are several nonstandard vocabularies, because variations in consultative language are produced in semi-formal situations. Chaer (2001) explains that this style is the most operational among the other styles. The listener usually responds to the speaker with simple signals, such as the use of "I see" phrases like the example below "uh, I see, Mr. Lionel, I think it's good ". The variety of consultative languages, according to Chaer and Agustina (2010: 70), is a variation of language that is

commonly used in ordinary talks in school, results-oriented meetings or talks.

#### 4. Casual Style

The characteristics of casual variations as stated by Joss (1967:23), Simon (2002:2), Mesthrie et al. (2004: 93), Chaer and Agustina (2010: 71) is closely related to the use of allegro forms. Allegro is a word or speech form that is shortened both at the level of words, phrases, or sentences such as the disappearance of the subject in the sentence. Akmajian et al. (2010: 285-286) provides a sentence example of the use of allegro; *Been sneaking to the movies again, haven't you?*

#### 5. Intimate Style

Joos (1967: 34) explains the existence of private meaning related to intimate style. Private meaning here is interpreted as meaning that is only known by speakers in a very close relationship. Burrige and Stebbins (2016: 107) add further characteristics that are the use of kinship terms or deletion, namely in the form of special calls or nicknames such as the words *dear, darling, honey* and *Shnookums*.

Holmes (2008: 235) says that in a variety of languages there are clearly factors that support the formation of a variety of languages. Not only speakers and situations are supporting factors, but there are several other factors such as the purpose and topic of the conversation. The supporting factor is the speech component or speech event. Holmes also said that in every situation, the choice of language is indirectly influenced by one or more speech components, such as the participant or speaker (who is speaking and to whom the speaker is speaking), the setting of the event or the place where it takes place (where they are speaking), and function (why speakers and interlocutors talk about it) these speech components are always found in every conversation, both in daily conversation and in film dialogue.

Dell Hymes (1974) mentioned speech events must fulfil with eight speech components, which the first letter is acronym SPEAKING form. The eight speech components are appointed from Chaer and Agustina (2015: 63): S situations (Settings and Scenes), P participants (Participants), E goals (Ends), A test contents (Act sequences), K notes or ways (keys), I language lines (Instrumentalities), N norms (norms), G types and forms of delivery (genres). The relationship between the use of language variations is closely related to speech events. The use of the main character's language style can be analysed based on various language theories and speech events because each variety of languages used is directly influenced by the eight speech components that have been stated previously.

The framework that Hymes developed for the analysis of communicative events involved the following components: Genre, Topic, Purpose, Setting, Key, Participants, Message form, Message content, Act sequence, Rules for interaction, Norms for interpretation of what is going on.

According Holmes (21-22) A number of such typical interactions have been identified as relevant in describing patterns of code choice in many speech communities. They are known as domains of language use, a term popularized by Joshua Fishman, an American sociolinguist. A domain involves typical interactions between typical participants in typical settings.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Black Panther film is an American superhero film based on the Marvel Comic character which tells the story of the new King of Wakanda. Wakanda is described as a rich county. The people of Wakanda have succeeded in utilizing vibranium technology to create some sophisticated equipment, but the country is trying to protect its' territory by blocking access to the outside and is better known by other countries as the third poorest country in Africa. T'Challa

must become the king of Wakanda to replace his father T'Chaka who died because of acts of terrorism. The battle of the Black Panther film started with a collaboration between Ulysses Klaue and Eric Killmonger. They are both looking for vibranium, but for different reasons. Klaue looks for vibranium to make himself wallow in treasure, while Killmonger tries to find a way to return to Wakanda to wrest the throne from T'Challa's hands.

Language variations found in the film *The Black Panther* are selected based on the social context and their use. The result show that there are 29 language variations; 13 Casual style, 6 formal style, 5 consultative style and 5 intimate style. The variety of language frequently used by the main figures is the casual style, and the varieties scarcely used are the consultative style and intimate style

The following is an explanation of the use of various languages, components of speech events, and the domains used by the main character in *Black Panther*:

### 1. Formal Style

Data 5

Context: Occurs in a Wakanda kingdom. The main character is speaking with Killmonger, the son of his uncle N'jobu who was abandoned alone after his father left. Killmonger asks for the throne he should get.

(1:14:05 - 1:15:10)

T'Challa: "And what tools are those?"

Killmonger: "Vibranium. Your weapons. "

T'Challa: Our weapons will not be used to wage war on the world. It is not our way to be judge jury and executioner for people who are not our own. "

Killmonger: "Not your own? But didn't life start here, on this continent? So ain't all people your people? "

T'Challa: **"I am not King of all people. I am King of Wakanda. And it is my responsibility to make sure our people are safe and that vibranium does not fall into the hands of a person like you. "**

The domain in this data is the domain of work with the participant Killmonger, he is T'Challa's brother, who lives in Africa. The type of delivery of speech through conversation that aims to ask Killmonger's purpose of returning to Wakanda. Key was delivered in a serious manner using formal language but seemed relaxed.

In this conversation the speaker is the part that must answer questions from the speech partner. Norms for the given interpretation of what is going on as we know from the attitudes of the speakers convey that being a king or a leader must be firm, especially maintaining the security and welfare of the people before giving priority to personal needs. This can be seen from the speech of T'Challa "I am not King of all people. I am King of Wakanda. And it is my responsibility to make sure our people are safe and that vibranium does not fall into the hands of a person like you. "

### 2. Consultative Style

Data 2

Context: The speech takes place in the Wakanda forest. T'Challa spoke with his father who had passed away, namely King T'Chaka. He was hesitant to replace his father's position as king of Wakanda.

(00:31:38 - 00:32:50)

T'Chaka: "What is wrong my son?"

T'Challa: "I am not ready, Baba."

T'Chaka: "Have you not prepared to be King your whole life? Have you not trained and studied, been by my side? "

T'Challa: "That is not what I am talking about. I am not ready to be without you. "

T'Chaka: "A man who has not prepared his children for his own death has failed as a father." (BEAT) "Have I ever failed you?"

T'Challa: "Never". (BEAT) **"Tell me how to best protect Wakanda. I want to be a great King, Baba. Just like you. "**

The domain in this data is the domain of family where the participant is the father of the main character, Raja T'Chaka. The setting is the forest where T'Challa reunites with his father. The key used is to ask how to be a good leader like his father with a relaxed manner without feeling awkward between the two without losing T'Challa's respect for his father. In this conversation the speaker becomes the part that responds to the conversation between his speech partners.

Norms for Interpretation of what is going on is that without us realizing it, parents are a role model for their children. Judging from the speech uttered by the main character and his partner, Raja T'Chaka, "Tell me how to best protect Wakanda. I want to be a great King, Baba. Just like you" it seems that T'Challa wants to be a king like his father.

All of these speech components give rise to a variety of consultative languages, seen in the speech uttered by T'Challa and another characteristic is to establish good communication with the interlocutor, as evidenced by the established communication between speakers and speech partners that are built communicatively. These speeches can be understood by each other without any obstacle when the interlocutors are confused to receive information from each other.

In the utterance above, the words are very carefully chosen and the sentence structure is complete even though there are sentences in the form of phrases including "That is not what I am talking about. I am not ready to be without you." The next characteristic is the purpose of the speech on this data, the goal is how to be a good king like Raja T'Chaka.

It can be concluded that the example of the data above is similar with the notion of consultative style. It is said that language which aims to establish good communication between the interlocutors by choosing words very carefully with complete sentence structure but the sentences tend to be shorter.

### 3. Casual style

Data 2

Context: Speech occurs in the Kingdom of Wakanda. T'Challa spoke to his younger sister Shuri and his warrior Okoye. T'Challa stopped their conversation who were making fun of him because they were stunned by his ex-lover Nakia.

(00:14:15 -00: 14: 28)

Shuri: "Did he freeze?"

Okoye: "Like an antelope in headlights."

Shuri laughs at this.

T'Challa: "**Are you finished?**"

The domain in this data is the domain of the family where the participants are the younger siblings of the main characters, Shuri and Okoye. Taking place in the country of Wakanda, Shuri and his mother welcomed T'Challa and his entourage who had just arrived after a journey against the enemy. Shortly after welcoming Nakia, she rushed to make preparations for the ceremony, but when she walked, T'Challa's eyes could not let go of seeing it, this made Shuri and Okoye tease the kaka who was stunned by his former lover.

The norms for interpretation of what is going on are that as brothers and sisters, we should have a good relationship, especially the relationship between brothers and sisters. In this conversation it can also be seen that T'Challa's closeness to his younger brother and his soldiers was close enough that they without feeling awkward ridiculed the king who was stunned by his former lover. This can be seen from the speech uttered by T'Challa to Shuri "are you finished?" This utterance was made because Shuri mocked her sister that money was looking at Nakia. This attitude of Shuri made T'Challa angry and embarrassed by what his younger brother did. This conversation is used in informal situations and the conversation is like brother and sister who understand each other.

The speech in the data above is classified into casual style. Judging from the royal situation which requires people to use formal language, especially to the king, Shuri and Okoye are able to make the atmosphere more relaxed. As for the characteristics of the language found in the speech of the T'Challa character, first the use of language is used lightly with the view that he makes fun of his speech partner who here is the warrior general Okoye. In this section the speaker becomes the part that responds to the conversation between his speech partners, and what he should be as king must be respected by his people.

#### 4. Intimate style

Data 2

Context: T'Challa appreciates Shuri for welcoming her brother's return. They talked about the development of weapons that T'Challa had.

(00:14:32 - 00:15:00)

T'Challa: "So surprised **my little sister** came to see me off before our big day."

Shuri: "You wish. I'm here for the EMP beads, I've developed an update. "

T'Challa: "Update? No, it worked perfectly. "

The domain in this data is the domain of the family with the participant involved is T'Challa's younger brother Shuri. Set in the yard of Wakanda T'Challa, appreciating Shuri who welcomed his return, but Shuri denied it. He was here because he wanted to take the stinger to be renewed. T'Challa became increasingly used to make fun of his younger brother who turned out to be an expert in technology. Key is delivered in a relaxed manner without feeling awkward because the two of them have a very close relationship.

Norms for Interpretation of what is going on is that it is supposed to establish a good relationship between brother and sister, there is a familiarity that exists between T'Challa and Shuri even though they live in a

kingdom that is famous for its standard regulations, they can still quarrel with each other. All these speech component factors give rise to the characteristics of the variety of intimate language. This can be seen from the way T'Challa who greets his sister by the referring expression "my little sister".

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data analysis presented in the previous chapter, there are four types of language variations used by the main character in the Black Panther (2018); formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. Frozen style is not found in this film. Of the 29 data found and analyzed, there are 6 formal style, 5 consultative style, 13 casual style and 5 intimate style.

From the four types of language that have been described in the previous paragraph, it can be concluded that the casual language variety is the most dominant language variety used by the main character. This variety of casual language is supported by the participants whose relationships are considered close. Many ellipsis are found in various casual languages.

Furthermore, regarding the use of various languages and the origin of the speakers of these various languages, T'Challa is the son of the first King of Wakanda, namely Raja T'Chaka who belongs to a family group that has rules according to protocol, but the use of T'Challa languages to communicate often use a variety casual language, a variety of identical languages brought in to communicate with friends. The variety of casual language aims to build familiarity or calmness from the exchange of the speaker's experiences through a less rigid attitude between the speaker and his speech partner.

In this film, the most supportive and influential components of speech are the participants and the location of the conversation. Participants greatly influence how the speaker should talk with his speech partner. The location

of the place is also a factor in supporting the variety of languages that speakers will use. The topic and purpose of the conversation are also components of speech that support the variety of languages used by the main character but do not dominate. In addition, the domain also influences to describe the choice of code in a large speech community, to see the 'typical' interactions used so that speakers use code when they want to emphasize the use of language or varieties of languages in a particular community. The domain in this film is more dominated by the domain of work and the domain of the family, this is influenced by the number of participants interacting with the main character with a background as the kingdom of Wakanda, the main character himself is a king, of course he has a lot of interaction with speech partners who discuss strategies to protect the people as well as the Wakanda state.

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