

Casual Style in Steve Harvey Show: A Socio linguistic Perspective.

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Abstract

This paper aims to investigate the use of casual style in Steve Harvey Show. To achieve this aim, the data is analyzed socio-linguistically. It is hypothesized that casual style is the dominant style in the show. The procedure adopted is to survey the concept of style , types of style and functions of style theoretically. Among the important conclusions that the study comes up with are: The appearance of casual style in the show is quite clear. Casual style is the dominant style the show.

Keywords: *Casual Style in Steve Harvey, Socio linguistic Perspective*

1. Introduction

Language style refers to the way of conveying the same information by using different expressions. It is related to the different variations of language and different situations and needs. (Trudgill, 1974:103)

Chaika (1982: 29) explains that language style is viewed as the way in which people use language in communication, it can be either written or oral language. Language style in fact refers to the selection of the linguistics forms to convey social or artistic effects. In doing communication, people usually intend to use both formal and informal language but the use of each depends on the situation in which they communicate with others.

Holmes(1992:138) defines style as a language variety in which a speaker selects particular linguistic forms rather than other forms that contain the same information.

Dyer (2004:74), argues that styles not just to view the same linguistic features in terms of regional and social dialect differentiations, but they also view their correlations with other social factors. It is obvious that style displays the correlations between the social factors and the language used by the society. This means that the society can easily predict what kind of style they will use in their communication according to the current situation.

According to Sinclair, (2007) in Thomas and Wareing (2005: 146), people may use different styles while they talk to teach other depending on the situation and the context they are talking in. This can account as a basis on the premises which people mainly seek to show solidarity when dealing with others. The style type of language in a communication focuses mainly on the intended social message rather than getting the message of communication.

2. Types of Style

Keraf (1991:113) points out that language style is one way to express ideas with special language to show the writer's soul, spirit and vocabulary . Good language must have three essential elements, are: honesty, respect and good manners. The last is the most interesting. Style is very important in our daily conversation. Each person uses different kinds of style when he or she speaks. Todorov (1993:44) states that language style is a choice among other alternatives in using language. It is the way that speakers use to convey the same information through using different expressions related to different variations of language used in different situation. Participants have to adopt the right style depending on the situations and conditions that speakers are surrounded by. This influences people to choose the right style of language in their interacting and communicating with each other.

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Joos (1967:153) has pointed out that there are five kinds of styles: Frozen, Formal, Casual, Consultative and Intimate style. According to Joos (1967:154), Frozen style is a style which is intended to be remembered and used in very formal setting such as palace and church ritual. In this case both speaker and hearer do not permit to ask a question. It is called "Frozen" because it already has a pattern and cannot be changed. It is usually used in literary book, president speech, wedding ceremony, etc.

Formal or deliberative style is defined as the type of language style that is used in situations in which the speakers are very careful about pronunciation, choice of words, and sentence structure. It is usually used in important or serious situations, such as in scholar and technical reports, classrooms, formal speeches, and sermons.

Consultative style is the style that is used in semi-formal situation. It happens in two-ways participation that means it must be a pair conversation. It can be found in conversation between teacher-student, doctor-patient and etc. This style can be used in formal situation and informal situation. (Joos, 1976:155)

Intimate language style is a completely private language developed within families, lovers, and the closest friends (Joos: 1967: 156). Normally the intimate group is pair the intimate labels like dear, darling, honey, mom, dad or other nicknames might be used in this situation.

The main concern of this research is casual style. According to Francis (1965:254) Casual style or informal style is one variation of language that speakers use in the casual or informal situation in order to have a conversation with family members or close friends in casual situations for instance that at the rest time, recreation, exercise, , and so on.

Joos (1967:155) has pointed out that casual style is a style that is used for the conversation in informal situation that is appropriate to conversation with friends, co-worker, and each other such as outside the classroom when the student have a chat. The situation is informal. It can be found in chat outclass class room where the language does not bound with grammatical rules. The vocabulary that is used are influenced the dialect. Casual style is characterized by use of slang. Slang is non-standard form of word which is known and used by a certain group. This is a prime indication of in-group relationship. It is used only with insiders, and it an assumed to know only by members of the group. For example: to teenagers or to some clique among adolescents.

3. Functions of Language Style

Chaika (1982:31) states that speakers give a great deal of information about themselves just by the word, grammar, and pronunciation they choose both unconsciously and consciously. Such information reveal to the hearer such things as the speaker's social background such as educational background and regional affiliation.

Other opinions come from Ramos and Fishman (1970:108) states that language operates on the basis of more precise information as to the age, number, location, and interaction of the speakers of various local languages.

Trudgill (1974:14) states that the two aspects of language behaviors are very important from a social point of view: first, the function of the language is establishing social relationship; and second, the role played by language in conveying information about the speaker.

Wardhaugh (1986:117) states that the way in which people view the language they speak also important, that is, how they evaluate accents; how they establish the fact that they speak one language rather than another; and how they maintain language boundaries. Moreover, rules for using a language may be just an important feeling about the language itself.

Wardhaugh (1986:31) states that the language's function is uniting individuals and groups within larger communities. Therefore, it can be employed to reflect and symbolize some kind of identity: social, ethnic, or religious. However, Trudgill (1974:24) states that speakers are aware of the social significance of pronunciation and their attitudes towards it are favorable because of their social attitudes. In the same case, Chaika (1982:29) states the function of language style is to convey social or artistic effect.

Furthermore, Chaika(1982:36) states that using style is carried out along with greeting and conversation. The message is more efficient than having to encode that information at the outside or continually during conversation.

Badiah(1994) defines the functions of language style are:

a. To increase the reader's taste

Language style increases what the readers willing to follow what is being said by the writer. It will raise the reader's opinion about what the writer's messages that are expressed on his or her text and also what purposes are going to be communicated by the writer.

b. To persuade the reader

Language style makes the reader feels sure and trustful toward what is being said by the writer. The writer or speaker asks the reader or listener attractively by using rhetoric language.

c. To add the artistic effect of the idea being offered by the writer

Here, one of function of language style contributes to the artistic effect. It will make the reader or listener enjoys and attracts, for example: the language in literary works, such as poem, drama, novel etc.

d. To make the writer's idea clearer

Every writer wants the reader to understand and catch the messages and ideas that are carried by the text. Thus, the writer should use the correct and certain language style to make his or her messages and ideas clearly transferred to the reader.

e. To create certain mood

The language style that is used by the writer influences that reader in the case of creating the mood. It can also influence about the listener or reader's feeling or thought. So, how the speaker or writer uses the language style in their communication, it consequently will create certain mood.

4. The Analysis of the Texts

Text (1)

Guest: *I'm a retired English teacher I get on Facebook just to correct other people's posts if there any grammar is not right.*

Host: *Ay grammar ain't right?*

Guest: *Yeah-yeah-isnot-right*

Host: *You better quit*

following me here cuz you gonna have to come out of retirement

The guest tells the host that she is a retired English teacher and she always corrects other people's posts for grammatical errors. The host asks her what errors she corrects, telling her humorously not to follow his grammatical error in order not to come out of the retirement.

The guest uses causal exchange since she talks freely and away from any formality. The host also uses causal style since he responds humorously.

Text (2)

Guest: *Hi Steve. My husband's native language is Polish. I would love for my three-year-old daughter to learn the same language .Unfortunately she's only learned the Polish curse words. I'm getting anxious we have a family reunion coming up and she gets so eager to blurt out these words .Any idea how we can get her to stop cursing?*

Host: *All my kids curse. I know exactly where they got it from and you're just rubbing your stomach*

-Yes, I'm expecting another one pretty soon.

-Well, you got another little curse, economy's down .

The guest speaks to Steve and tells him that her husbands' native language is Polish and she wants her three year daughter to learn that language, but unfortunately her daughter has learned only the Polish cursing words. The guest says that they are going to have a family union and she is concerned about the words that the daughter utters.. The mother asks Steve for an advice to stop her daughter from uttering these cursing words in front of their family. The host tells her that all children curse. He tells her kiddingly that the daughter has got those cursing words from him. He then asks her why she is rubbing her stomach. She says that she is going to have another baby soon. He tells her that she is going to have another curse. He means that the economic status of the country is going down.

The guest uses a causal style when talking about her problem freely and with no formality. The host also uses a casual style when he responds to her question with a smile and try to be open and funny with her.

Text (3)

Guest: *Hi Steve. My name is actually Neda.*

Host: *Ah it's Neda*

Guest: *Yes so ever since I was what I wanted to change it because you know it's your name's very important. You hear it every day. It's part of your identity and it gets very frustrating correcting people so I thought who better to ask than you. I know you go by your middle*

name and I don't even have a middle name to go by either, so I thought you know let me just ask Steve what do you think about the topic?

Host: *why don't you just put another E on there and make it Needa*

Guest :*No but then that would be Needer*

Host: *Well you need a new name.*

The guest tells Steve that her name is 'Neda'. She says that she wants to change her name since the name is one's identity and one hears it every day. She says that she feels tempered when she corrects her name to people. People always call other people by the second name or last name. She says that she doesn't have a second or last name. She tells Steve to help her change her name. He tells her that she can put another 'e' letter in the middle of her name to be 'Needa instead of 'Neda. Steve laughs and tells her that she is a needer of a new name.

The style used by the guest is a casual style since she talks about her problem directly and with no formality. Steve also uses a casual style when responding to her.

Text (4)

Guest: *Hey Steve. I have a very deep voice. Every time I call on the phone they go yes sir , no problem sir , we got that for you sir and I'm constantly correcting them ma'am ..it's ma'am and don't you see Bertina on the screen, but anyway that gets a little bit uncomfortable and awkward, so I don't really worry about it and I began to think maybe I should do something else with this voice maybe voiceovers or radio so what do you think Steve? Is there something that I can do with this voice?*

Host: *You need your own 1909*

In this extract, a woman greets Steve and tells him that she has a very deep voice. Every time she calls on the phone, people say "yes Sir", "no problem Sir" or "we got that for you Sir". She is always treated as a man because of her voice. She says that she always corrects those who responds to her as a man because of her deep voice. She says because of the

constant treating as a man and her constant correction to the people she calls, she starts to adapt with that common behavior. She adds that she is no longer worried about that and she has begun to think of a solution by doing something else to help her get rid of that problem such as searching for a voice over or a radio. She at last asks Steve if there is something that she can do with her voice. Steve starts to laugh with her telling her that she needs to have a particular kind of radio calls.

The guest uses a causal style to express the problem she faces freely and comfortably. The host also uses a casual style when responding to her.

Text (5)

Guest: so me and my boyfriend I've been dating for about three years now. I used to fall asleep in his arms every night but lately he seems to be pulling away. He says he's just uncomfortable but come on. Should I be worried?

Host: No. Look everybody has this problem. We all cuddle in the beginning

Guest: In the beginning?

Host: Yes, in the beginning only.

A lady tells Steve that she and her boyfriend have been dating for about three years. They are in love relationship and they spend long time together. She says that she used to fall asleep on her boyfriend's arm every night ,but lately her boyfriend has started to pull her away saying that it is uncomfortable. She is now asking Steve if there is a problem. Steve tells her that all people cuddle in the beginning only, which means she doesn't need to do that frequently with her boyfriend.

The style used by the guest is a casual style when she tells the host about her problem comfortably and directly. Steve also uses a causal style when responding to her participation.

4. Conclusions

1. The appearance of casual style in the show is quite clear.
2. Casual style is the dominant style in the show.

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