

**INTIMATE LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY MAIN CHARACTERS IN “A
WALK TO REMEMBER” MOVIE BY ADAM SHANKMAN (2002)**

THESIS

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Strata One (S1)
Degree*



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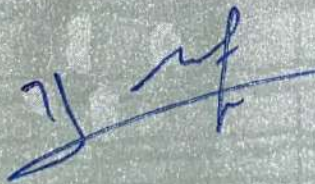
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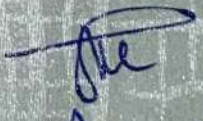
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ABSTRACT

This study examines the intimate language style employed by characters in the movie *A Walk to Remember*, focusing on its characteristics and functions in shaping interpersonal relationships. The analysis identifies key features of intimate language, including high familiarity, minimal structure, deep emotional expression, personal references, and non-verbal cues. These elements are explored through descriptive quantitative analysis of the characters' dialogues and interactions. The findings reveal that the intimate language style serves multiple functions, such as building trust, expressing commitment, conveying vulnerability, deepening emotional bonds, and reducing tension. The researcher identified 988 dialogue in the movie that use characteristics of intimate language style. From 988 data, the findings show that there are 333 data of high familiarity (34%), 252 data of minimal structure (25%), 99 data of deep emotional expression (10%), 199 data of personal references (20%), and 105 data of non-verbal cues (11%). Next, from 988 data the researcher also found that female actor (Jamie) were more dominant in using characteristics of intimate language style (52%), while male actor (Landon) were only 48%. Then ,from 988 data the most dominant characteristics was high familiarity (34%). By highlighting how these linguistic and non-linguistic features contribute to the development of the characters' relationships, this study underscores the role of intimate language in fostering emotional closeness and authenticity within the narrative context of the film. The results offer insights into the dynamics of intimate communication in cinematic storytelling and its impact on audience perception of relational depth.

Keywords: *Linguistics, Language Style, Intimate Language Style, Romance Movie, A Walk to Remember*

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ABSTRAK

Studi ini meneliti gaya bahasa intim yang digunakan oleh karakter dalam film *A Walk to Remember*, dengan fokus pada karakteristik dan fungsinya dalam membentuk hubungan interpersonal. Analisis ini mengidentifikasi fitur-fitur utama dari bahasa intim, termasuk keakraban tinggi, struktur minimal, ekspresi emosional yang dalam, referensi pribadi, dan isyarat non-verbal. Elemen-elemen ini dieksplorasi melalui analisis kuantitatif deskriptif dari dialog dan interaksi karakter. Temuan ini mengungkapkan bahwa gaya bahasa intim melayani beberapa fungsi, seperti membangun kepercayaan, mengekspresikan komitmen, menyampaikan kerentanan, memperdalam ikatan emosional, dan mengurangi ketegangan. Peneliti mengidentifikasi 988 dialog dalam film yang menggunakan karakteristik gaya bahasa intim. Dari 988 data, temuan menunjukkan bahwa ada 333 data keakraban tinggi (34%), 252 data struktur minimal (25%), 99 data ekspresi emosional yang dalam (10%), 199 data referensi pribadi (20%), dan 105 data isyarat non-verbal (11%). Selanjutnya, dari 988 data, peneliti juga menemukan bahwa aktor perempuan (Jamie) lebih dominan menggunakan karakteristik gaya bahasa intim (52%), sementara aktor laki-laki (Landon) hanya 48%. Kemudian, dari 988 data, karakteristik yang paling dominan adalah keakraban yang tinggi (34%). Dengan menyoroti bagaimana fitur linguistik dan non-linguistik ini berkontribusi pada pengembangan hubungan antar karakter, studi ini menggarisbawahi peran bahasa intim dalam menumbuhkan kedekatan emosional dan autentisitas dalam konteks naratif film. Hasil penelitian ini menawarkan wawasan tentang dinamika komunikasi intim dalam penceritaan sinematik dan dampaknya terhadap persepsi penonton tentang kedalaman relasional.

Keywords: *Linguistics, Language Style, Intimate Language Style, Romance Movie, A Walk to Remember*

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Padang, 23 May 2025
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research Problem

Language style is the way somebody employs language in communication. It can be caught on as a way of communicating contemplations through language in an interesting and abnormal way. Keraf (2010) said that language style had the power to convey character and identity in a way that was easy to understand. Through the use of words, tone, and sentence structure, language style helped to create a clear picture of a particular character or identity, making it easier to understand and interpret. It refers to the way to communicate the same information by using different expression and related to different variations of language that are used in different situations. Language style is a person's personal thought that reflects his opinions and ideas in a form of works. Keraf (2010) said that language style allows assessment of a person's personality, character, and ability to use the language. A person's style of language can change the atmosphere or affect listeners and readers. Thus, language style is an individual-based uniqueness in communication.

Chaer (2004:62) states that language style must be differentiated based on the speakers and their use. Factors that differ this style include the identity of the language user, their place of residence, their social status within society, their gender, and the context in which the language is spoken. Based on these

factors, it is obvious that the discussion of language style is an inseparable thing from the social state of the speakers.

The function of language style expressed by Fishman (2004) is the diversity of language according to speakers, listeners, contexts, and topics. First, speaker's point of view, language has an emotive function. This indicates that the speaker conveys emotions through their choice of words. In this case, the listener's side can predict whether the speaker is sad, angry or happy. Second, listener's point of view, language contains a directive function, as: to direct the behavior of the audience. Language does not as it were make the audience do something, but moreover does the movement concurring to the speaker's wishes. Next, contact between speaker and listener, language is a function of fatigue. Language serves to establish relationships, maintain, show friendly feelings or social solidarity. The expressions used are usually patterned, such as when they are meeting and asking how they are and so on. Then, topic perspective, language serves as a referential as a tool to talk about objects or events that are around the speaker or in culture in general.

Chaer & Agustina (2014) further explains that the causes of diversity or variation of language style are because of social interaction difference and variety of circumstances. Those language variations are separated into four perspectives, to be specific in terms of speakers, utilization, formality, and facilities (Chaer & Agustina, 2014). First, variations in terms of speaker's attention on to whom they speak is based on time, region, and social position. Second, variations in terms of use focus on what area of need or activity.

Third, variation of the formal aspects pay attention to the use of language based on situation existing activities. The final, variations in terms of facilities, specifically varieties based on the media utilized in language. These four aspects of the diversity of language style can be identified in intimate language style as one of style of language between closely related speakers hearer.

The forms of intimate language style can be seen as well in movies. According to Krashen (1982), the most effective language learning occurred when learners were exposed to authentic, meaningful, and contextual language input. Movies provided dialogue that reflected everyday language use, including intimate language styles used in personal relationships such as between couples, family, or friends. Dialogue in movies was often designed to resemble real conversations, so researchers could observe how intimate language was used in emotional situations or close relationships.

Problems related to language style in movie include several key aspects. First, misunderstanding of dialogue can occur when the language used is too complex or inappropriate for the context, making it difficult for the audience to grasp the core of the story (Krashen, 1982). Additionally, cultural limitations become an issue when the language does not consider the cultural backgrounds of viewers, leading to misinterpretation or a lack of resonance with the film's themes (Vygotsky, 1987). Another problem is incompatibility of language style with characters, where the dialogue does not reflect the personality or background of the characters, thus diminishing authenticity and

credibility (Joos, 2011). Changing language trends also pose challenges; what is considered appealing today may not resonate with future audiences, affecting the film's appeal to younger viewers (Labov, 1972). From a production standpoint, limitations in script adaptation can result in dialogue that feels stiff or unnatural, reducing emotional depth (Utcheon, 2006). Lastly, the influence of the global market requires films to use language styles that are understandable to international audiences, often sacrificing important local nuances (Appadurai, 1996). Identifying and addressing these issues is crucial for creating films that are communicative and engaging.

Octaviani & Purwarno (2021) analyzed types and social factors of intimate language style. Wilkinson (2006) examined how film dialogue could be used as an authentic resource for teaching spoken language, including informal and emotional communication styles. Kozhinova (2010) analyzed how dialogue in films reflected interpersonal dynamics and characters' emotions. This study examined the use of language in close relationships, such as friendship or mentor-student, which often included intimate language styles. Zamaraeva (2008) examined how film dialogue reflected inner speech or intimate emotional expression. This study highlighted how films used language to express emotional closeness, which was a characteristic of the intimate style. Thompson (2015) examined how language in film was used to construct intimate relationships between characters, focusing on emotional dialogue and the use of verbal cues such as nicknames or short phrases. Roberts (2012) examined interpersonal communication in film, including how

language was used to indicate intimacy and trust. Carson (2017) extended Gary Chapman's love language theory to analyze communication in media, including film. This study discussed how words of affirmation and emotional expressions reflected intimate language styles. Petrova (2019) analyzed emotional dialogue in biographical films, focusing on how language reflected intimate relationships between characters.

Thompson (2015) states that studying intimate language style is important for several reasons. First, effective interpersonal communication heavily relies on how to express close relationships. Understanding intimate language style can enhance interaction quality and strengthen emotional bonds between individuals. Second, intimate language often reflects cultural values and social norms, providing insights into how different cultures communicate in more personal contexts. Third, in the digital age, the changes in communication through social media and messaging apps make the analysis of intimate language style increasingly relevant. This helps to understand how technology influences intimate interactions. Additionally, examining intimate language can reveal gender dynamics and how differences in communication styles can affect relationships. Thus, this research enriches the understanding of language as well as human relationships as a whole.

Thompson (2015) states that studying intimate language style holds significant relevance for helps in understanding how language reflects and constructs social identities within close relationships, revealing insights into group dynamics. Intimate language often embodies cultural norms and values,

allowing researchers to explore how these elements influence communication practices across different societies. Additionally, analyzing intimate language can uncover differences in communication styles between genders, contributing to discussions about gender roles and power dynamics in relationships. The evolution of intimate language, especially in the context of digital communication, provides a lens through which to study language change and adaptation in contemporary society. Furthermore, it highlights how language is used to express emotions and build connections, which is crucial for understanding interpersonal relationships.

In this research, the film *A Walk to Remember* is a work that depicts an emotional journey between two main characters, Jamie and Landon, who come from different social backgrounds. In this context, intimate language styles play an important role in building the depth of their relationship. Martin Joos's Theory of Language Levels (Registers) provides a relevant framework for analyzing how their communication reflects intimacy and vulnerability. By focusing on intimate registers, this study aimed to explore how the dialogues in this film not only create emotional moments but also depict the transformation of the characters that occurs through their verbal interactions. Through this analysis, it is hoped that it can provide new insights into the role of language in facilitating personal connections and navigating themes of love and redemption in the context of adolescence.

Using Joos (2011) theory in this research was particularly relevant for several reasons. First, this theory provided a clear framework for

understanding variations in language style based on social context. In the film *A Walk to Remember*, the interactions between Jamie and Landon reflected a highly intimate and personal use of language, making it ideal for analysis. Second, this approach allowed the researcher to explore how dialogue created emotional depth and character development. By focusing on the intimate register, the analysis showed how language reflected vulnerability, trust, and the evolving connection between the characters. Third, the theory emphasized the importance of context in communication, which was crucial for depicting the dynamics of relationships in the film. Therefore, applying the Theory of Registers enriched the analysis and provided deeper insights into how language functioned in shaping interpersonal relationships.

B. Identification of the Research Problem

Based on previous research above, there are some gaps that can be identified for research on intimate language styles in movies. First, some research focus lied on relationship transformation, characteristics, and social factors. Second, none of the preceding studies indentified functions of intimate language style in movie. This study fills the gap by analyzing intimate language styles in the film *A Walk to Remember*, which has not been studied before. Examining the development of intimate language styles as Landon and Jamie's relationship transforms. Integrating the influence of spiritual elements on intimate language styles. Providing an in-depth analysis of the role of non-verbal cues in supporting intimate language styles. Based on the research gap, the following are the new aspects of the research on intimate language style in

A Walk to Remember. First, an analysis of intimate language styles in A Walk to Remember, which has never been studied before. Second, an approach to the dynamics of intimate language styles as the characters' relationships develop. Next, an integration of spiritual elements as a factor influencing intimate language styles. And then, an in-depth analysis of non-verbal cues in Joos' framework.

C. Limitation of the Research Problem

This study was limited on the analysis of intimate language styles used by the main characters, Landon Carter and Jamie Sullivan, in the film A Walk to Remember (2002), by referring to the concept of intimate style in language style theory by Joos (2011). First, identify the characteristics of intimate style, such as the use of nicknames, short or incomplete sentences, direct emotional expressions, personal references, and non-verbal cues (e.g., soft tone of voice, pauses, eye contact). Then, the function of intimate style in strengthening emotional bonds, such as building trust, showing commitment, or expressing vulnerability. This focus is limited to the dialogue, verbal and non-verbal interactions between Landon and Jamie in the film A Walk to Remember, with an emphasis on spiritual elements and relationship dynamics as unique aspects that distinguish this study from previous studies.

D. Formulation of the Research Problem

Related to the limitation of the research problem above, the formulation of this research was formulated into “What are the characteristics

and function of intimate language style used by Landon Carter and Jamie Sullivan in the film *A Walk to Remember* based on Martin Joos' theory?"

E. Research Questions

This study addressed by attempting to find answers to the following problems:

1. What are characteristics of intimate language style used by Landon Carter and Jamie Sullivan in "*A Walk to Remember*" movie?
2. What are functions of intimate language style used by Landon Carter and Jamie Sullivan in "*A Walk to Remember*" movie?

F. Purposes of the Research

Based on the research question above, the purposes of the research were:

1. To identify specific characteristics of intimate style according to Joos' theory, such as nicknames, short or incomplete sentences, direct expressions of emotion, personal references, and non-verbal cues (e.g., soft tone of voice, pauses, eye contact).
2. To identify specific function in strengthening emotional bonds of intimate style according to Joo's theory, such as building trust, expressing commitment, conveying vulnerability, deepening emotional bonds, and reducing tension.

G. Significances of the Research

This study had significant benefits both theoretically and practically. From a theoretical perspective, this study enriched the application of Joos's Language Style theory by analyzing intimate style in the context of romance films, expanding sociolinguistic literature through the exploration of relationship dynamics, the influence of spiritual elements, and the role of non-verbal cues, as well as being a reference for similar studies.

Practically, the research findings can be applied in language learning to help scriptwriters and directors create authentic dialogues, improve intimate communication in interpersonal relationships, support couple counseling, and understand the influence of spiritual values in communication, especially in the context of romance with spiritual elements such as in *A Walk to Remember*. By studying intimate language in films, learners can gain valuable insights into real-life communication dynamics and the subtleties of personal interactions.

H. Definition of Key Terms

1. Stylistics

Stylistics is a fascinating field that highlights how language choices shape our understanding and emotional response to texts. It emphasizes the interplay between linguistic elements and their broader implications, enriching our appreciation of literature and communication.

2. Language style

Language style is a unique reflection of how individuals express their feelings and thoughts. It demonstrates that language serves not only as a tool for communication but also as a means to convey deeper, figurative meanings, enriching the experience of the reader or listener.

3. Intimate Style

Intimate style represents a special form of communication that fosters closeness and connection among individuals. It highlights the importance of personal relationships, where language becomes a tool for expressing affection, trust, and understanding, making interactions feel more meaningful and heartfelt.

4. Romance movie

Romance movie is a love story recorded in visual media for cinemas that focuses on the emotions and affectionate involvement of the main characters or other characters in the movie.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

The intimate language style in *A Walk to Remember*, as identified through the dialogues between Landon and Jamie, is characterized by high familiarity, minimal structure, deep emotional expression, personal references, and non-verbal cues. These characteristics create authentic, heartfelt communication that fosters emotional and spiritual intimacy, distinguishing the style from other forms of dialogue in the film. The researcher identified 988 dialogue in the movie that use characteristics of intimate language style. From 988 data, the findings show that there are 333 data of high familiarity (34%), 252 data of minimal structure (25%), 99 data of deep emotional expression (10%), 199 data of personal references (20%), and 105 data of non-verbal cues (11%). Next, from 988 data the researcher also found that female actor (Jamie) were more dominant in using characteristics of intimate language style (52%), while male actor (Landon) were only 48%. Then, from 988 data the most dominant characteristics was high familiarity (34%).

The functions of the intimate language style in *A Walk to Remember* are building trust, expressing commitment, conveying vulnerability, deepening emotional bonds, and reducing tension, these functions drive the film's emotional narrative and underscore its themes of love, faith, and redemption. These functions, enabled by the style's characteristics, facilitate

Landon's transformation and the evolution of his relationship with Jamie, creating a compelling model of intimate communication in romantic cinema. The emphasis on emotional and spiritual intimacy provides insights into navigating complex moral dynamics, applicable to other genres or media, and reinforces the significance of relational functions in shaping narrative impact.

The researcher identified 369 data in the movie that use function of intimate language style. From 369 data, the findings show that there are 54 data of building trust (15%), 120 data of expressing commitment (33%), 79 data of conveying vulnerability (21%), 64 data deepening emotional bonds (17%), and 52 data of reducing tension (14%). Next, from 369 data the researcher found that the female actor (Jamie) were more dominant in using function of intimate language style (52%), while male actor (Landon) were only 48%. Then, from 369 data the researcher found that the most dominant function was expressing commitment (33%).

There are 1.357 total data, and the table of indicators was used to examine each meaning of the datum. The findings indicate that characteristics and function of intimate language style with the greatest percentage. This category showed up at the highest frequency.

B. Suggestion

The goal of this study is to find characteristics and function of intimate language style especially in *A Walk to Remember* movie. The result of the study only make up a small part of all studies. There are also problems that need to be fixed, such as exploring more characteristics and functions of

intimate language style, and other variations of movie aspects that can be analyzed along with the characteristics and functions of intimate language style. Further study about these circumstances might be conducted in the meantime. Furthermore, this study is hoped to give insight about characteristics and functions of intimate language style on movie.

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