

Diagnosing Language Style of Narrative Passages in EFL Textbooks: A Linguistic-Stylistic Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This study discussed the stylistic analysis study used in EFL Textbook especially in narrative passages. This study aimed to describe the types of language styles, the lexical categories and figures of speech in narrative passages. This research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive research. The data source are taken from EFL textbook entitled Practice Your English Conversation Daily. There are 3 stories that are analyzed from the textbook. They are: The Legend of Malin Kundang, The Rats and The Elephants and Sura and Baya. The results showed that there were 2 types of language styles found, namely: formal style and casual style; 4 categories of lexical categories found, namely: verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs; 4 figures of speech found, namely: alliteration, assonance, euphemism and personification in narrative passages in the textbook. It is hoped that this research can help students understand narrative texts and help students to create narrative texts with an appropriate language style.

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1. Introduction

Textbooks are nearly as ubiquitous in schools as teachers and exams (Shannon, 2010). The textbook has become a nearly universal component of classroom teaching (Mohammad Mohammadi, 2014). As one of the most important language learning resources, the textbook has a significant impact on language learning efficacy (Huang, 2019). It not only serves as a guide for teachers when delivering content, but it also gives required feedback through a range of explanations and tasks. It influences learners' attitudes and performance regarding resources (Mutiar Ayu, 2018). Textbooks are one of the most important materials utilized to satisfy the student-centered objectives of a course. One of the textbooks used in schools is the EFL (English Foreign Language) textbooks.

According to Tom Hutchinson, 1994, "A textbook provides a very significant role in English teaching and learning". Teachers and students hold EFL (English as a Foreign Language) textbooks in high regard. When providing the contents, it serves as a guide for the teachers, but it also provides the required information through a variety of explanations and exercises (Mutiar Ayu, 2018). EFL Textbooks contains a lot of material that students will learn in it. including one of them is material about Narrative.

Narrative passages are one of the things that must be learn in learning English. Narrating is an advanced discourse skill that correlates with and predicts numerous aspects of academic success, such as improving memory, vocabulary, print awareness, and decoding and tale comprehension (Gigliana Melzi, 2011). The use of textbooks will greatly assist teachers and students in learning narrative passages material. However, not all textbooks have an effective role. Using simply textbooks, from cover to cover, with no supplementary materials is not the most effective way to address the demands of pupils (Mohammad Mohammadi, 2014). If

language textbooks are not socially and culturally contextualized, pupils will not see them as relevant to their lives, reducing their incentive to study the language (Huang, 2019). We need something to ensure that the textbook has a positive impact on pupils and is of high quality. Evaluation of textbooks has become a crucial practice in the world of education (Azam Ahmadi, 2016). One thing that can be the source to be analyze in the research from content of textbook is language style.

According to Ducrot and Todorov (1993), The selection of language style involves making a decision amid many options when utilizing language. Language style can be defined as the words used by a specific collection of people when speaking in a particular location and circumstance (Ratna Sari Dewi, 2022). Language style is an instrument of verbally or in writing expressing a feeling or thinking; it encompasses all forms of communication that convey figurative meaning (Panumbangan, 2013: 149). According to Joos (1976) Style of language refers to the manner of language used by the speaker and is characterized by a degree of formality. Joos divides these speech styles into five forms, namely; frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style.

Analyzing the language style in the EFL textbook will help us understand the different types of language styles employed in the textbook. The language style in EFL Textbooks is an important thing to know because besides it increase the cultural knowledge but also teach the students to write their own story. The language style in EFL Textbooks is interesting to study because we can find what types of language style is commonly used by the author of the textbook.

One of the most common linguistic analysis on literature is stylistics (Candria, 2019). Stylistics focuses on the ornamental aspects of both written and spoken language. Stylistic analysis examines literary texts, speeches, legal documents, news reports, commercials, and many other forms of linguistic expansion (Almahameed, 2020). Stylistic analyses concentrate on a writer's language in a literary text and can provide us with valuable information for a more objective examination of the author and the text (Tezcan, 2014). Stylistics places a great deal of emphasis on the study of aesthetic elements of both written and spoken language. Stylistics is not a distinct discipline, but it can be used to obtain a deeper understanding of literature, journalism, and linguistics (Almahameed, 2020). The two main objectives of stylistic analysis are to aid readers in creating meaningful interpretations of the text and to increase readers' general knowledge and awareness of language. These objectives will assist pupils in reading and studying literature while enhancing their language proficiency (Sharma, 2019). Literary stylistics is an applied discipline that draws on a range of linguistic approaches, models and methods to study literary texts. In the digital age, stylistics has benefitted from the availability of digitized versions of literary (Diani Syahputri, Yusni Khairul Amri, Leli Roswinda, 2023). Therefore, it is important for students and teachers to know the stylistic forms that exist in the EFL Textbook that they use, especially in the narrative section. Besides being able to know the meaning of the text, students can also improve their language skills and improve students' ability to create their own stories by using appropriate language styles.

Learning success is dependent on both the learner and the teacher, particularly the teacher's language style. The pupils' comprehension is influenced by the teachers' language style (Liyana Puspasari, 2021). However, quite a lot of problems were found where both the teacher and students did not understand the style of language in the material, especially the narrative part. Students are less able to make their own stories with a good and appropriate language style. The ability to understand language styles is very important for teachers and students for the success of learning activities. In this case, the researcher interested to describe and interpret not only the types of language styles used by the author in EFL Textbooks entitled Practice Your English Conversation Daily especially the narrative passages using the theory of Martin Joos (1976) but also describe the stylistics study used by the author in EFL textbook

entitled *Practice Your English Conversation Daily* especially the narrative passages using the theory of Leech & Short (2007).

The introduction should clearly state the purpose of the paper. It should include key references to appropriate work but should not be an historical or literature review. The contents of the paper include Introduction, Method (for research-based articles), Results and Discussion, Conclusion, and References. The content of non-research based articles may include some sub-chapters with a free title depends on the study.

2. Method

The method that used in this research is descriptive qualitative because the data is document analysis. The source of the data for this research is the EFL textbook entitled "*Practice Your English Conversation Daily*" used by pupils in the first grade of senior high school. This study aimed to observe detailed information about language styles and lexical categories that are used in narrative passages in the EFL Textbook. The way how to collect the data is by identifying, analyzing and classifying the types of language styles and the lexical categories in narrative passages from the EFL Textbook. Then, the writer analyzed the data used the theory by Martin Joos (1976) to explain the types of language style and used theory by Leech & Short (2007) to explain the lexical categories. The data in this research is taken from EFL Textbooks entitled *Practice Your English Conversation Daily* composed by Prof. Drs. Konder Manurung DEA., PhD., Grace Novenasari Manurung, S.Pd., M.Pd., Maulana Fajar Sidik, S.Par., MBS. This textbook used by first grade students in senior high school level. Furthermore, there are some titles that to be the source for this research, those are : *The Legend of Malin Kundang*, *The Rats and The Elephants*, and *Sura and Baya*.

3. Results and Discussion

The data obtained from the EFL textbook, especially in the narrative passages, reveals the various types of language styles and stylistic-analysis study that used by the authors of the textbook. To determine the types of language style contained in the narrative passages used Martin Joos (1976) theory. There are 5 types of language styles such as: frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. While, to determine the stylistic-analysis study contained in the narrative passages used Leech and Short (2007) theory which will analyze the lexical categories and figures of speech. The data collection step in this study began with observing the narrative passages contained in the EFL textbook. Then, the researcher made a table to find out the types of language styles and stylistic-analysis used by the authors. The data were taken from 3 narrative stories in the EFL textbook entitled *The Legend of Malin Kundang*, *The Rats and The Elephants*, and *Sura and Baya*. Of the three stories, the stylistic analysis part that can be explained in this research includes 3 parts, namely: language style, lexical categories and figures of speech.

According to Joos (1976) language style refers to the manner of language used by the speaker and is characterized by a degree of formality. Joos (1976) stated that there are five kinds of language styles: frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style. After selecting the data, 67 sentences that are used language styles found in the narrative passages of the EFL textbook. Based on the theory of Martin Joos (1976) and the results of the analysis from this study, 2 types of language styles were found in narrative passages entitled *The Legend of Malin Kundang*, *The Rats and The Elephants* and *Sura and Baya*. They are formal style and casual style, which can be described as follow:

In the *Legend of Malin Kundang* story, the researcher found 2 types of language styles that are used by the authors of the textbook. They are formal style and casual style. Some examples that can be taken from this story is: 1) "A long time ago, in a small village near the beach West

Sumatera, a woman and her son lived". In this sentence, the introducing of the story began and the sentence used formal language. The language used is formal language and there is no language that uses regional elements. So, the author of this textbook wrote this sentence used formal style. 2) "Malin Kundang has become rich and now he is here". In this statement, there is one villager that announce an information to everyone in the village. This communication occurs in one-way and using formal speech style. The villager speaks in formal style to the other villagers. 3) "Enough, old woman! I have never had a mother like you, a dirty and ugly woman!". In this statement, Malin Kundang yelled at his mother to say that she is not her mother. Malin speaks using casual language style to the mother he didn't recognize. 4) "Finally, enraged, she cursed Malin Kundang that he would turn into a stone if he didn't apologize". In this sentence. The authors write "didn't" which makes this sentence informal. So, the author used casual style in this sentence.

In the Rats and The Elephants story, the researcher found 1 types of language styles that is used by the authors of the textbook. That is formal style. Some examples that can be taken from this story is: 1) "Once upon a time there lived a group of mice under a tree in peace". In this sentence, the introducing of the story began and the sentence used formal language. There is no slang word found in this sentence. So, the authors of this textbook write this sentence used formal style. 2) "However, a group of elephants crossing the jungle unknowingly destroyed the homes of all the rats". In this sentence, the authors also used formal language to tell the story. So, the authors of this textbook write this sentence used formal style.

In Sura Baya story, the researcher found 2 types of language styles that is used by the authors of the textbook. They are formal style and casual style. Some examples that can be taken from this story is: 1) "A long time ago, there were two animals, Sura and Baya". In this sentence, the introducing of the story began and this sentence uses good and correct grammatical elements. So, the authors of this textbook write this sentence used formal style. 3) "Baya saw a goat. "Yummy, this is my lunch", said Baya. "No way! This is my lunch. You are greedy", said Sura". In this conversation happen between Sura and Baya who know each other. They can speak what style they want use. So, Sura speaks used casual language style to Baya and Baya speaks used casual language style to Sura.

According to Leech and Short (2007) lexical category is generally concerned with vocabulary, morpheme, and semantics. Based on the theory of Leech and Short (2007) divide the lexical category checklist into five categories: general, nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. After selecting the data, 254 lexical categories were found used in the narrative passages of the EFL textbook. The results of the analysis from this study, 4 categories of lexical categories were found in narrative passages entitled The Legend of Malin Kundang, The Rats and The

Elephants and Sura and Baya which can be described as follow: 1) Verbs, a verb is a word in the syntactic class that usually implies an event, action, or state. In the Legend of Malin Kundang story, the researcher found 38 verbs, some of them are: Bring, Hug, Help and many more. In the second story entitled The Rats and The Elephants, the researcher found 22 verbs including: Were, Apologized, Saved and many more. The last story is Sura and Baya, the researcher found 12 verbs, some of them are: Hit, Bit, Was and many more. The words "Bring", "Hug", "Help", "Hit" and "Bit" are called a verb because the word shows an action. The words "Were" and "Was" is called a verb because these two words are an auxiliary verb and the words "Apologized" and "Saved" are regular verb. 2) Nouns, a noun is a grammatical class of words that relate to people, places, objects, ideas, phenomena, substances, or concepts. In the Legend of Malin Kundang story, the researcher found 41 nouns, some of them are: Malin Kundang, Ship, Stone and many more. In the second story, The Rats and The Elephants. The researcher found 23 nouns some of them are: Tree, Homes, Nets and many more. And the last story, Sura and Baya. The researcher found 22 nouns, some of them are: Shark, Crocodile, Goat and many

more. The word “Malin Kundang” is called noun because it mentions the specific name of the person which means it is a proper noun. The words “Ship”, “Stone”, “Tree”, “Homes”, “Nets”, “Shark”. “Crocodile” and “Goat” are concrete nouns because these words are nouns that can be observed by the five senses. 3) Adjectives, an adjective is a word that refers to a group of words that modify nouns. An adjective describes the features or characteristics of a noun referent. In the first story entitled The Legend of Malin Kundang. The researcher found 36 adjectives including: Healthy, Diligent, Strong and many more. In the second story, The Rats and The Elephants. The researcher found 8 adjectives including: Sad, Huge and many more. In Sura and Baya story, the researcher found 12 adjectives including: Greedy, Hungry, Angry and many more. The words “Healthy”, “Diligent”, “Strong”, “Sad”, “Huge”, “Greedy”, “Hungry” and “Angry” are called adjectives because these words describe human, animal and object characteristics. 4) Adverb, an adverb is word that modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, or other words, phrases, or clauses. In the first story entitled The Legend of Malin Kundang. The researcher found 20 adverbs, some of them are: Ago, Usually, Perfectly and many more. In the second story entitled The Rats and The Elephants. The researcher found 8 adverbs, some of them are: Then, So and many more. In the third story entitled Sura and Baya. The researcher found 11 adverbs, some of them are: Never, Very and many more. The word “Perfectly” is part of adverb because the word is a part of adverb of manner. The words “Then” and “Ago” are called adverbs are because these two words describe time which means they are part of adverb of time. The words “Usually” and “Never” are part of adverb of frequency. The words “So” and “Very” are part of adverb of degree because these words explain the extent to which something happened.

According to Leech and Short (2007) characteristics of figures of speech are highlighted by departing in some way from general communication norms through the language code, such as the exploitation of formal or grammatical patterning regularities and deviations from the linguistic code. After selecting the data, some sentences that is used figures of speech were found in the narrative passages of the EFL textbook. The results of the analysis from this study, 4 types of figures of speech namely: alliteration, assonance, euphemism and personification were found in narrative passages entitled The Legend of Malin Kundang, The Rats and The Elephants and Sura and Baya which can be described as follow: 1) Alliteration, alliteration is a sentence that consists of a series of words that begin with the same consonant sound. The researcher found 1 sentence that is used alliteration. An example of alliteration is one of the sentences in The Legend of Malin Kundang Story. “He had a huge ship” In this part, the authors of the textbook employs words that have the same initial letter repeated in more than two words. Therefore, this part is using the alliteration figure of speech because the sentence repeated the initial letter “h” more than two times. 2) Assonance, an assonance is a form of speech that involves the repetition of vowel sounds. The researcher found some sentences that is used assonance. Some example of this figure of speech are from the legend of Malin Kundang story and The Rats and The Elephants story. Some of them are: “She wanted to hug him, released her sadness of being lonely after so long time.” and “There lived a group of mice under a tree in peace”. In these sentences the researcher found the use of assonance figures of speech. This is because assonance is a figure of speech that employs vowel-based repetition. The same thing the authors of this textbook did. The authors repeat the vowel “i” in these sentences. 3) Euphemism, this figure of speech serves as a term to substitute other expressions that are regarded impolite or offensive, while retaining their original meaning. The researcher found 2 sentences that is used euphemism. One of the sentences is from The Legend of Malin Kundang story that is “Malin Kundang’s father had passed away”. In this sentence, the researcher found the use of euphemism figures of speech. Euphemism figures of speech are used to soften phrases that are considered rude. As in that part, the authors of the textbook choose to use the word “passed away” instead of using the word “died”. 4) Personification, personification is the process of imbuing abstract or inanimate objects with human character or qualities. The

Researcher found some sentences that is used personification. One of the examples is from The Rats and The Elephants story, that is: "They danced with joy and thank the rats", in this sentence, the word "they" is meant for the herd of elephants and mice and the words "danced" and "thank" are used for the activities carried out by the herd of elephants and mice. Herds of elephants and rats are animals, so by them doing the dance, it's the same as them acting like humans. Therefore, the sentence is identified using personification figure of speech.

After analyzing the data, two types of language style were found in three narrative stories entitled The Legend of Malin Kundang, The Rats and The Elephants and Sura and Baya in EFL textbook namely; formal style and casual style. The researcher found 63 formal style and 4 casual style contained in the narrative stories of the textbook. And it can be concluded that the authors often used formal style in the EFL textbook especially in the narrative passages. The researcher also found four categories of lexical categories in narrative passages namely, verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs that contained in the narrative passages. The last, the researcher also found four type of figures of speech namely, alliteration, assonance, euphemism and personification that is used by the authors of the textbook especially in narrative passages.

4. Conclusion

Based on the 3 data which researcher analyze. The researcher conclude that the authors of the EFL textbook using 2 types of language style, 4 categories of lexical categories and 4 figures of speech that is used in narrative passages. Formal style is being the most language style favorite by the authors of the textbook to be used in the narrative passages entitled: The Legend of Malin Kundang, The Rats and The Elephants and Sura and Baya. The author of the textbook also uses many lexical categories, including verb, noun, adjective and adverb in narrative passages. The last is figures of speech. Figures of speech that is most being used by the authors of the textbook is personification. Beside it, assonance, euphemism and alliteration also used by the authors of Practice Your English Conversation Daily textbook. However, the narrative story in this book is not perfect because researchers found several incorrect uses of words. For examples in The Legend of Malin Kundang's story. The author of the textbook uses "her mother" even though the authors should have used "his mother" because Malin Kundang is a man.

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