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## Language Style and Register on “Close the Door Podcast with Vilmei” based on Sociolinguistics View

**Loria Sitanggang**

English Departement Faculty Of Teacher Training and Education Universitas HKBP  
Nommensen Pematangsiantar

**Inggrid Sianipar**

English Departement Faculty Of Teacher Training and Education Universitas HKBP  
Nommensen Pematangsiantar

**Erika Sianturi**

English Departement Faculty Of Teacher Training and Education Universitas HKBP  
Nommensen Pematangsiantar

**Rachel Silalahi**

English Departement Faculty Of Teacher Training and Education Universitas HKBP  
Nommensen Pematangsiantar

**Tiarma Intan Marpaung**

English Departement Faculty Of Teacher Training and Education Universitas HKBP  
Nommensen Pematangsiantar

*corespondent author: tiarma.marpaung@uhnnp.ac.id*

**Abstract:** *This research examines variations in language style and the application of formal and informal registers in social media communication, with a particular emphasis on YouTube podcast content featuring public figures within the young adult demographic. The study centers on a widely discussed viral case involving Livy Renata, Vilmei, and Willie, which generated controversy as a result of contrasting interpretations of informal language use in addressing private matters in a public digital space. Adopting a qualitative descriptive methodology, this study applies a sociolinguistic discourse analysis approach. Data were collected from YouTube video transcriptions, relevant conversational excerpts, and the broader social context surrounding the conflict. The results reveal that the prevalent use of informal registers including slang expressions, Indonesian-English code-switching, and relaxed conversational patterns played a significant role in creating misunderstandings and eliciting emotional responses from the individuals involved. Furthermore, a noticeable shift toward a more formal and reflective register emerged when the issue was addressed in a different podcast setting. Overall, the findings*

*highlight that register selection in social media discourse significantly influences public interpretation and may intensify social conflict, especially among young adults.*

**Keyword:** *Language Style Variation, Formal and Informal Registers, Social Media Discourse, YouTube Podcasts, Sociolinguistics, Code-Switching, Young Adult Communication*

**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini mengkaji variasi gaya bahasa dan penggunaan ragam formal serta informal dalam komunikasi media sosial, dengan fokus khusus pada konten podcast YouTube yang menampilkan figur publik di kalangan dewasa muda. Studi ini berpusat pada kasus viral yang banyak diperbincangkan yang melibatkan Livy Renata, Vilmei, dan Willie, yang memicu kontroversi akibat perbedaan penafsiran terhadap penggunaan bahasa informal dalam membahas persoalan pribadi di ruang digital publik. Dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan pendekatan analisis wacana sociolinguistik, data dikumpulkan dari transkripsi video YouTube, kutipan percakapan yang relevan, serta konteks sosial yang melingkupi konflik tersebut. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dominasi penggunaan ragam informal, termasuk ungkapan slang, alih kode bahasa Indonesia–Inggris, serta pola percakapan yang santai, berperan besar dalam memunculkan kesalahpahaman dan respons emosional dari pihak-pihak yang terlibat. Selain itu, terlihat adanya pergeseran menuju ragam bahasa yang lebih formal dan reflektif ketika isu tersebut dibahas dalam konteks podcast yang berbeda. Secara keseluruhan, temuan ini menegaskan bahwa pemilihan ragam bahasa dalam wacana media sosial sangat memengaruhi penafsiran publik dan berpotensi memperuncing konflik sosial, khususnya di kalangan generasi muda..

**Kata Kunci:** *Variasi Gaya Bahasa, Ragam Formal dan Informal, Wacana Media Sosial, Podcast YouTube, Sociolinguistik, Alih Kode, Komunikasi Dewasa Muda*

## INTRODUCTION

Social media has become a dominant platform for communication among young adults, significantly influencing how language is used in public and private interactions. Platforms such as YouTube, particularly in the form of podcasts and live discussions, encourage spontaneous, casual, and interactive communication styles. As a result, the boundaries between formal and informal language use are increasingly blurred. From a sociolinguistic perspective, this phenomenon is closely related to the concepts of language style and register, which refer to variations in language based on context, purpose, participants, and social setting. In recent years, YouTube podcasts hosted or attended by public figures namely Deddy Corbuzier (DC) have gained massive attention and influence. The language used in these digital spaces is often informal, characterized by slang, relaxed sentence structures, emotional expressions, and frequent code-mixing between Indonesian and English. While such language choices help create closeness and authenticity with audiences, they may also lead to misinterpretation, especially when sensitive or personal topics are discussed in a public digital sphere. This study examines a viral conflict

involving Livy Renata (LR), Vilmei (VM), and Willie Salim (WS), which emerged from discussions circulated on social media and YouTube podcasts. The controversy highlights how differences in language register and style can shape public perception and escalate social conflict. In particular, Vilmei's appearance in a YouTube podcast demonstrates how the use of an informal register in addressing personal issues can trigger emotional responses and polarized reactions from the audience. This case provides a relevant context for analyzing how register variation operates in digital discourse involving public figures. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the language style and the use of formal and informal registers in YouTube podcast discourse from a sociolinguistic perspective. By focusing on this case, the study seeks to reveal how register choices influence meaning, audience interpretation, and the development of conflict in online public communication among young adults.

This study aims to examine the language style used by DC and VM in the *Close the Door Podcast*, the types of registers they employ in their interactions, and the impact of using informal language styles and registers on viewers of the *Close the Door Podcast*, especially young audiences.

## **METHOD**

This study employs a qualitative descriptive research design using a sociolinguistic discourse analysis approach. This method is appropriate for examining language use in natural contexts and understanding how meaning is constructed through linguistic choices in social interaction. The data were obtained from spoken utterances in YouTube podcast videos discussing the conflict involving LR, VM, and WS, supported by additional contextual information from related social media discussions. Data were collected through observation and documentation by transcribing relevant podcast segments and identifying linguistic features related to the research focus. The collected data were then analyzed descriptively to interpret patterns of language style, register, and their social implications.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Language Style & Register**

Language is a dynamic system that adapts to different social situations, communicative purposes, and interpersonal relationships. Two key concepts that explain this variation are language style and register.

Language style refers to the particular way individuals select and arrange linguistic forms to convey meaning, identity, or attitude. This choice is often influenced by psychological, emotional, or social intentions. A speaker might employ a formal style to appear professional, a humorous style to entertain, or a casual style to build solidarity with peers. William (2014) underlines that style is context-dependent and reflects the flexibility of human communication, allowing speakers to express individuality within the broader framework of language norms. Register, in contrast, is more socially determined. It refers to a variety of language shaped by the field (what is being discussed), the tenor (who is involved and their relationship), and the mode (the channel of communication, whether spoken, written, or multimodal) (Halliday et al., 1964). Registers are therefore conventionalized and tied to specific situations. For example, legal documents, religious texts, and academic lectures each have distinct registers that are widely recognized and expected by participants.

According to Joos (1967), registers can be categorized into five levels:

1. Frozen Register – fixed, unchanging expressions such as constitutions, national anthems, or prayers.
2. Formal Register – used in structured contexts like speeches, presentations, or academic reports.
3. Consultative Register – semi-formal, often found in interactions between experts and laypersons, such as doctors and patients or teachers and students.
4. Casual Register – common in everyday interactions among friends or equals, characterized by slang and colloquial expressions.
5. Intimate Register – reserved for close personal relationships, where shared knowledge and private codes dominate.

These categories demonstrate how register organizes communication along a continuum of formality. Choosing the appropriate register is essential because it determines not only the clarity of a message but also its social appropriateness. A mismatch of register such as using casual slang in a courtroom or frozen expressions in a casual conversation may result in misunderstanding or social disapproval. William (2014) also stresses that while style emphasizes individual expression, register reflects social norms and expectations. Yet, the two interact closely: speakers constantly negotiate between personal style and the requirements of a given register. For instance, a university lecturer may use the formal register of academia but integrate a friendly style to engage students more effectively. This interplay highlights the creative potential of language in balancing individuality with convention. In contemporary contexts, especially among young adults, style and register are increasingly fluid. Social changes and technological developments

have encouraged greater flexibility in moving between formal and informal varieties of language. This adaptability illustrates how style and register serve as both linguistic tools and social resources, enabling speakers to navigate diverse communicative environments.

To provide a clear context for the analysis, the following section focuses on the YouTube podcast *Close the Door*, featuring Deddy Corbuzier as the host and Vilmei as the guest. The selected episode, titled “*VILMEI NANGIS, OM AKU PUNYA BUKTI CHAT DIA KE WILLIE!! JAHAT BGT BUAT AKU... AKU BUKA DISINI!*” (“*VILMEI CRIES, UNCLE, I HAVE PROOF OF HER CHATS WITH WILLIE!! SHE WAS SO CRUEL TO ME... I’LL REVEAL EVERYTHING HERE!*”), was released on February 12, 2025. This episode presents a detailed account of VM’s emotional confession regarding her relationship with WS, which had previously been discussed publicly during LR and Mami Louise’s live session. The analysis aims to examine how VM’s language style and register are expressed throughout the podcast, particularly in conveying doubts about the sincerity of the apology she received, supported by private chat evidence.

### **Language Analysis of Close the Door Podcast with DC and VM**

This section analyzes the language style and register used by DC and VM during the podcast. The analysis focuses on how linguistic choices reflect emotional stance, power relations, and the informal media setting of a YouTube podcast. Data are taken directly from the transcript, followed by accurate English translations in parentheses.

Video Title:

VILMEI NANGIS, OM AKU PUNYA BUKTI CHAT DIA KE WILLIE!! JAHAT BGT  
BUAT AKU... AKU BUKA DISINI!  
(VILMEI CRIES, UNCLE I HAVE PROOF OF HER CHATS WITH WILLIE!!  
SHE WAS EXTREMELY CRUEL TO ME... I’LL REVEAL IT ALL HERE!)

Release Date: February 12, 2025

Speakers: Deddy Corbuzier (Host), Vilmei (Guest)

Main Topic: Clarification and emotional confession from VM regarding her relationship with WS, which became a public discussion during LR and Mami Louise’s live session. The main focus lies on VM’s doubts about the sincerity of the apology she received, supported by private chat evidence.

## RESULTS

### 1. Language Style of DC (Host)

DC predominantly employs a **casual–consultative style**. Although he functions as a public figure and interviewer, he intentionally avoids formal or scripted language. Instead, he adopts a conversational and sometimes provocative tone to encourage emotional disclosure from the guest.

Example:

*"bukan tipe gua nih, bikin podcast gini nih, tapi diminta sama netizen"*

*("This isn't really my type of podcast, but the netizens asked for it.")*

The use of colloquial pronouns *gua* (I) and *lu* (you) signals a casual register, positioning the interaction as equal and friendly rather than hierarchical. This choice reduces social distance and aligns with the norms of digital talk shows.

DC also frequently uses expressive interjections to dramatize reactions and maintain audience engagement.

Example:

*"Oh my God. Wow."*

*(English utterance used to express shock and disbelief.)*

Additionally, rhetorical and confrontational questions are used to push the narrative forward:

*"Ini mah kayak jebakan Batman dong."*

*("This feels like a total trap, doesn't it?")*

Such utterances illustrate DC's interrogative style, where humor and sarcasm function as tools to evaluate the credibility of events while keeping the atmosphere informal.

### 2. Language Style of Vilmei (Guest)

VM's language style can be categorized as confessional and emotionally expressive. Her speech reflects vulnerability, uncertainty, and personal distress, which are conveyed through repetition, hesitation markers, and emotive vocabulary.

Example:

*"aku jujur malu banget om"*

*("Honestly, I'm really embarrassed, Om.")*

The adverb *jujur* (honestly) functions as an epistemic marker, emphasizing sincerity. Emotional adjectives such as *malu* (embarrassed), *sedih* (sad), and *kecewa* (disappointed) dominate her narrative, reinforcing the confessional tone.

Another example:

*"aku tidak melihat tindakannya itu sesuai dengan permintaan maafnya"*

*("I don't see their actions as matching their apology.")*

This utterance shows a shift from purely emotional expression to evaluative language, indicating critical reflection while still remaining in an informal register.

### 3. Language Register in Interaction

Based on Joos' (1967) classification, the dominant register used throughout the podcast is casual register, with occasional movement toward consultative register. This is evident in the relaxed turn-taking, slang usage, and lack of rigid grammatical structure.

Example of casual register:

*"Lu sedih?"*

*("Are you sad?")*

The absence of formal sentence structure reflects spoken Indonesian in intimate public discourse. Despite discussing sensitive issues, neither speaker shifts into a formal or frozen register.

The frequent use of address terms such as *Om* (uncle) further reinforces an intimate-casual **register**, symbolizing respect blended with familiarity.

### 4. Style Register Interaction

The interaction between style and register in this podcast demonstrates how personal emotion can coexist with public discourse. DC's interrogative yet casual style complements VM's confessional style, allowing emotionally charged content to be presented without losing audience accessibility.

This combination reflects contemporary digital media norms, where authenticity and emotional transparency are valued over linguistic formality. As a result, the podcast successfully transforms private conflict into a publicly consumable narrative while maintaining linguistic naturalness.

*This analysis confirms that the Close the Door podcast episode primarily operates within a casual register, enriched by confessional and interrogative styles that enhance emotional depth and audience engagement.*

### **5. Accessibility of the Topic**

This topic is highly accessible as it is delivered through YouTube, a platform with massive reach, especially via Deddy Corbuzier's channel, which has millions of subscribers. It also involves public figures with large followings, particularly TikTok influencers. The audio-visual podcast format makes the content easy and engaging to consume for a broad audience.

Contextual Example:

The decision to invite Vilmei was driven directly by audience demand, indicating that the topic was already viral and widely discussed online.

*"bukan tipe gua nih, bikin podcast gini nih, tapi diminta sama netizen, diminta netizen katanya ada request disuruh undang lu 'om klarifikasi klarifikasi..." (DC)*

***"This isn't really my kind of podcast, but the netizens asked for it. They requested that I invite you and said, 'Om, do a clarification, do a clarification..." (DC)***

### **6. Rich Discussion Potential**

The topic offers multiple angles for discussion beyond a simple romantic controversy. One of the key issues raised is ethics in public spaces and privacy boundaries. It invites deeper reflection on how celebrities and influencers manage personal relationships under public scrutiny, as well as the ethical responsibilities of friends or colleagues when private matters are turned into monetized content.

Discussion Perspectives Identified:

- a. Betrayal: VM expresses disappointment that people she trusted discussed her private life publicly for content and commercial purposes.
- b. Mismatch Between Words and Actions: The podcast critically examines how public apologies may contradict private behavior, as shown through chat evidence that suggests opportunistic motives.

*"Sebenarnya, mereka udah minta maaf, tapi aku tidak melihat tindakan itu sesuai dengan permintaan maafnya." (VM)*

***“Actually, they have already apologized, but I do not see their actions as being consistent with the apology.”***

*(VM)*

*“Oh My God. Wow. Ini mah kayak jebakan Batman dong.” (DC)*

*“Oh my God. Wow. This feels like a total trap.”(DC)*

## **7. Freshness and Trend Relevance**

This topic is highly current, as it directly responds to a recently viral incident. Vilmei’s appearance on the podcast serves as her first official and extended clarification following the controversy, fulfilling public curiosity. First-hand narratives addressing ongoing viral drama typically have strong trending potential.

Time-Based Context:

*“Ini baru, kalau enggak salah, dua hari lalu kalau enggak salah, ya.” (DC)*

***“This just happened, if I’m not mistaken, about two days ago.”(DC)***

*“Itu viral loh, semua orang ngomongin itu loh. Sampai staf khusus Menhan mau ngomongin lu sama Willy loh. Bayangin loh.” (DC)*

***“It went viral, you know, everyone was talking about it. Even a special staff member of the Minister of Defense was about to comment on you and Willy. Just imagine that.”(DC)***

## **8. Beyond Definitions: Is It Truly Real?**

The podcast content does not revolve around abstract concepts or definitions; instead, it presents real interpersonal conflict. Vilmei openly shares her emotional struggles, including feelings of shame, insecurity, and disappointment. The authenticity peaks when she introduces private chat evidence that has never been publicly released, shifting the narrative from speculation to concrete behind-the-scenes reality.

Examples of Emotional Reality and Authenticity:

Emotional Testimony

*“Aku jujur, malu banget, insecure banget... Sampai teman-teman aku yang di luar sana yang tahu aku... nanya ‘Emang lu enggak insecure?’. Aku sedih, kecewa.” (VM)*

***“Honestly, I felt extremely embarrassed and very insecure... Even my friends out there who know me asked, ‘Aren’t you insecure?’ I felt sad and disappointed.”(VM)***

Concrete Evidence

"Aku sih jujur enggak akan sebarin chat-nya, karena bukan style aku." (Vilmei)

**("Honestly, I would not share the chat messages, because that is simply not my style.")**

(Vilmei)

## CONCLUSION

From a sociolinguistic perspective, this study concludes that language style and register play a crucial role in shaping meaning, emotion, and public interpretation in digital media discourse. The analysis of the *Close the Door* podcast episode featuring DC and VM demonstrates that the interaction is dominated by a casual register, with occasional shifts toward a consultative register, reflecting the informal yet semi-guided nature of YouTube podcast communication. In terms of language style, DC consistently employs a casual-interrogative style, characterized by colloquial expressions, expressive interjections, humor, and rhetorical questioning. This style functions strategically to reduce social distance, maintain audience engagement, and encourage emotional disclosure from the guest. Although positioned as the host and authority figure, DC avoids formal language and instead adopts a conversational tone that aligns with contemporary digital talk show norms. VM, on the other hand, predominantly uses a confessional and emotionally expressive style. Her speech is marked by epistemic markers (such as *jujur (honestly)*), emotional intensifiers (*banget (extremely)*), hesitation markers, and evaluative language. These linguistic features reflect vulnerability, sincerity, and personal distress, allowing her to construct an authentic narrative in response to public controversy. Despite discussing sensitive personal issues, her language remains within an informal and intimate register, reinforcing the emotional accessibility of her testimony. Regarding language register, the findings confirm that the dominant register throughout the podcast is casual, occasionally moving toward consultative when clarification, evaluation, or reflective judgment is required. Based on Joos' (1967) classification, neither speaker shifts into a formal or frozen register, even when addressing conflict, apology, or ethical concerns. The frequent use of address terms such as *Om (uncle)*, colloquial pronouns (*gua (I), lu (you)*), and relaxed sentence structures further emphasizes the intimate-casual nature of the interaction. The interaction between language style and register in this podcast illustrates how private emotions are negotiated within a public digital space. The combination of DC's interrogative style and VM's confessional style enables personal conflict to be transformed into publicly consumable discourse without sacrificing linguistic naturalness. However, this same informality also contributes to potential misinterpretation, emotional amplification, and the escalation of social conflict. Finally, the study highlights the impact of informal language style and register on young viewers, who constitute a significant portion of the podcast's audience. While informal language enhances relatability, authenticity, and engagement, it simultaneously

blurs boundaries between private and public communication. As a result, register choices in social media discourse not only influence audience perception but also shape the dynamics of online controversy. Therefore, this research affirms that awareness of language style and register is essential for understanding sociolinguistic practices in digital media, particularly in interactions involving public figures and young adult audiences.

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