

**“LANGUAGE STYLES USED BY MAIN CHARACTERS IN CHRISTOPHER
NOLAN’S THE DARK KNIGHT (A SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY)”**



A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University as Partial
Fulfilment of the Requirements to Obtain Bachelor Degree in English Literature
Study Program

BY:

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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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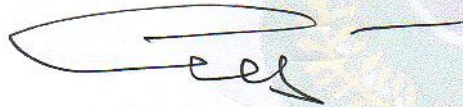
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THESIS
LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY MAIN CHARACTERS IN
CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S THE DARK KNIGHT

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Thursday, August 5th, 2021 and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

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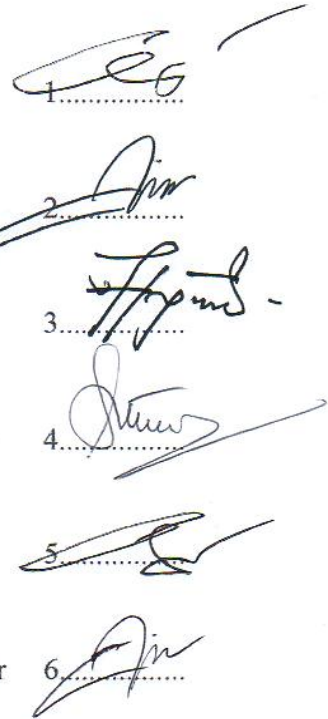
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Today, August 5th, 2021, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Rahmat Hidayat (Student No. F21116526) entitled, **LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY MAIN CHARACTERS IN CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S THE DARK KNIGHT**, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, August 5th, 2021

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DECLARATION

The thesis by Rahmat Hidayat (No. F21116526) entitled, **LANGUAGE STYLE USED BY MAIN CHARACTERS IN CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S THE DARK KNIGHT**, has been revised as advised during examination on Thursday, August 5th, 2021 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners.

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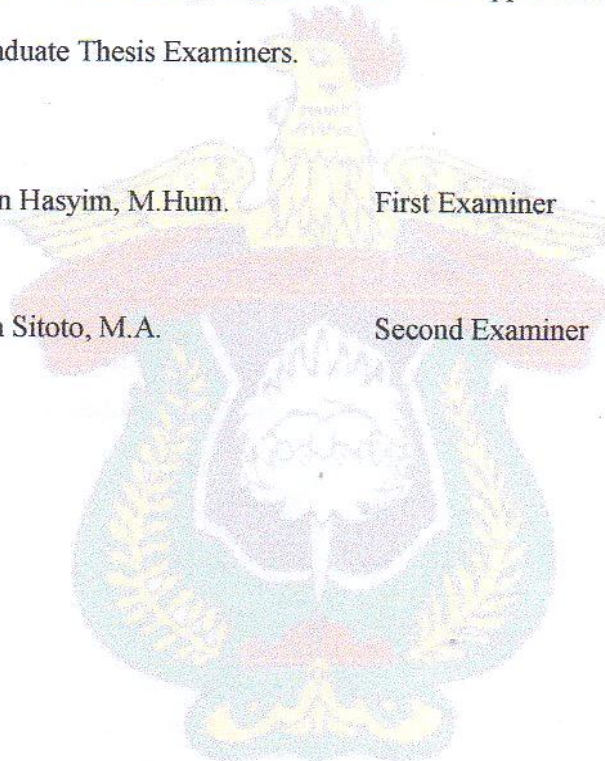
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Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa skripsi ini benar-benar karya saya sendiri. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya tidak terdapat karya yang ditulis atau diterbitkan orang lain kecuali sebagai acuan atau kutipan, dengan mengikuti tata penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

Makassar, 11 Agustus 2021

Yang menyatakan,



Rahmat Hidayat

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Makassar, August 15th, 2021

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ABSTRACT

RAHMAT HIDAYAT. *Language Styles Used by Main Characters in Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight* (supervised by **Abidin Pammu** and **Ainun Fatimah**)

The objective of this research is to classify and describe the language styles used by main characters in Christopher Nolan version of The Dark Knight movie by employing Dell Hymes theory.

This research was conducted using analytical descriptive approach. The data gathered by watching the movie and reading the movie script at the same time. There were three main characters in this movie taken as subjects in this research and those were The Batman/Bruce Wayne, Detective James Gordon and The Joker.

The result of analysis shows that consultative style is frequently used by these main characters with 39% percentage (18 times) and followed by 17 times casual style (37%), intimate style with the percentage of 20% (9 times) and formal style with the percentage of 4% (twice).

Keywords: Language style, Motion picture

ABSTRAK

RAHMAT HIDAYAT. *Language Styles Used by Main Characters in Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight* (dibimbing oleh **Abidin Pammu** dan **Ainun Fatimah**)

Tujuan dari penelitian ini untuk mengklasifikasikan dan menggambarkan gaya atau ragam bahasa yang digunakan oleh para pemeran utama dalam film *The Dark Knight* versi Christopher Nolan dengan menggunakan teori Dell Hymes.

Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menerapkan pendekatan analisis deskriptif. Data dikumpulkan dengan cara menonton dan membaca naskah film secara bersamaan. Ada tiga pemeran utama yang diambil sebagai subject dalam penelitian ini dan mereka adalah Batman/Bruce Wayne, Detektif James Gordon dan Joker.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ragam atau gaya konsultatif merupakan yang paling sering digunakan oleh para pemeran utama dengan persentase 39% (18 kali), dan diikuti oleh 17 kali gaya atau ragam kasual (37%), gaya atau ragam intim dengan persentase sebanyak 20% (9 kali) dan gaya atau ragam formal dengan persentase sebanyak 4% (dua kali).

Kata kunci: Gaya atau ragam bahasa, film

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer will explain the aim of the study.

A. Background of Study

Most of human being all over the world socializes every day; to reach the purpose of socializing, people needs a media that could deliver the purpose effectively to others. Then, language came as a medium required which occurred in many variety based on where people reside, in order to make a communication easier.

There are so many aspects in life which affects communication such as society and culture. People all over the world have their own background of society and culture. Both of these aspects can be seen by paying attention to the way of people communicate to each other. And the study that focuses on the relation of language and society is called Sociolinguistic. According to Appel, Hubert and Meijer cited by Chaer (2004:4) 'Sociolinguistic is a study about language use in the context of society and culture'. People provide hints about who they are where they come from and perhaps any kind of certain experience they had to others when they talk. In other words, we can study as much as we can about language and society in sociolinguistic so that we can understand further more kind of thing language is.

Through so many years, the existence of language became variation as a result of rapid language development itself. One of the variations is language style. In our daily communication, language style is a common thing. Language style being used according to the stage of formality determined on condition, situation and the need of the speech.

Communication exists almost everywhere including movies. There are so many movies that have been made with their own unique style. And with different ways, movie makers have their own chosen language to deliver the message perfectly through any given expression. In the Christopher Nolan's version of Batman movie which titled The Dark Knight we can see some language style example based on the theory of Martin Joos as the characters play their roles according to the movie script. These characters described have differences in their social status such as Bruce Wayne (Batman) which is the heirs of the most successful company Wayne Enterprises, James Gordon which is a honored police officer and The Joker which is the criminal mastermind in the story with unknown past. Because of that we can analyze how these three characters, Bruce Wayne/Batman, James Gordon and The Joker applied language style into their speech or utterance to other characters.

Movie is actually a good learning medium because it contains so many valuable things to learn about, not to mention about language. The utterance that being used in movie is a representation of real human conversations, so we can say that movie is actually represents our daily life. People can learn so many aspects of

language from movies like vocabulary, idioms, terms of word and so on just by watch and listen to it. Furthermore, we can identify the background of certain people cultures and societies if we pay a close attention to the way they talk or in linguistic terms known as language style, since this is one of the important factors that build movie characters. The problem is that when people watch movies, the first thing they have in mind is how far will the aspect of entertainment will fulfill their needs of excitement and tends to ignore the aspect of knowledge about language that can be acquired from it if they dig deeper into the conversation they listen to. This is also explains why some of the movie goers get lost and did not understand about the storyline served along the way, which indicates that language plays an important roles in movie. As a conclusion, to get a better picture of a movie, people need to understand some aspect of language to. Based on these reason, the writer interested to investigate language style in a movie by carry on the study entitled **“Language Style used by Main Characters in Christopher Nolan’s The Dark Knight (A Sociolinguistic Study)”**

B. Identification of Problem

Based on the background above, the writer identified the problem as follows:

1. There are difficulties in to classify and indentify certain language style.

2. A person has a certain way of thinking and behaving that surely affect how they speak. Furthermore, after there are many kinds of aspects, it is influence the language style.

C. Scope of the problem

The writer analyzes the language style used by three of the movie main characters, i.e. Bruce Wayne/Batman, James Gordon and The Joker. To limit the analysis, the writer only focus as on discussing and research about the types of language styles used by these three characters toward other characters, also the influencing aspects of these three characters language style.

D. Research Questions

1. What language style do the main characters use in the movie The Dark Knight?
2. What aspect of SPEAKING do influences the main characters language style in the movie The Dark Knight?

E. Objectives of Study

Based on the research question above, here are what the writer intend to find out:

1. To describe language styles used by the main characters in the movie The Dark Knight.

2. To explain the aspects influence the main characters language styles in the movie The Dark Knight.

F. Significance of Study

This research expected to contribute both theoretical and practical significance concerning language style in literary works such as movie. Theoretically, the outcomes obtained from this research may be useful as further knowledge or additional information about language style and some valuable insight about movie as subject in language learning.

As for practical significance, this research intended to encourage the readers to explore more cases about language style, since all of the people have their own background in life, it means there are so many aspects of life influenced the way of communication. Also to represent movie as language learning material since there are so many aspect to learn in it. Furthermore, the writer expects there will be a consideration to applied movies as subject in language teaching class.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In conducting research or study, reference to any taken theories that corelate to the object is necessary and it will be discussed as follows.

A. Previous Studies

To give representation of this research, the writer gives some relevant previous studies from other researchers. These previous studies come with their own research classification. And the explanation as follows:

The first research entitled “Language Style Matching in Writing: Synchrony in Essays, Correspondence, and Poetry” conducted by Molly E. Ireland and James W. Pennebaker (2010). When a social interaction begins, verbal or non verbal become synchronized and individuals tend to produce utterance that correspond with grammatical structure of sentence they have recently heard caused by human ability in mimicking. Based on the explanation above, the writers intended to investigate their subject’s language style synchrony in essay, correspondence, and poetry. There are three project conducted in this study using the language style matching (LSM). LSM is the relative use of 9 function word categories (e.g., articles, personal pronouns) between any two texts. The first one is called The Psychometrics of

Synchrony, the writers pick up two samples totaling 1,744 college students answered four essay questions written in very different styles but the results shown that these students automatically matched the target questions which means the metric of LSM was internally reliable and consistent through this project task. The second one is called Matching with Fiction; the participants were given an excerpt from a popular fiction writings and then asked to complete the story and to mimic the author's writing style as close as possible. The result shown that overall 74 participants excerpt-response similarity were just related to content matching but not word function matching, as indexed by LSM. The last one is called Language Synchrony in Real Life, in this project the writers tend to find out the LSM level of famous writers that have a close relationship with other writers in real-life through their writing style. The writers selected three pairs of authors which are Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, married poets Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett, and married writers Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. And the result showed that language matching in poetry and letters reflected fluctuations in the relationships of the three couples.

The second research was conducted by Indra Hamzah in 2018 entitled "An Analysis of Language Style of Teenagers Found in Facebook Status". The research tends to find language style types and frequency used by Indonesian Facebook users. The writer Analyzes the data which are taken from several Facebook users in Indonesia based on Martin Joos theory. The writer describing the phenomenon based on the data source using descriptive method. This research analyzed the type of

language style and frequent style mostly used by teenage Facebook users. The writer gathered 100 data from the Facebook users in total. From the data that is found, about 70% of the language style frequently used is the casual type, followed by intimate style with the percentage of 20% and consultative style with the percentage of 9% percent. The last and also the least used language style is formal type with only 1% of the percentage from the total 100 data. From the presentation above, casual style seems to be the most frequent type of language style used by Indonesian teenage Facebook users with 70 data from 100 data with the percentage of 70%.

The third previous research is “Language Style Love Rosie Movie” by Irene Sywara Sipatuhar (2018). The writer tries to identify kinds and the most dominant used language style by the movie characters. The writer analysis was based on Martin Joos’s theory of the five language styles. The method used in analyzing is qualitative descriptive method. In order to collect data, the writer watched the movie followed by identified the movie script containing the conversations and then analyzed the data collected. The writer found thirty nine data from the movie conversations that shows language styles. After the research is done, the writer concluded that intimate style is the dominant language style used in the movie with the representation of 23 cases (59%), followed by 11 cases (28%) of casual style, 3 cases (8%) of formal style, 2 cases (5%) consultative style, and 0 case of frozen style.

The difference between the three previous researches above and the research that the writer is about to conduct is the objectives. The first research aim to investigate the measure of synchrony between two correspond through three projects which are questions – answers, literary works imitation, and matching the literary works between two famous writers who have a close relationship. The second research object's is to rate the language styles used by teenagers in their Facebook status and the last one is aim to gather and clarifying all the language styles from the data found in the movie 'Love, Rosie'. Meanwhile, this research aims to gather all the data regarding language styles from the movie 'The Dark Knight' and scrutinize the aspects influence it based on the theory of SPEAKING by Dell Hymes.

B. Theoretical Discussion

1. Sociolinguistics

The writer used sociolinguistics as the ground theory of this study. Sociolinguistic is a branch of linguistics that inspects the relationship between speaker's community and language. The discipline itself concern the part of language plays in preserving the social roles in a community.

Unlike language in general linguistic, as an object in sociolinguistic, language study here are about how to use language as an interaction and communication medium in the society with various culture, status, gender and social background. As

stated by Holmes (2013:1) “sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society”. Sociolinguistics deals with the presence of social factors that have a part in establishing and influencing the speaker’s all kinds of linguistic forms used. One of the topics discussed in sociolinguistic study is language variety.

2. Language Variations

In daily lives, the language used by humans is different depends on the situation or circumstance faced, this causing the variation of language.

Language varieties caused by some factors such as the speaker come from a certain country or even region, beside the differences in minor things like social status and cultures background. The purposes of language itself are varying such as education, entertainment, business and so on. That’s why there are differences in language variations.

Hartmann and Stork (1972) cited in Rohmawati (2018) distinguish variation based on some criteria; a) geography and speaker’s social background, b) used medium, and c) subject of discussion. Halliday (1986) in Chaer and Agustina (2004:62) differentiate language variations according to a) users are called dialects, and b) the usage are called registers.

In term of speaker, Chaer and Agustina (2004) explain the first language variation is personal one called idiolect and the second one is called as dialect.

Dialect is a language variation of a group of people settled in an area with a relative number. The third one is chronolect or in the other hand also named temporal dialect is used by a social group in a certain time. The last one is sociolect or social dialect is a language variation used by certain people with different status, group and social class of speakers.

According to Chaer (2004:62) “language variation is firstly differentiate based on the speakers and the users”. It is explains as follows:

1). Language Variation in term of Speaker

a. Idiolect Language Variation

Idiolect is a personal language variation. According to the variation concept, people have different kinds of dialect to each other.

b. Dialect Language Variation

Dialect is a language variation of a group of people settled in an area with a relative number. For example in English there are three major or familiar dialect which are British, American and Australian.

c. Chronolect Language Variation (Temporal Dialect)

Chronolect or in the other hand also named temporal dialect is used by a social group in a certain time. For examples, Indonesian language from thirties, fifties and today which have some difference in word form and pronunciation.

d. Sociolect Language Variation

Sociolect is language variation related to the speaker status, social class and group. This single variation used to express all kinds of personal problems of the speaker such as age, sex, education, occupation, nobility level, social - economy condition, etc.

Language variation according to the speaker's stage of status, group, and social class, it is called as acrolect, basilect, vulgar, colloquial, jargon, argot and ken. These are the explanation:

1. Acrolect is a social variation which considered the most prestigious above all of the followings.
2. Basilect considered a less prestigious or even lower social variation.
3. Vulgar is social variation which belongs to uneducated people.
4. Slang is social variation which only used by certain group of people and contains some special and secret characteristics.

5. Colloquial is a social variation used in daily conversation (mostly in verbal communication) that tends to abbreviate the words.
6. Jargon is a social variation that is only applied by certain social group, and the meaning is rarely known by general people.
7. Argot is a social variation that finitely applied by people with certain profession.
8. Ken is a social variation that used specific intonation such as whining, whimpering, pretending, etc.

1) Language Variation from the Aspect of Use

In the term of use, language variation is called as functiolect or in other words register. It is a language variation which has a different function to a different field. For examples in the field of medic, military, education, etc.

2) Language Variation of Formality

Based on the formality, Joos (1967) in Chaer and Agustina (2004), divided language variation into five styles as follows:

a. Frozen Style

Frozen style is the most formal language variation, used in a solemn and ceremonial occasion.

b. Formal Style

Formal style is a language variation which is usually performed in official meeting, correspondence, or even presidential speech.

c. Consultative Style

This type of formality usually used in a common conversation at school, office meeting or any kinds of conversations which oriented to a result or production.

d. Casual Style

This kind of style is used in conversations between/among friends and relatives in an unofficial meeting or spare time.

e. Intimate Style

Intimate style is commonly used by those who already have an intimate relation. Mark with short and unclear utterance.

3) Language Variation from the Aspect of Media

Language variation can also be seen from the perspective of media used which are spoken and written, for examples telephones, mails, telegraph and radio shown that there are differences in language used. The most specific distinction of

both media is the body gesture that is only used in spoken conversation. It shows unequal structure to both of them.

3. An Overview of Language Style

In sociolinguistic terms, style is a set of linguistic variants with certain meanings. Joos (1967:145) stated, “Speech style means the form of language that the speaker use in which is influenced by the social factor”. A social context and characteristic can determine the variation of language used by a speaker in a society. The distinction of language styles rely on the context of terms of subject matter, audience, media of discourse (spoken or written), and the occasion’s formality stages.

Joos (1967) cited in *Sosiolinguistik: Perkenalan Awal* (2004:70), elaborate five styles of language as follows:

a. Frozen Style

It is the most formal style of all that is only used in a solemn occasion or respectful ceremony. Since it formality is the highest, it required special orator skills and nearly used only by professional orators and specialist.

b. Formal Style

This speech style is commonly used in a formal occasion where there is amount of shared background with no response and reaction from the audience when the speech delivered. The style known with the use of complex sentences, well structured noun phrases, logically sequenced, and strongly coherent.

c. Consultative Style

Consultative style is the third level of language or semi-formal communication. This unplanned speech style usually performs in small group, chance acquaintances, and strangers. This style includes participation and feedback of listener. There are two defining features of this style which are: (1) the speaker supplies background information (2) the listener keeps on participate.

d. Casual or Informal Style

Commonly used in conversation between friends or relatives, casual or informal style performed by the speaker who have shared background or something to share with the listener. This style allows speaker and listener to participate freely and easily. This style is marked by certain degree of implicitness depend on the intimacy of speaker and listener.

a) Casual or Informal style – It is appropriate to use casual language when we are run into condition or situation that requires speech improvisation because of no preparation in advance, or when we are write something in a hurry and

there is no chance for some editing – This kind of speech style is also suitable when you about to get on a personal level of conversation, or if you want your conversation easily flowing.

- b) Casual or Informal style – This speech style have ellipsis, authorize the use of swear words, slang, and unconventional words of English – The diction or vocabulary used is informal type (colloquial) – Some of the vocabulary used only in casual situations are: - “mate, dude, lad” (a person) – “break a leg” (good luck) – “nah” (no). Shorten words or phrases are another variations that frequently used in casual language style, for example: “whaddya say?” (what do you) – “the helluva job” (hell of a) – “this is kinda odd” (kind of).

e. Intimate Style

This language style is used by those who are very close to each other quite well because of high stage of shared background. It is known by an economy of words, with high chance of significant nonverbal communication incidence, such as facial expression, body gesture, and so forth. Speaker and listener are freely and easily participate through this kind of style and it is far more elliptical.

4. Factors Influencing Language Style Selection

People communicate anywhere, anytime with whatever purpose it is. When people about to communicate with others, they have to identify where and with

whom they are talking to so that appropriate language and diction can be choose correctly. People may use more than one language style and may switch among different types of it, one to another in their communication.

Hymes (1972) cited in Widiastuti and Gunawan (2020) gathered eight points of factors that could influence a language selection of a speaker, each initial word of these points are taken and form the word “SPEAKING”. The key elements of Hymes’s “SPEAKING” are elaborate as follows:

a. Setting and Scene

The setting and scene or in other word the atmosphere of the conversation are very important, it has a big role in determining a language style. Setting refers to place i.e., the concrete physical circumstance in which speech locate. Scene refers to the abstract psychological circumstance or cultural definition of an occasion.

b. Participant

This point is about various combinations of speaker-listener, sender-receiver, or addressor-addressee. It is a factor that fills a certain social roles in communication. A conversation between two people involves a speaker and a hearer whose roles changer, but sometimes in a certain context of conversation there is no role change such as a “dressing down” conversation; a solemn or

political speech involves an addressor (orator) and addressee (audience); and a message, fax, or telephone involves a sender and receiver.

c. Ends

Ends refers to the purposes, goals, and outcomes the participant seek to accomplish in a speech event. According to Hymes, the standpoint of a community may not be similar to those who engage on them when it comes to the purpose of an event. Similarities and differences in the ends of a speech events are important because it leads to the successful and acceptance into a culture or a speech community. People can exploit the language system at every stage because of personal, social or artistic reason.

d. Act Sequence

This point refers to the speech acts and the order in which way they are presented to the speaker. Deal with the selection of words used in communicating with others, how to use it, and how it relates to the topic. Act sequence also includes the aspects turn-taking and interrupting.

e. Key

Key refers to manner, speech tone, or spirit in which certain message delivered as: serious, humble, precise, mocking, sarcastic, pedantic, and so forth.

Key is also could work nonverbally by particular gesture, behavior, posture, etc. Listener tends to be more observe to the speaker's key rather than the content of the speech when spotted unmatched sign between them.

f. Instrumentalities

Instrumentalities stand for the channel or transmission medium of speech. It involves the selection among of oral, written, semaphore, telegraphic, or any available medium. Channel in particular, has different modes of use. For example, the channel of oral can be performs using the modes of sing, whistle, hum, or any similar features as well as to speak them.

g. Norms of Interaction and Interruption

Norms refers to social rules governing the event as well as the action and reaction of the participant. Each community has their own norms of speech. These are the example questions regarding established norms:

- 1) When is it okay to speak?
- 2) When is silent preferred?
- 3) What topics are acceptable?
- 4) Who should listen?
- 5) How loud is too loud?
- 6) What speed should be used in the conversation?

h. Genre

Genre refers to the kinds of speech act or event; such things as poems, sermon, prayer, jokes, riddles, and so on. Each genre distinct by the contrast way they are deliver. Genre also coincides with speech event frequently, but should be treated analytically independent of them.

5. Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight

The Dark Knight is the second movie of Christopher Nolan's version of Batman, a comic character created by Bob Kane. Batman pictured as a vigilante hero of Gotham city who always fight criminals with his own harm's way, but also known as Bruce Wayne, a billionaire and the owner of Wayne Enterprises Company. Nolan made a trilogy regarding this fictional character which is Batman Begins in 2005, The Dark Knight in 2008, and The Dark Knight Rises in 2013.

Proceeding the story from the first movie which shows up a clue about the next villain that will terrorize Gotham City, in The Dark Knight, Batman will face a whole new level of criminal mastermind, The Joker. The Joker pictured has a wacky and manipulative personality and quite well with criminal moves, his strategy in every action is unpredictable and that make it so difficult to put him to an end. Beginning his act with a bank robbery, The Joker intends to draw some

attention from Batman as protector of Gotham. Since every mob, thug, drug dealer, and any kinds of criminal are scared to do their routine because of the Batman, The Joker thought that Gotham required a better class of criminal that can match The Batman as the hero and he is the one for it. Knowing the chaos has spread, The Batman, assisted by Detective James Gordon which shares Batman's deep commitment to ridding the city of crime and Harvey Dent which is a district attorney at Gotham City, trying their best to take down The Joker in any possible way they can. But with his capability, The Joker always got away from them. With so many successful criminal act, from bank robbery to the killing of several police officer, The Joker intensify his crime by threaten The Batman to open up his mask and reveal his identity in front of the people of Gotham as an exchange a hostage life that will be taken away. For the sake of the hostages, The Batman tends to do what The Joker ask and reveal his identity as Bruce Wayne, but without him knowing, Harvey Dent take his place and confess that he is The Batman because he shares the same concern. But the unmasking event did not stop The Joker's hideous act, and the next thing he do is kidnap Harvey Dent and his spouse Rachel Dawes, which is also the former spouse of Bruce Wayne. The Joker kept them in a different place tied up to fuel barrel with bombs that about to explode. The Batman rushed to safe Rachel while Detective Gordon heads toward Harvey but they actually rushing to the opposite directions where The Batman head towards Harvey and Detective Gordon head towards Rachel. The Batman

manages to save Harvey but the bomb explodes anyway and incinerates half of Harvey's body. But not so lucky for Detective Gordon, he is too late and causes a death to Rachel. A few moments later, The Joker went to the hospital to see Harvey Dent in order to manipulate his mind that every consequence of his chaos plan on caused by The Batman that plans to stop it. And as the final showdown of his crime, The Joker plant some explosive in two different ferry boat, each boarded by civilians and transferred prisoners where the detonators of one ferry is in the hand of another ferry passengers vice versa. The passengers of both ferries have to choose which one that must be detonated in order to save another boat. None of the passengers of both ferries decided to do so and ready to accept the consequences. But in the very last minute, The Batman manage to find The Joker and stop him from detonate both ferries, at the same time put an end to his crime. Influenced by The Joker, Harvey Dent turns into a new villain with the name of Two-Face and intend to get rid of The Batman but eventually lose the fight and die.