

**MEETING INTENSITIES AND SPEECH VARIETIES: REVISITING
YASSI'S SYMMETRICITY THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

IKSORA

F022211002



POST GRADUATE PROGRAM OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES

FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCE

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As one of the requirements for achieving Master degree

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Written and submitted by

IKSORA

F022211002

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**INTENSITAS PERTEMUAN DAN RAGAM TUTUR BAHASA: MENINJAU
KERANGKA TEORI SIMETRIS YASSI**

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IKSORA

F022211002

kepada

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THESIS

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Written and Submitted by

IKSORA

Register Number: F022211002

Has been defended in front of the thesis examination committee

On March 10th, 2023

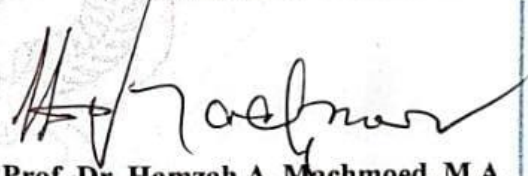
Approved by:

**Head of
The Supervisory Committee**



Prof. Dr. Abdul Hakim Yassi, Dipl. TESL., M.A.

**Member of
The Supervisory Committee**



Prof. Dr. Hamzah A. Machmoed, M.A.

**The Head of English Language Studies
Program**



Dr. Harlinah Sahib, M.Hum.

**The Dean of Faculty
of Cultural Sciences**



Prof. Dr. Akin Duli, M.A.

A STATEMENT OF THESIS AUTHENTICITY

The Undersigned:

Name : Iksora

Register Number : F022211002

Program : English Language Studies

Truthfully states that this thesis was the result of my own work. If it is proven later that some part of entire part of this thesis is the work of others, I am willing to accept any sanctions for my dishonesty.

Makassar, March 10th 2023



Iksora

F022211002

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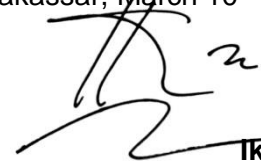
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Makassar, March 10th 2023



Iksora

ABSTRACT

IKSORA. Meeting Intensities and Speech Varieties: Revisiting Yassi's Symmetricity Theoretical Framework (Supervised by Abdul Hakim Yassi and Hamzah A. Machmoed).

William Labov first introduced the concept of style in the context of sociolinguistics in 1966 and divided it into casual and careful speech. In speech varieties, speech style means the form of language that the speaker uses which is characterized by the degree of formality (Labov, 2006). In 1967, Martin Joos classified both spoken and written styles into five levels, including the frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles of speech. Several recent studies about speech varieties and speech styles mostly used variables such as age, setting, social class, dynasty, occupation, speech purpose, and the occasion setting. Meanwhile, this study revisits Yassi's Symmetricity Theoretical Framework (KIMLI 2021) and uses the meeting intensities variable to find the different patterns of speech varieties in Luwuk Banggai's daily used languages and in American culture. The meeting intensities variable is divided into Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely, and Never. This research used mixed methods research that combines quantitative and qualitative research methods. The data for speech variety patterns in Luwuk Banggai was obtained from surveys and interviews, while data for speech variety patterns in American culture was obtained from transcribed conversations in American reality shows and social experiments. This research concluded that the meeting intensities variable influenced the speech variety pattern in Luwuk Banggai's daily used languages, but not in American communication culture.

Keywords: meeting intensities, speech varieties, Yassi's symmetricity theoretical framework, Luwuk Banggai's daily used languages, American culture



ABSTRAK

IKSORA. *Intensitas Pertemuan dan Ragam Tutur Bahasa: Meninjau Kerangka Teori Simetris Yassi* (dibimbing oleh Abdul Hakim Yassi dan Hamzah A. Machmoed).

William Labov pertama kali memperkenalkan konsep gaya dalam konteks sosiolinguistik pada tahun 1966 dan membaginya menjadi ucapan santai dan hati-hati. Dalam ragam tutur, gaya tutur berarti bentuk bahasa yang digunakan penutur yang dicirikan oleh tingkat formalitasnya (Labov, 2006). Pada tahun 1967, Martin Joos mengklasifikasikan gaya bicara dan tulisan menjadi lima tingkatan, yaitu gaya bicara beku, formal, konsultatif, santai, dan intim. Beberapa studi terbaru tentang ragam bicara dan gaya bicara kebanyakan menggunakan variasi seperti usia, kelas sosial, dinasti, pekerjaan, tujuan bicara, dan latar peristiwa. Sementara itu, penelitian ini meninjau kembali kerangka teori simetris Yassi (KIMLI, 2021) dengan menggunakan variabel intensitas pertemuan untuk menemukan perbedaan pola ragam tuturan dalam bahasa yang digunakan sehari-hari di Luwuk Banggai dan dalam budaya Amerika. Variabel intensitas pertemuan dibagi menjadi (a) selalu, (b) biasanya, (c) kadang-kadang, (d) jarang, dan (e) tidak pernah. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian campuran yang menggabungkan metode penelitian kuantitatif dan kualitatif. Data pola ragam tuturan di Luwuk Banggai diperoleh melalui survei dan wawancara, sedangkan data pola ragam tuturan dalam budaya Amerika diperoleh melalui transkrip percakapan dari video *reality show* dan eksperimen sosial. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa variabel intensitas pertemuan berpengaruh terhadap pola ragam tutur pada bahasa sehari-hari di Luwuk Banggai, tetapi tidak pada budaya Amerika.

Kata kunci: intensitas pertemuan, ragam tutur bahasa, kerangka teori simetris Yassi, bahasa sehari-hari di Luwuk Banggai, budaya Amerika



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	i
APPROVAL SHEET	iv
A STATEMENT OF THESIS AUTHENTICITY	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	vi
ABSTRACT	viii
ABSTRAK.....	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	x
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF PICTURES	xiii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiv
GLOSSARY	xv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	17
1.1 Background of Study	17
1.2 Scope of Problem	20
1.3 Research Questions	21
4. Objectives.....	21
1.5 Significance of The Study.....	21
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	23
2.1 Speech Variety Roadmap	23
2.2 Previous Study	25
2.2.1 Ramendra (2013).....	25
2.2.2 Azmi (2015).....	25
2.2.3 Sa'adiyah et al (2019).....	26
2.3 Theoretical Background	27
2.3.1 Sociolinguistics	27
2.3.2 Multilingualism	29
2.3.3 Language Shift and Language Contact.....	31
2.3.4 Speech Varieties.....	32
2.3.5 Daily Used Language in The Luwuk Banggai area	34
2.3.6 Yassi's Symmetricity Framework.....	36

2.4	Conceptual Framework	40
CHAPTER III RESEARCHMETHOD.....		46
3.1	Research Design	46
3.2	Data Source.....	46
3.3	Research Instruments	47
3.3.1	Questionnaires.....	47
3.3.2	Interviews.....	47
3.3.3	Videos	48
3.4	Data Collection	48
3.4.1	Survey.....	48
3.4.2	Interviews.....	49
3.4.3	Videos	49
3.5	Data Analysis.....	49
3.5.1	Data Reduction	49
3.5.2	Data Display.....	50
3.5.3	Drawing and Verifying Conclusion.....	50
CHAPTER IV FINDING AND DISCUSSION		51
4.1	Melayu Manado	52
4.2	Saluan Language	65
4.3	American English.....	76
4.4	Difference between Luwuk Banggai and American culture ...	83
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS		85
5.1	Conclusion	85
5.2	Suggestions	86
BIBLIOGRAPHY		87
APPENDICES		90

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Difference in Melayu Manado and English Words	34
Table 4.2 Melayu Manado - Friends - Without Meeting Intensities	52
Table 4.3 Melayu Manado - Friends - With Meeting Intensities	53
Table 4.4 Melayu Manado - Families/Relatives - Without Meeting Intensities	55
Table 4.5 Melayu Manado - Families/Relatives - With Meeting Intensities	55
Table 4.6 Melayu Manado - Employers - Without Meeting Intensities	58
Table 4.7 Melayu Manado - Employers - With Meeting Intensities	58
Table 4.8 Melayu Manado - Employees - Without Meeting Intensities	59
Table 4.9 Melayu Manado - Employees - With Meeting Intensities	59
Table 4.10 Saluan - Friends - Without Meeting Intensities	66
Table 4.11 Saluan - Friends - With Meeting Intensities	66
Table 4.12 Saluan - Families/Relatives - Without Meeting Intensities	68
Table 4.13 Saluan - Families/Relatives - With Meeting Intensities	68
Table 4.14 Saluan - Employers - Without Meeting Intensities	70
Table 4.15 Saluan - Employers - With Meeting Intensities	71
Table 4.16 Saluan - Employees - Without Meeting Intensities.....	72
Table 17 Saluan - Employers - With Meeting Intensities	72

LIST OF PICTURES

Figure 1.1 Banggai Regency	18
Figure 2.1 Speech Variety Roadmap	24
Figure 2.2 Yassi's symmetricity framework	37
Figure 3.3 Speech Varieties Framework.....	40

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Questionnaire	91
Appendix 2 Questionnaire results in numbers	95
Appendix 3 Transcript of Interview	102

GLOSSARY

Symbols	Meaning and Explanation
P	Sosial status
-P	Symmetry social relation
+P	Asymmetry social relation
D	Distance
-D	Talking to friends
-D ^{+/-}	Talking to same-age friends
-D ⁺	Talking to older friends
-D ⁻	Talking to younger friends
+D	Talking to strangers
+D ^{+/-}	Talking to same-age strangers
+D ⁺	Talking to older strangers
+D ⁻	Talking to younger strangers
K	Kinship
-K	Talking to employers/employees
-K ⁺	Talking to same-age or older employers
-K ⁻	Talking to younger employers
-K ₊	Talking to same-age or younger employees
-K ₋	Talking to older employees
+K	Talking to relatives
+K ^{+/-}	Talking to same-age relatives
+K ⁺	Talking to older relatives
+K ⁻	Talking to younger relatives
M	Meeting intensities
M ⁺	Always meet
m ⁺	Frequently meet

$M^{+/-}$	Sometimes meet
M^-	Rarely meet
m^-	Never meet

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

William Labov first introduced the concept of style in the context of sociolinguistics in 1966, and divided it into casual and careful speech. In speech varieties, speech style means the form of language that the speaker uses which is characterized by the degree of formality (Labov, 2006). Speech varieties caused by language contact. Language contact occurs when speakers of two or more languages or varieties interact and influence each other (Matras, 2020).

In 1967, Martin Joos classified both spoken and written styles into five levels, including the frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles of speech. Iwan Indrawan (2006) was classified language variation into twelve varieties, while Keraf (2010) classified speech style into four, including speech style based on diction, sentence structures, tone, and meaning.

Style of speech is how people speak and how they use the language variation sources to make meaning in social gatherings (Coupland, 2007). People can determine the speech variety used by knowing with whom they are talking, their age difference, and the intensity of their meetings. One can use those that indicate respect to someone by using formal or respectful language variations. The speaker can also use casual or informal speech variations or combine formal and casual ones. In the informal style, contraction rules are used more often, the syntactic rules of negotiation and agreement are changed, and many words are used that do not appear in the formal style (Fromkin, V. et al, 2003).

This variety of formal and casual speech can occur in various types of languages in certain areas, such as in speech varieties in Luwuk Banggai communication languages, including Melayu Manado and Saluan. Luwuk is

located in Banggai Regency. In 1952, the Indonesian government designated Luwuk as the capital of the Banggai Autonomous Head of State Administration (KPN). On 4 July 1952, Luwuk was selected as the capital of Banggai Regency, based on Law Number 29 of 1959.



Figure 1.1 Banggai Regency

The daily used in the The Luwuk Banggai area are Melayu Manado and Saluan. Although there are three different ethnicities in the Banggai District area, including Saluan, Banggai, and Balantak, the Saluan

language is the most familiar regional language among the other two as the Saluan is the largest of the three ethnic.

However, although Saluan is still a familiar language in the The Luwuk Banggai area, most people use Melayu Manado instead of the Saluan language. The number of Saluan speakers is also estimated to be decreasing in terms of the quality of their mastery. The younger generation tends to migrate outside the region, and a sense of pride in the Saluan language tends to decrease (Sanggo et al, 2012). There are some differences between Melayu Manado used in Luwuk and Manado. In examples, in Luwuk, the word that the people use such as "*nga*" or "*ngana*" which means "you" in English. While in Manado, they also use "*nga*", "*ngana*", and "*ngoni*" which mean "you". Other words used in Manado but not in Luwuk, such as "*kwa*", to express cause and effect in a sentence, and "*lei/lay*" that have the same function as "too" and also can be used as a sign of past tense which indicates that something has happened first. There is also words in Melayu Manado such as "*nyanda*" which mean "no", and "*farek*" which means "attention" that didn't use in Luwuk. Another example, in Luwuk, people would say "*sa pen ikot den nga pi ka Bunaken*" which means "I want to come with you to go to Bunaken", meanwhile in Manado the sentence would be "*kita dang kwa iko deng ngoni pigi ka Bunaken*".

Several studies examine in detail the phenomenon of politeness between the variety of formal and casual speech speech, especially regarding who the conversation is addressed to, for example, such as Scollon and Scollon (1983, 1995) and Yassi (1996, 2011), where research that focuses on cultural contexts such as Yassi (2016b) and Yassi (KIMLI 2021). Most of recent studies about speech varieties used the variable such as age, setting, social class, dynasty, occupation, speech purpose, and the occasion setting. Those studies such as Azmi (2015), Ramendra (2013), and Sa'adiyah et al (2019).

In this research, the writer revisited Yassi's Symmetrical Theoretical Framework (KIMLI 2021), adding meeting intensity variables that are divided into Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely, and Never. The new variable is added due to the writer's experience where the meeting intensity influenced how someone uses the speech varieties when speaking with others. Sometimes people would talk casually when they always or frequently meet with each other regardless of their age difference. However, when those people rarely or almost never meet, they often speak more formally. For example, when the writer meets with her distant family, which she rarely meets, she tends to talk formally to them due to an awkward feeling as they rarely meet. But when the writer speaks with her friends, she tends to talk casually despite their age difference. These two phenomena showed that meeting intensity could also influence an intimate or close feeling between one person and another. This research is also conducted to find the different patterns between speech varieties in Luwuk Banggai and American culture, especially when meeting intensities are included.

1.2 Scope of Problem

This research focuses on finding out the different patterns of speech varieties in Luwuk Banggai and American culture. The language included in the Luwuk Banggai area are Melayu Manado and Saluan Language. This research revisited Yassi's Symmetry Theoretical Framework (KIMLI 2021) and added meeting intensity variables that are divided into Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely, and Never, to find out the pattern of the respondents' speech varieties in the Luwuk Banggai area. Meanwhile, speech varieties in this research are divided into formal, casual, and mixed formal and casual, with the meeting time limited to one year. This research also used the transcribed conversation from the videos of the American reality show and social experiments to find out the pattern of speech varieties in American culture.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the background analysis above, the author formulates three questions as follows:

1. What is the pattern of the respondents' speech varieties utilizing Yassi's symmetricity framework (KIMLI 2021) in daily used languages in the The Luwuk Banggai area?
2. What is the interplay between the age variable and meeting intensity variables?
3. What is the different between the patterns of speech varieties in Luwuk Banggai and American culture?

4. Objectives

There are three main goals to achieve through this research:

1. To find out the pattern of the respondents' speech varieties utilizing Yassi's politeness framework (KIMLI 2021) in communication languages in the The Luwuk Banggai area.
2. To find out the interplay between the age variable and meeting intensity variables.
3. To find out the different patterns of speech varieties between Luwuk Banggai and American culture.

1.5 Significance of The Study

The results of this study are expected to provide the following benefits:

1. The theoretical benefits of the results of this research are expected to increase knowledge in Linguistics
2. Practical Benefits

- a) For universities, this research is expected to be used as material to add reading references and studies, especially in Linguistics.
- b) For communities, this research is expected to explain that apart from age or social status, the meeting intensity also influences the pattern of speech varieties between speakers.