



**REGISTER AND STYLE AS DIFFERENT AND
'UTILITARIAN' IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE VARIETIES.
A SOCIOLINGUISTICS ANALYSIS**

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Abstract:

This paper assesses the relationship between register and style, their key characteristics, and how both contribute to the sociolinguistic context. It goes on to suggest that register and style, in connection with context, are 'functional' manifestations or variations of the English language, since they often signify changes that occur in language as a result of sociolinguistic and, based on traditional dialectal, social varieties. Year two, semester two, for students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with Education at Kibogora Polytechnic took part in this study. Data cards and recording devices were employed as research instruments. Recording and transcription techniques are used in the data collection process. English Language users are typically more aware of their 'immediate' linguistic environments (contexts) in terms of communication goals than they are of their 'remote' regional or social background, which informs a selection of 'appropriate' linguistic items to adjust to those language situations or demands.

Keywords: style, register, sociolinguistics, language

1. Introduction

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in which linguistic characteristics are linked to elements outside of the language, such as language use by speakers in a certain speech community. Fishman (1972: 244) defines language usage in social contexts as "*who speaks, what language, to whom, when and where.*" When sociological concepts are used to study a language, the study

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becomes interdisciplinary, and it is named after both sociology and linguistics. Some specialists refer to this as the sociology of language, while others call it sociolinguistics.

In sociolinguistics, we study the English language and society to learn as much as possible about what language is, but in the sociology of language, we reverse the direction of our interest. There are various potential connections between language and society. The first is the societal framework. The second conceivable link is diametrically opposite to the first: English language structure and/or behaviour can either impact or shape social structure. The third conceivable relationship is one of bidirectional impact, in which the English language and society affect one another. The final alternative is to suppose that there is no link between English language structure and social structure and that they are completely independent of one another.

Sociolinguistics is separated into three areas and focuses on the English language, including English language variation. USER focuses on idiolects, dialects, sociolects, and temporal dialects. USERS focuses on style and register. Other English language variations include accents, bilingualism, pidgin, creole, and code switching.

Here, writers will talk about style and register. Style and register are both techniques of labelling linguistic variations, and while they work differently, they are commonly used. These two qualities look similar because the same individual may use various linguistic pieces to communicate more or less the same meaning on different occasions, and the idea of dialect cannot encompass such diversity (Hudson, 1980, p. 45).

Another similarity between these varieties is that they overlap significantly; one person's dialect is another person's register, and they may differ in the manner in which the message is conveyed. For example, items that one person uses informally may be used by someone else on the most formal occasions. This is the relationship between native speakers of standard and non-standard dialects; a form that is part of the standard speaker dialect is part of a particular register for non-standard speakers, which shifts depending on speaker style (Spolsky, 1998, p. 33).

Because of the assertions above, writers chose this topic to learn more about the subsets of register and style, as well as to understand the differences between them.

2. Method

2.1. The Range and Quality of Linguistic Expression Methods

2.1.1 Research Design

A qualitative research design is used. The study will incorporate the researcher's talk on "*key characteristics of register and style and their contribution to sociolinguistic context Occurs between Students and the Teacher*" during teaching-learning processes in year two, semester two, for Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with education in Kibogora Polytechnic. The school has sixty-two students and is situated in Nyamasheke District, Western Province, in Rwanda.

2.1.2 Research Instrumentation

As study aids, a voice recorder and a data card will be used. Data about register and style as different and utilitarian in English language varieties is recorded on the data card. In year two,

semester two, for Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with education in Kibogora Polytechnic, the voice recorder is also used to view and analyze all of the teacher-student conversations.

2.1.3 Method of Data Collection

The following strategies and procedures are employed to gather primary data during field research:

2.1.4 Recording

By using this method, prospective researchers will record conversations from students of year two pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with Education at Kibogora Polytechnic. This will make it easier for the researcher to differentiate and get an awareness of the utilitarian of Register and style by listening to the recorders' output.

2.1.5 Transcript

This method is used to document data that is relevant to and in line with the goals and objectives of the study. Since the data collected using the aforementioned methods are not arranged in a logical manner, it is imperative to group or organize the data.

2.2 Methodology for Data Analysis

2.2.1 Data Gathering

There are two types of field notes that are utilized to document information gleaned from documentation: There are two types of notes that the researcher keeps: (1) descriptive notes, which describe what the researcher saw, heard, and experienced firsthand; and (2) reflective notes, which include the researcher's thoughts, opinions, and interpretations of the results. (Huberman and Miles, 1992).

2.2.2 Data Diminution

Data reduction is employed to select relevant data. Next, highlight important findings and their implications while methodically organizing and distilling the information. During the data reduction process, only data results or findings related to research issues are reduced.

However, information unrelated to the research question is removed.

2.2.3 Information Display

The aim of data presentation is to combine data to describe the situation that occurred. Whether the facts are to be understood in their entirety or in the specifics of the research findings, the researcher must create narratives to help them master the information or facts.

2.2.4 Drawing Conclusions

Preliminary conclusions are drawn after enough data has been gathered, and final conclusions are drawn once all the data has been gathered. The results were first hazy, unclear, and tentative, but they were eventually confirmed by gathering more information from the research as a whole

as well as from the recording of data. Research should be conducted to clarify and validate the conclusions.

2.2.5 Outcomes

The sociolinguistic theory, which addresses the key characteristics of register and style and their contribution to sociolinguistic context, provides the foundation for the study's findings. The following is a range of information gathered from Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with Education, year two, semester two in Kibogora Polytechnic. It includes key characteristics as well as contributions to register and style.

3. Overview Theory

3.1 Historical Background of Linguistics

Sociolinguistics appears to be a source of unhappiness among structural linguistics professionals. According to numerous scholars, structural linguistics only considers the structural component of language. The social factor was not ignored in the study analysis. The real design of this sociolinguistic study has arisen as a consequence of Labov's research, which is titled Social Stratification of English in New York City. First, a linguist from London suggested that speech had a social dimension as a medium of communication. He also mentioned that these characteristics might place a person into a clan, class, or social strata. Thus, the study of this speech should regard the speakers and the structure itself, in order to evaluate all the things that are plausible reasons why this structure was utilized by someone.

3.2 Definition of Language

"Language" is the expression of ideas by means of speech-sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences, this combination answering to that of ideas into thoughts. The American linguists Bernard Bloch and George L. Trager formulated the following definition: "A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group cooperates." Any [succinct definition](#) of language makes a number of presuppositions and begs a number of questions. The first, for example, puts excessive weight on "thought," and the second uses "arbitrary" in a specialized, though [legitimate](#), way.

Language is a structured system of [communication](#) that consists of [grammar](#) and [vocabulary](#). It is the primary means by which [humans](#) convey meaning, both in spoken and written forms, and may also be conveyed through [sign language](#).

3.3 Definition of Sociolinguistics

The phrase "sociolinguistics" is a derivative word. It consists of two words: sociology and linguistics. Sociology is a social science, whereas linguistics is a language science. A study of language through the lens of society might be conceived of as linguistics plus sociology. Sociolinguistics is the study of language's connection with its surroundings. In other terms, it investigates the interplay between language and society. It describes how people communicate differently in different social situations. It explores language's social roles and how it conveys

social meaning. All of the subjects contain a lot of information regarding how the language works, as well as the social interactions within a society and how people express components of their social identity via language (Holmes, 2001).

The study of how language interacts with its environment (Eastman, 1975, p. 113). The study of language and society aims to improve understanding of the English language structure and communication (Wardhaugh, 1986: 12). Fishman (1972: 4) studied how language variations, functions, and speakers interact and evolve within a speech community. Linguistics focuses on language as a social and cultural phenomenon. It studies language and society and is closely related to the social sciences, particularly social psychology, anthropology, human geography, and sociology (Trudgill, 1974, p. 32).

3.4 Style

3.4.1 Definition of Style

Crystal and Davy (1969) use the term "style" in the same sense that most people use "register": to refer to certain ways of using language in particular settings. The term register has grown overly broad, referring to practically every situational variety of language at any level of generality or abstraction, and characterised by far too many different situational factors of variation. However, using style in the same loose manner accomplishes nothing and contradicts how most people use style with respect to specific texts or authors/speakers. Another factor complicating dialect research is that speakers can communicate in a variety of ways depending on the situation. They can speak extremely formally or casually.

The degree of speaker formality can be chosen based on a multitude of variables, including those listed below:

- Occasion type,
- Participants' social, age, and other distinctions,
- The job requires speaking and writing,
- The emotional state of one or more persons.

All of these levels assist in establishing the appropriateness and inappropriateness of how we express things. Thus, according to Hudson (1996:46), your dialect indicates who you are, and your register says what you are doing. Style is the clothes of thinking; and no matter how right your thoughts are, if your style is ugly, rude, and vulgar, they will seem to the same disadvantage and be as badly regarded as your person, even if well-proportioned, would be if clothed in rags, filth, and tatters. Coulthard (1985: 40) states that the idea of style may look quite similar to that of register; there is a significant distinction since register is primarily determined and recognised by topic and context-specific lexis. For example, the sermon register refers to the language used when presenting sermons.

However, because the norms of alternative emphasis are not inherently linked to specific situations, speakers can select between styles, and their decision has societal implications. One of the most relevant methods to make people laugh is to use style in an appropriate context or message. Style refers to the linguistic diversity that is associated with the formality of the circumstance. As a result, style and register have emerged as key principles in the field of sociolinguistics.

For example, the football register co-occurs with a formal style, such as a report in a high-quality newspaper, or an informal style, such as a chat in a pub.

The meaning of English address forms such as Sir, Mr. Smith, and John are all distinct, each with its own stylistic implication and the norms of usage, as well as the frequency of use. Varying by class, age, group, and location.

For example, "sir" is used in Britain and America. In other languages, the issue of selecting personal pronouns may confuse matters further.

For example, in most European and other languages, unlike English, separate polite and familiar second-person pronouns, especially in the singular.

As previously stated, the familiar pronoun was the standard form of address for a single individual, whereas the polite forms were either second person (plural) or third person pronouns. This impact is referred to as power. Another factor that might influence it is solidarity, which represents not just power but also social distinctions and distance.

A variety of factors influence the interview style, as well as the social background and class. Speakers either shift along a scale of formality of style based on the situation or transfer from one dialect style to another; situational variations are obviously subvariants of one regional or social dialect. Bloomfield (1927) provides the common explanation of "correct" and "erroneous" as solidification that simplifies the question to one of knowledge vs ignorance; there is such a thing as correct English, and an ignorant individual may not know the proper ones because he cannot stop using the incorrect ones.

Cameron (1996:36) defines verbal hygiene as the coercive promotion of elite types as norms of correctness via a push for plain English spelling revisions.

- Preserving dialects and languages,
- Encourages non-sexist and non-racist language,
- Offers self-improvement activities including accent reduction, neurolinguistic programming, assertiveness training, and communication skills training.

Verbal cleanliness was developed to eliminate specific ideas and pass judgment on language difficulties (1999, viii). Linguists understand that many common assumptions about language are erroneous, and that much of what we teach about language is misguided; they also understand how difficult it is to effect change.

Style is related to the dimension of formality; the varying level of alternation to variety forms a natural continuum, the various levels of which can be divided in different ways; however, what's on that continuum or the level of that continuum is not as important as most accounts of language make reference to levels of stylistic variants. It is a linguistic variation that reflects changes in situational variables such as addressee, context, task, or topic. Style is frequently analysed on a formality scale, which is influenced by factors such as participant differences, topic, and emotional engagement (Janet Holmes, 2001).

Labov discovered evidence in his sociolinguistic interviews in New York concerning the form or type used at specific points when a person was stopped, handed a cup of coffee, or grew enthusiastic about the topic. He would elicit more formal use by asking the subject to read a piece or a list of terms, while for more casual speaking, he would request an emotionally relevant tale, giving him three or four levels and the prospect of a business shift.

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3.4.2 Principles of Style

In the 1960s, William Labov established the idea of style in sociolinguistics, but he did not define it clearly. Labov primarily investigated individual language factors and their relationships with various social groupings (e.g., socioeconomic classes). He summarized his beliefs on style into five principles:

- 1) **Speakers are not limited to one style.** All speakers experience style-shifting to varying degrees; interlocutors modify their language forms on a regular and consistent basis in response to circumstance.
- 2) **Styles can be classified based on their level of attention to speech.** Style-shifting is highly associated with the level of attention devoted to speech. According to Labov's research, this was one of the most crucial elements in determining whether an interlocutor would change styles.
- 3) **Vernacular language is the most systematic data source for linguistic research, as it requires minimal attention to speech.** Labov defined the vernacular as the initial foundation mode of speech, learnt at a young age, on which more complicated styles are built later in life. This "basic" style has the least variance and offers the broadest overview of a group's style.
- 4) **Observing a speaker in a methodical manner creates a formal framework where more attention is given to communication.** In other words, even official face-to-face interviews severely restrict a speaker's use of colloquial language. An interlocutor's vernacular style is most typically evident if they do not notice outside observers and are not paying close attention to their own speech.
- 5) **Face-to-face interviews provide the necessary volume and quality of speech for quantitative analysis.**

3.4.3 Style Shifting

In a bilingual culture, stylistic levels can be distinguished by moving from one variety to another; the usual explanation for this stylistic variation is the care with which speakers and writers express themselves. According to this theory, the more formal the setting, the more we should pay attention to our language, and therefore comply with society's favoured and educated standard. (Trudgill, 1992:50). Style shifting occurs when a single speaker changes their style in response to context. The standards in which the attention of care is more concentrated, since they do not address the option of consciously choosing a less or more formal style. One way to describe this is the concept of audience design, which, in regard to subconscious accommodation, a speaker with power over more than one variety picks a degree of discourse based on the audience he or she is addressing.

For example, when chatting to a stranger, we may adopt a casual tone in order to appear more friendly.

This contributes to the speaker's social identity and fosters social relationships. Audience design may also be described as the understanding of style levels that are acceptable for a certain social scenario.

3.4.4 The Kind of Style

- a) **Frozen style.** It is the most formal style for formal occasions and ceremonies. Exp: In writing (historical and formal records).
- b) **Formal style.** It is used in official speeches, meetings, workplace communication, school lesson materials, and other contexts.
- c) **Consultative style.** It is a regular chat held at school, in a meeting, or in a conversation that results in a product. It is the most practical option between casual and dressy.
- d) **Casual style.** It is used to communicate with friends, family, or relatives in their spare time, during a break or relaxation, and so on.
- e) **Intimate style.** It is utilized with those who have a close relationship with the speaker. Using this technique, those folks do not need to utilize whole sentences with clear articulation; they only utilize brief words.

3.5 Register

3.5.1 Definition of Register

Crystal (1991, p. 295) defines register as "*a variety of language defined according to its use in social situations, such as a register of scientific, religious, or formal English.*" In linguistics, register refers to "*varieties according to usage*".

In contrast to dialects, which are described as user-specific variations (Cheshire, 1992; Downes, 1994; Beiber, 1988), they are also a collection of linguistic objects connected with a certain occupational or social group (Wardhaugh, 2001: 48).

In other words, jargon is a synonym for register that is occasionally used for this type of language, such as terminology used by doctors, airline attendants, bank managers, sales clerks, or jazz enthusiasts (Splosky, 1998, p. 33). In the words of Ferguson (1994, p. 20): "*people participating in recurrent communication situations tend to develop similar vocabularies, similar features of intonation and characteristics of syntax and phonology in these situations*". He also stated that its special items for recurrent objects and events, as well as formulaic sequences or routines, appear to facilitate rapid communication, while other features, such as establishing a sense of support, mark the register and serve functions similar to accommodation, which influence dialect development.

According to Holmes (2001:246), it is the language of groups of individuals who have common interests, occupations, or problems. The various registers may be seen in the language used by lawyers, auctioneers, race announcers, sports commentators, airline pilots, criminals, bankers, politicians, disc jockeys, in the courtroom and in the classroom, and journalists.

In a nutshell, "register" refers to the degree of formality of the discourse. In a casual chat with friends, you are more likely to use colloquialisms, contractions, and unfinished sentences

than if you were speaking to a judge in court. The first is a casual register, whereas the second is quite official. Meanwhile, "jargon" refers to the specialised vocabulary employed in a profession or other community of practice. Specifically, terms that outsiders would not comprehend, or that would utilise differently? Sailors, for example, refer to "port" and "starboard" rather than left and right. These words are not used outside of the marine setting.

Registers are distinguished by vocabulary differences caused by the use of specific words or by the use of words in a specific type of language produced by the social situation. Other factors associated with the situation in which language is used, in addition to occupation, will also have linguistic effects.

The elements that influence register usage include:

- a) Whether written or spoken, casual or formal,
- b) Literal and colloquial variant,
- c) Subject content, physical settings, and linguistic activities.

3.5.2 Functions of Register

- a) Individuals and co-communicators frequently exhibit register variance over many dimensions,
- b) One individual can control several registers,
- c) Each registration helps individuals express their identity at a certain moment and place,
- d) You may be graded based on your speech quality compared to others with similar backgrounds,
- e) People have a minor prejudice when judging dialects, with some preferring country accents over metropolitan ones,
- f) Bloomfield (1927) suggests that the concepts of better and worse might become synonymous with correctness and incorrectness.

3.5.4 Register Differences

Register discrepancies can be identified in terms of both act identification and dialect differences. When we talk or write, we not only situate ourselves in relation to the rest of society, but we also tie our act to the rest of society, as well as our act of communication to a complicated classification scheme of communication. This system takes the shape of a multidimensional matrix, similar to the map of our society that we create in our imaginations. Dialect tells who we are, whereas register shows what we are doing (Hudson, 1996, p. 47).

The dimensions on which an act of communication might be placed are no less complicated than those pertinent to the situation of the speaker. Halliday (1978: 33) distinguishes three genre-types of dimensions:

- a) **Field:** refers to the goal of communication, including why and about the issue,
- b) **Mode:** the means of communication, such as speaking or writing,
- c) **Tenor:** describes the link between participants (to whom).

For example, "*I'm writing to notify you that I simply wanted to let you know*". These instances differ only in who is addressed. The first is impersonal (directed to someone with whom the writer has only official contacts), whereas the second is personal.

Dell Hymes (1971) provided another model in which no fewer than thirteen distinct factors determine the linguistic elements chosen by the speaker; each of these models provides a framework within which any relevant dimension of similarity and difference may be found.

For example, the relationship between the speaker and the addressee has several dimensions. Power (addressee is subservient, equal, or superior to the addressor). Solidarity compared to relational distance. English speakers interact on these dimensions with respect to the addressee primarily by selecting one of the different methods of naming the addressee; Mr. Smith, John, Sir, Mate, etc.

3.5.5 Distinctive Terms of Register

Hunt and Jones (1999) argue that various unique words of register, such as register, slang, jargon, and situational switching, are all explained as follows.

a. Register (style)

The register refers to the formality with which people talk and write. Most language speakers are familiar with many dialects, which they employ with friends, at a job interview or while delivering a paper in class, and when conversing with family members. These are situational dialects, often known as registers or styles.

b. Slang

Slang is an informal style of speech that combines ancient words to convey a more modern meaning, frequently resulting in slang terminology. Spaced out, straight on, hang-ups, and rip off have all become accepted as slang phrases. Slang terminology may introduce an altogether new word. Examples include the words "barf" and "poop." Finally, slang frequently assigns whole new meanings to existing terms. Some examples of these slang terms are grass/pot=marijuana, pig=police officer, and sticks=legs. Words like rap, cool, dig, stoned, and split have expanded their semantic realm as well.

c. Jargon

Jargon is a collection of terminology exclusive to a professional field, science, trade, or activity. Words like ROM, RAM, modem, bit, and byte were originally exclusively known by computer jargonists, but they are now comprehended by a considerable portion of the general public.

d. Situational Switching

Situational switching is the process of adjusting one's register to meet the context, scenario, addressee, or issue.

3.5.6 Registers Classification

Register stands for language (the user's consideration of word choice, aims, style, and medium in which language usage occurs). Therefore, Hunt and Jones (1999) classed register as follows:

a. Formal Register

Formal register is a sort of register that contains Standard American English, and it's employed by professionals or in settings where individuals don't know each other.

b. Informal Register

An informal register is one that is used in casual communication with more acquainted persons. Contractions are more common in informal registers, negation and agreement rules may be relaxed, and slang or colloquialisms may be utilised. Certain abbreviations and deletions are permitted in the informal register, but they must adhere to the rules.

For example, removing the "you" subject and the auxiliary frequently shortens inquiries. Instead of asking, "Are you running the marathon?" a person can ask, "Running the marathon?"

c. Over the Official Register

Over formal register is a sort of register distinguished by the employment of a fake high-pitched nasal voice.

For example, a woman may approach another woman she does not really like and ask her in a high-pitched voice, "what are you doing?".

3.5.7 Register as Formality Scale

The formality scale is one of the most well-researched areas where language use is influenced by context. Writers (particularly in language instruction) have frequently used the term "register" as a shorthand for formal/informal style; this is an outdated concept. Linguistic textbooks may instead use the term "tenor" (Halliday, 1978). While "registers" are more specifically defined as specialized language use relating to a certain activity, such as academic jargon. There is little consensus on how formality should be allocated (Trudgill, 1992).

Martin Joos (1968), a well-known model, describes five spoken English styles:

- **Frozen:** Also known as a static register. Archaisms are commonly seen in printed, unchanging language, such as Biblical quotes. Examples include the pledge of allegiance of the United States of America, and other "static" vocalizations are uttered in a ceremonial monotone. The phrasing remains the same every time it is pronounced.
- Formal communication involves one-way involvement, no interruptions, and a focus on technical jargon and meanings. Examples include presentations and introductions between strangers.
- Consultation is a two-way process where background information is offered, and no prior knowledge is assumed. It is usual to engage in "back-channel behaviour" such as "uh huh", "I see", etc. Interruptions are allowed. Examples include teacher-student relationships, doctor-patient relationships, and so forth.
- In casual conversations with friends and acquaintances, background information is not offered, and ellipses and slang are widespread. Interruptions are also common. This is typical among friends in social situations
- Intimate communication involves non-public communication, emphasising tone over words and grammar, and using private jargon. It also includes nonverbal

communication. This is especially typical among family members and close friends.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the description given, we may conclude that:

4.1 Style

In style, we are talking about:

4.1.1 Definition of Style

According to Holmes (2001:223), style is more closely tied to settings than to speakers. When we talk about style, we are referring to the same speakers who communicate differently in different settings. It refers to linguistic variance that reflects variations in situational elements (the type of occasion, the numerous social, age, and other disparities among participants, the specific activity that requires speaking or writing, and the emotional environment of one or more participants).

4.1.2 Principle of Style

According to William Labov, there are five principles of style:

- Speakers do not have a certain style.
- Styles can be categorized by a single parameter.
- Vernacular language offers the most systematic data for linguistic study due to its little focus on speech.
- Systematic observation of a speaker establishes a formal framework where more than minimal attention is given to communication.
- Only face-to-face interviews provide sufficient volume and quality of recorded speech for quantitative analysis.

4.1.3 Style Shifting

Style shifting occurs when a single speaker changes their style in response to context. The standards in which the attention of care is more concentrated, since they do not address the option of consciously choosing a less or more formal style.

For example, when chatting to a stranger, we may adopt a casual tone in order to appear more friendly.

4.1.4 Type of Style

In general, there are five types of styles, including:

- a) **Frozen style.** It is the most formal style for formal occasions and ceremonies. Exp: In written form (historical and formal documents): Formal style. It is utilised in official speeches, meetings, office communication, school lesson materials, and so on.
- b) **Consultative style.** It is a regular chat held at school, in a meeting, or in a conversation that results in a product. It is the most practical option between casual and dressy.
- c) **Casual style.** It is used to communicate with friends, family, or relatives during leisure

time, when on break or for amusement, etc.

- d) **Intimate style.** It is utilized with those who have a close relationship with the speaker. Using this approach, those persons do not need to utilize whole sentences with clear articulation; instead, they can use brief words.

4.2 Register

According to Holmes (2001:246), it is the language of groups of individuals who have common interests, occupations, or problems. The various registers may be seen in the language used by lawyers, auctioneers, race announcers, sports commentators, airline pilots, criminals, bankers, politicians, disc jockeys, in the courtroom and in the classroom, and journalists.

For example, journalistic language has certain characteristics: it is basic, communicative, and short. The language is plain because it must be easily understood, communicative because it must convey news effectively, and concise due to space (in printed media) and time constraints (in electronic media).

Hunt also claims numerous separate terms of register, including register, slang, jargon, and situational switching. In the registration portion, we can find registration stands for language (which is utilized by the user to examine word choice, aims, style, and the medium in which language is employed).

There are three types of registers: formal, over-formal, and informal. According to Martin Joos' (1968) register as formality scale, there are five styles of spoken English.

Formal communication involves one-way involvement, no interruptions, and a focus on technical jargon and meanings. Examples include presentations and introductions between strangers.

Two-way involvement where background information is provided and prior knowledge is not assumed. It is usual to engage in "back-channel behaviour" such as "uh huh", "I see", etc. Interruptions are allowed.

Examples include teacher-student relationships, doctor-patient relationships, and so forth. In casual conversations with friends and acquaintances, background information is not offered, and ellipses and slang are widespread. Interruptions are common. This is typical among friends in a social context.

Intimate communication involves non-public communication, emphasizing tone over words or grammar, and using private jargon. It also includes nonverbal communication. This is especially typical among family members and close friends.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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