

Language Style Analysis of Answers to Opinion-Based Questions about History in 'Zacharias' Indonesian Quora User Posts

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Abstract:

Through the perspective of Historical Sociolinguistics, this study aims to explore the responses of the answers from the username Zacharias from other users' questions on the Quora platform to see the types of language styles often used by the author. This study investigates the reasons for the language style used by the author of the username Zacharias in writing answers related to the topic of ancient civilization history. In addition, the researcher also wants to observe the quality of the writing of the author with the username Zacharias who gets a high number of votes for each post about history on Quora. The qualitative method approach is used in this study, because the qualitative method can make it easier for researchers to explore more deeply the phenomenon of reader interest in discussing the topic of history on Quora. Furthermore, important findings that can be seen in this study indicate that the author of the username Zacharias tends to often use formal and casual language styles in each of his writings. This can be seen from 20 research samples showing the results of the study that there are 15 casual language styles and 5 formal language styles in the author's writing sample data and no use of consultative, frozen, and intimate language styles was found in the author's writing based on the language style by Martin Joss.

Keywords: Quora; Language Style; Sociolinguistics; History

Abstrak:

Melalui perspektif Sociolinguistik Historis, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi tanggapan jawaban dari nama pengguna Zacharias dari pertanyaan pengguna lain di platform Quora untuk melihat jenis gaya bahasa yang sering digunakan oleh penulis. Penelitian ini menyelidiki alasan gaya bahasa yang digunakan oleh penulis nama pengguna Zacharias dalam menulis jawaban-jawaban terkait topik sejarah peradaban kuno. In addition, peneliti juga ingin mengobservasi kualitas dari tulisan penulis dengan nama pengguna Zacharias yang mendapatkan jumlah vote yang tinggi setiap postingan tulisannya tentang sejarah di Quora. Pendekatan metode kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini, sebab metode kualitatif dapat memudahkan peneliti untuk mengeksplorasi lebih dalam terkait fenomena ketertarikan pembaca tentang pembahasan topik sejarah di Quora. Lebih lanjut, temuan penting yang dapat dilihat dalam penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa penulis nama pengguna Zacharias cenderung sering menggunakan gaya bahasa formal dan casual dalam setiap tulisannya. Hal ini dapat dilihat dari 20 sampel penelitian menunjukkan hasil penelitian bahwa terdapat 15 gaya bahasa kasual dan 5 gaya bahasa formal pada data sampel tulisan

penulis dan tidak ditemukan penggunaan gaya bahasa consultative, frozen, dan intimate pada tulisan penulis berdasarkan gaya bahasa oleh Martin Joss.

Kata kunci: Quora; Gaya Bahasa; Sociolinguistik; Sejarah

INTRODUCTION

In today's sophisticated era, on the internet there are many social media applications that can connect many people to communicate with each other. The internet has no limitations on area, space, and time for humans to continue to develop, create, and even to get information from the past to the present. The advancement of internet technology makes many people continue to develop knowledge about technology and likewise ordinary people continue to adapt to the development of technology that is increasingly advanced to date. Usually, humans connect themselves through social media by sharing posts about their daily lives, activities, creativity, etc. Most social media applications that are currently popular do present a visual display, such as Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, etc. But there is one social media platform that does not fully present a visual display, namely Quora.

According to Launched (2010) argue that Quora is an online site that contains answers from other people to questions that tend to be difficult for the questioner to answer and provide an opportunity for other people to explore the best answers based on their knowledge (Lisdayanti Irwan et al., 2020). Quora presents a variety of insights for readers with good quality answers. According to Wix.com, the Quora website or platform was founded by 2 former Facebook employees in 2009. When the platform was first released, it was called Quiver. The Quora platform was originally devoted to questions and answers (Q&A) about various topics, including topics that are currently happening in the community or around the world. Moreover, since the first launch of this application has received good enthusiasm from the public. Until now, Quora is still widely used by many people to share new ideas with each other.

Therefore, most Quora users are highly educated people. Many Academics, Historians enthusiasm, Technologists and various people who are experts in their fields of work give responses according to their knowledge to answer questions posed by other users. Nevertheless, the critical thinking skills of quora users are very good. Quora writers are able to package information or writing neatly and easily read by ordinary people. This



digital literacy-based platform is able to become a public space for many people to exchange ideas and information in this digital era. Topics that are usually discussed in discussions are opinions, life experiences, history, technology, current phenomena, etc. Quora users do not like issues that contain elements of hatred, cornering, sara, and racism. Quora users tend to avoid sensitive topics.

Considering that quora is for sharing ideas and knowledge that can help expand the knowledge of others. In general, Quora users present questions that seem trivial or unique then the answers from writers on Quora will be more interesting to read. People who answer questions on Quora are people who have a high literacy spirit. However, history is usually a very boring topic for some people who don't like the topic. However, on the Quora platform, it is no longer boring to read. The writers on Quora who have knowledge about history are able to package historical discussions into interesting topics to read. History topics are also mostly discussed by Quora users and the topics discussed on Quora are not only about history in Indonesia, but also the history of various countries or facts that are rarely known by the public. Researchers want to discuss more deeply the use of the author's language style on Quora that can make many people interested in reading historical topics.

Nonetheless, many other studies have discussed Language Style. However, the subjects that are often discussed on the topic of Language Style by previous researchers are literary works, films, or quotes, texts on speeches. However, in this study, the researcher wants to present a research topic that is different from previous studies on the topic of Language Style. Therefore, the researcher examines the use of language style used by writers on Quora on the topic of history and the reasons that make readers able to understand well the historical topics being discussed by quora writers, compared to reading historical topics during history lessons or thick books.

Previously there was a lot of research investigating language style. Research was found related to language style in "Cinta di Dalam Gelas" in Andrea Hirata's novel by (Mufarida et al., 2022). (Indahsari et al., 2023) examined the language style found in the Korean drama "Business Proposal" on the main character. Next, research related to language style reflecting politeness in Qorygore's video was conducted by (Maharani & Fadloeli, 2021). (Afnan Musyaffa & Lusiana Suciati Dewi, 2024) conducted research related to the use of language styles in various dialects of English. Finally, research related

to language style was conducted by (Firdiani et al., 2022) in analyzing the language style spoken by the main character in the cartoon film Zootopia. In addition, Researchers see a wide variety of historical topics discussed by experienced writers on Quora, but there is a gap seen by researchers on historical topics discussed on Quora. Different from previous studies, there are no studies explored research on language style about historical in the quora app.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is defined as the study of language in relation to society whereas the sociology of language is defined as the study of society in relation to language (Nisa, 2019). The knowledge of sociolinguistics has an important role that can connect the implementation between language use in everyday life and society in a broad social context.

Language Style

According Ducrot and Todorov (1993) said that Language style is the selection of a number the different opportunities in the use of language (Taufik et al., 2023). Many things can be explored by humans through language styles. Language styles can explore works such as novels, movies, Historical writings, etc.

Meanwhile the other idea, according to (Keraf 1991: 113) language style is a way to express the idea with special language show the language user's soul and personality (Silaban, 2018). That means through language style, humans can know the character of other humans in saying or conveying words.

In this study, researchers applied the same sociolinguistics theory as Martin Joss (1976: 153–1555) (Joos, 1967) which examined five language styles : Frozen style, Formal style, Consultative style, Casual style, and Intimate style. These styles have the following explanations:

Frozen Style

Frozen style refers to a highly formal, inflexible, and rarely evolving type of language. This kind of writing is rarely altered and is frequently used in highly formal situations. This type of language style usually used by professional. For instance legal texts, official documents, religious texts, and speeches.

Formal Style

Formal style is a kind of language used in formal or official contexts. It employs suitable and courteous word selections and adheres to the principles of standardized grammar. Compared to Frozen Style, this language can be employed in a greater variety of contexts. For instance academics, scientific papers, and interviews.

Consultative Style

Consultative Style refers to a language style that is employed in semi formal conditions, where the speaker and listener exchange ideas in both directions. Even though it retains some formality, this type of language style is frequently employed in casual discussions. For instance consultation between doctors and patients, working meetings, and group discussions.

Casual Style

Casual Style is the type of language style that has most casual and laid-back kind of language use. This is a more expressive style that is frequently used in daily interactions with close friends, relatives, or acquaintances. For instance conversations with friends, family, or on social media.

Intimate Style

Intimate Style refers to a type of language style used in personal or close relationships with people who are interacting. Examples include couples, friends, and close relatives.

RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the researcher uses a descriptive qualitative method to investigate the language style used by writers on the quora platform in answering questions about history. Furthermore, history is a science related to the past and has many words that must be conveyed well and easy to understand so that readers can enjoy writing and not be easily bored about the topic of history. The reason researchers use this method is because it is the most suitable one to use analyzing this research to easily understand more about the qualities of the subject. This method is done by collecting and analyzing data by involving expressions in words, such as through interviews, observations, and surveys (online/offline). The research subjects in this study were 10 randomly selected samples of posts from people using the Quora app that dealt with questions and answers about history. The method of data collection in this study. First, searching in the Quora

application for the author's name *Zacharias*. Second, searching for writings that have around 500 thousand - 2 million votes. Third, analyzing the type of language style used by the author that can make many people interested in reading writings about history. Lastly, translate the text into English.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1.

Types of language style	Amount of Data
Frozen Style	0
Formal Style	5
Consultative Style	0
Casual Style	15
Intimate Style	0

Based on data above, it can be concluded that researchers only found 2 types of the language style on history topic writing in Quora, namely Formal Style and Casual Style. Below is a more detailed explanation of each of the language styles used:

Formal Style

1. Theodosian Wall. This three-layer wall system was very ingenious. **Firstly, the attacking soldiers would be exposed to artillery and missiles launched from all the soldiers stationed on the three layers of walls and ramparts as they tried to cross the moat.** This made Constantinople rather unique because unless only plan on breaching the Theodosian Walls side, **they should also attack the city from the sea, preferably in conjunction with an attack on the Land Walls to spread out the defenses.**

Tembok Theodosian. Sistem tembok tiga lapis ini sangat cerdas. Pertama, para tentara penyerang akan terkena artileri dan misil yang diluncurkan dari semua tentara yang ditempatkan di tiga lapis tembok dan benteng saat mereka mencoba menyeberangi parit. Ini membuat Konstantinopel agak unik karena kecuali hanya berencana menembus sisi Tembok Theodosian. Mereka juga harus menyerang kota dari laut, sebaiknya bersamaan dengan serangan di Tembok Darat untuk menyebar pertahanan.

2. **The destruction of Baghdad in 1258 is a prime example, where hundreds of thousands of people were slaughtered, libraries burned, and centuries of knowledge lost.** It wasn't just brutal; it was deliberate destruction. The Vikings weren't saints, either. **They could be brutal, especially when raiding monasteries and coastal settlements.**

Penghancuran Baghdad di tahun 1258 adalah contoh utama, di mana ratusan ribu orang dibantai, perpustakaan dibakar, dan pengetahuan berabad-abad hilang lenyap. Itu bukan cuma kejam; itu penghancuran yang direncanakan. Perlu dipahami, Viking juga bukan orang suci. Mereka bisa sangat brutal, apalagi kalau merampok biara dan pemukiman pesisir.

3. **When a Roman general conquered a new land, he would get a Triumph.** The Triumph was a parade through the streets of Rome showing captured wealth, slaves, and paintings praising the conquest. **At the end of the Triumph, captured generals or soldiers would be ceremonially executed by the victorious General and his troops.**

Ketika seorang Jenderal Romawi menaklukkan tanah baru, dia akan mendapatkan sebuah Triumph. Triumph adalah sebuah parade melalui jalan-jalan Roma yang menunjukkan kekayaan yang ditangkap, budak-budak, dan lukisan-lukisan yang memujikan penaklukan. Di akhir Triumph, para jenderal atau prajurit yang tertangkap akan dihukum bunuh secara seremonial oleh Jenderal yang menang dan pasukannya.

4. Social mobility. Rome was very capitalist. In the Middle Ages, you were born and died a peasant. **There was no chance of moving up the ranks. Even becoming a merchant was unrealistic.** But in ancient Rome, you could be the son of a slave and eventually become Emperor. There are many examples of poor people in Rome starting small businesses, becoming successful, and dying rich.

Mobilitas sosial. Roma sangat kapitalis. Di Abad Pertengahan, kamu bakal lahir dan mati sebagai petani. Tidak ada peluang untuk naik kelas. Bahkan jadi pedagang pun tidak realistis. Tapi di zaman Romawi kuno, kamu bisa jadi anak seorang budak dan akhirnya jadi Kaisar. Banyak contoh di mana orang miskin di Roma mulai usaha kecil, sukses, dan mati sebagai orang kaya.

5. **Behind the magnificent and ornate mask, he wore during his burial, they found that the Egyptian king had buck teeth, wide hips, a severe limp, and clubfoot,** a birth defect that causes the lower leg to curve inward. Evidence of King Tut's physical limitations is also supported by the 130 walking sticks found in his tomb.

Dibalik topeng megah dan indah yang dipakai saat penguburannya, mereka menemukan bahwa raja Mesir ini punya gigi gingsul, pinggul lebar, pincang parah, dan clubfoot, yaitu cacat bawaan yang menyebabkan kaki bagian bawah melengkung atau terbalik ke dalam. Bukti

tentang keterbatasan fisik Raja Tut juga didukung oleh 130 tongkat yang ditemukan di dalam makamnya.

Explanation:

Researchers found there is no use of slang and there is the use of terms that are rarely known in the text above such as the sentences in bold. There are no personal opinions in the texts above. Also found the use of third person pronouns. In addition, the use of formal words is found in the content of the story text.

Casual Style

1. **Imagine**, in the 8th century AD, **scientists from all over the world gathered here**. Some were good at math, astronomy, medicine, you name it! They were busy translating scientific works from Greece, Persia, India, **just a treasure trove of knowledge**.

Bayangin, di abad ke-8 Masehi, para ilmuwan dari berbagai penjuru dunia ngumpul di sini. Ada yang jago matematika, astronomi, kedokteran, you name it! Mereka sibuk menerjemahkan karya-karya ilmiah dari Yunani, Persia, India, pokoknya isinya harta karun ilmu pengetahuan deh.

2. **Ancient civilizations like the Greeks and Romans had really cool water systems**, bringing water to their cities and homes, using aqueducts and public baths. But they also had huge problems with sanitation, like throwing trash in rivers and streets, which led to disease and pollution. **Things got even worse during the Middle Ages and Renaissance**, when people had to rely on wells, cisterns, or rain barrels for their water, and used portable toilets or outdoor lavatories for their toilet needs.

Peradaban kuno seperti Yunani dan Romawi punya sistem air yang keren banget, bawa air ke kota dan rumah mereka, menggunakan saluran air dan pemandian umum. Tapi mereka juga punya masalah besar soal kebersihan, kayak buang sampah ke sungai atau jalan, yang bikin penyakit dan polusi. Hal-hal ini makin parah pas zaman pertengahan dan Renaissance, pas orang-orang harus andalkan sumur, bak, atau tong hujan buat sumber air mereka, dan pakai toilet portabel atau WC luar buat kebutuhan toilet mereka.

3. The Giza Sphinx. **Crazy, the distance between the Old Kingdom and the New Kingdom is more than a thousand years! Because of its age**, the next Pharaohs found the pyramids had been abandoned, the Sphinx was buried in sand, so it became a lost relic of the past.

Sphinx Giza itu. Gila, jarak antara Kerajaan Lama dan Kerajaan Baru tuh lebih dari seribu tahun! Saking tuanya, para Firaun selanjutnya nemuin piramida udah banyak yang terbengkalai, Sphinxnya pun tertimbun pasir, jadi peninggalan masa lalu yang hilang gitu deh

4. When it comes to art, the Greeks are like influencers. **Their statues are so cool, you might think they're Apollo himself posing for Instagram.** Meanwhile, **the Romans are busy copying Greek art faster than college students on deadlines.** "Oh, this statue? Yeah, I made it myself. No, you can't see the 'Made in Greece' stamp on the back.

Dalam hal seni, orang Yunani itu kayak influencer. Patung-patung mereka keren banget, sampe kamu bisa ngira Apollo sendiri lagi pose buat Instagram. Sementara itu, orang Romawi sibuk nyontek seni Yunani lebih cepat dari mahasiswa yang dikejar deadline. "Oh, patung ini? Iya, aku yang bikin sendiri. Nggak, kamu nggak boleh liat cap 'Made in Greece' di belakangnya."

5. **The Rosetta Stone is not just a piece of rock with strange scribbles.** It is a time machine, a portal that takes us to a lost world. **It is no exaggeration to imagine how important the Rosetta Stone is in human history. Just imagine, thousands of years of Ancient Egyptian history buried and unreadable.** An entire civilization shrouded in mystery.

Batu Rosetta ini nggak cuma bongkahan batu dengan coretan aneh-aneh aja. Ini mesin waktu, portal yang nganterin kita ke dunia yang udah hilang. Gak berlebihan deh ngebayangin betapa pentingnya Batu Rosetta ini dalam sejarah manusia. Bayangin aja, ribuan tahun sejarah Mesir Kuno terkubur dan nggak bisa dibaca. Peradaban utuh diselimuti misteri.

6. The Aztecs were very good at organising their social order. **There was the teuctli, the highest nobility, who might eat a fancy meal topped with cacao while lying on a cotton pillow.** Then there were the pipiltins, the middle-class nobility, **like teuctli's less fancy cousins.** They still drink cocoa, but probably don't use gold cups.

Orang Aztec jago banget mengatur tatanan sosial mereka. Ada teuctli, bangsawan tertinggi, yang mungkin makan makanan mewah dengan taburan kakao sambil rebahan di atas

bantal kain katun. Lalu ada pipiltin, bangsawan kelas menengah, kayak sepupu teuctli yang nggak sefancy itu. Mereka masih minum kakao, tapi mungkin nggak pake gelas emas.

Explanation:

Researchers found sentences that use bold in the data text above show that the author uses everyday words or slang to express the contents of his writing so that it reaches the reader easily. For example, "imagine, basically, really cool, increasingly, crazy, so old, scribbles, really good". The use of particles such as "lah, deh, loh" is also often found in the writing. The author uses words with a familiar tone to make it easier to communicate with the reader through his writing.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the final result of the research shows the use of casual language style more appear than formal language style or others. This shows that readers enjoy the explanation of historical topics using casual language styles to make it easier for readers to understand the explanation of historical elements conveyed by the author. In addition, many readers are interested in following the author Zacharias and reading unique stories about the history of ancient civilizations written by the author. This research can help to provide insights to other social media users to actively contribute using Quora and learn about interesting histories to broaden their horizons and creative ideas in writing. From the author Zacharias' knowledge of the history of ancient civilizations can make many readers more knowledgeable about the unique facts of history. From the previous study, researchers found that there were 5 studies related to language style that used the object of Korean dramas, novels, youtube videos, observing language usage across several dialects. The research analyzes the language style found in each object of study. There is a significant difference with this research study that uses the research object in the case study is quora, which is still rare research that discusses quora, especially regarding language style.

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