



THE MARKED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FULL AND COLLOQUIAL STYLES

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Abstract : *The contrast between formal and informal language registers is a fundamental concept in linguistics, sociolinguistics, and the study of discourse. This paper delves into the distinctions between these two registers across their vocabulary, sentence structure, sound patterns, and practical application in communication. Real-world examples drawn from literature, everyday conversation, and media serve to highlight these differences. Grasping these variations is crucial for effective communication, stylistic analysis, and the teaching of language.*

Key words: *formal style, colloquial style, register variation, stylistic differences, lexical choice, grammatical structures, syntax, phonological features, prosody, nominalization, passive voice, active voice, contractions, idiomatic expressions, phrasal verbs, informality, formality, pragmatic functions, discourse context, styleshifting, sociolinguistic variation, speech patterns, conversational features, academic vocabulary, everyday vocabulary*

Language adapts based on the situation, objective, audience, and medium of communication. Among the various linguistic approaches a speaker or writer can employ, formal and informal styles represent opposing ends of the formality spectrum. The formal style is typically encountered in academic texts, official documents, professional exchanges, and formal addresses, prioritizing accuracy, impartiality, and established norms. The informal style, conversely, is characteristic



of daily conversations, personal correspondence, casual online interactions, and relaxed storytelling. Its primary role is to facilitate social connection and convey emotions.

The divergences between these styles are systematic, impacting word choice, sentence construction, word order, pronunciation, and how language is used to achieve communicative aims. Investigating these differences aids in comprehending how individuals modify their language to convey meaning, forge social bonds, and accomplish specific communication objectives. Word selection is a primary indicator of linguistic style. The formal style utilizes vocabulary that is elevated, abstract, and often derived from classical roots. It encompasses specialized terminology and noun phrases formed from verbs or adjectives. For instance, in formal writing, one might opt for «initiate» rather than «begin,» or «conclude» instead of «finish.» Nominalizations like «the analysis of the findings» replace more straightforward expressions such as «we examined the findings.»

In contrast, the informal style favors common words, multi-word verbs, idiomatic expressions, and slang. Phrases such as «give up,» «look after,» or «hang out» are typical. Informal vocabulary fosters a sense of immediacy, warmth, and approachability, reflecting the speaker's intention to connect with the listener on a personal rather than a detached level. Sentence structures also differ between the two styles. The formal style tends to employ elaborate sentences with multiple dependent clauses, passive voice constructions, and nominalizations. For example, «While the initial findings were tentative, they offered significant insights into the phenomenon» exemplifies subordination and a detached perspective. Similarly, «The investigation was carried out by the research team» illustrates the use of the passive voice to emphasize objectivity.

Formal language is prevalent in classic literature and academic writings. For example, in Charles Dickens' **A Tale of Two Cities**, the opening lines: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." showcase a formal style through its intricate sentence construction, sophisticated vocabulary, and elevated tone. Informal language is characteristic of contemporary fiction, online interactions,



and social media. Consider this example: "So, I was like, 'No way!' and he was totally freaking out." The use of casual terms, contractions, and conversational sentence structure makes the writing feel immediate, relatable, and emotionally resonant.

The distinctions between formal and informal language styles are evident across all linguistic levels, including word choice, sentence construction, sound patterns, and communicative intent. A formal style emphasizes accuracy, decorum, and social distance, whereas an informal style highlights ease, casualness, and personal connection. Grasping these differences is vital for effective communication, translation, language instruction, and the study of literary or linguistic expression. The ongoing development of media and digital communication continues to shape language conventions, blurring the lines between formal and informal registers and underscoring the necessity of flexibility in language application.

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