

## The Main Characters' Language Style Matching in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* Movie

**Olivia Tilana**

English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang

[olivia.tilana120@mail.com](mailto:olivia.tilana120@mail.com)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18860/lilics.v1i1.2666>

Copyright © Olivia Tilana



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

**How to Cite:** APA Style 7th edition

---

### Submission

#### Track:

Received:

03-03-2023

Available online:

28-04-2023

Corresponding

Author:

Olivia Tilana

[olivia.tilana120@mail.com](mailto:olivia.tilana120@mail.com)

### ABSTRACT

*This research aimed to investigate the use of function words, verbal mimicry, and non-verbal language styles in assessing the alignment of language styles between individuals. The film "To All the Boys I Have Loved Before" (2018) was chosen as the subject of analysis, as it depicted social dynamics that resembled real-life situations on a smaller scale. By employing the Language Style Matching theory proposed by Bowen et al. (2017), the researcher successfully identified significant matches and consistent outcomes in relation to the film's conclusion. The research approach employed both quantitative and qualitative methods, allowing for the analysis of data while providing in-depth explanations. The study utilized a Mixed Method Research (MMR) approach and yielded a final Language Style Matching score of 0.91 for verbal mimicry, indicating a nearly perfect match. Two categories of Language Style Matching emerged from the analysis, namely verbal and non-verbal mimicry. The researcher identified twelve instances of non-verbal mimicry in the film, including six motor movements, three postures, two facial expressions, and one gaze. The findings of this study revealed that the main characters in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before," namely Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean, exhibited mutual interest and compatibility.*

**Keywords:** Language Style Matching, verbal mimicry, non-verbal mimicry, LIWC

---

### INTRODUCTION

Interaction partners who have a match in language style will look more active in fundamental and structural level conversations (Cannava & Bodie, 2017), which is related to linguistic indicators of one's involvement and attention in conversation or also known as Language Style Matching (Ireland & Pennebaker, 2010). Besides, humans have solid psychic instincts, especially in romantic relationships. Those statements are not only to obtain greater level of communicative efficiency but also to

obtain a level of closeness of social distance between each interaction partner. However, only a few people understand the attachment between the human psyche and how they communicate. Furthermore, what happens when they communicate with each other will increase the closeness or distance between the interaction partners.

Language Style Matching (LSM) means patterning certain words the communicator conveys to the other person. Chartrand and van Baaren (2009) state that even strangers, coworkers, and current relationship partners all seem to communicate more fluently. This results in interaction partners getting more concentrated language style matching. As Harper, Wiens, and Matarazzo (1978) argue, nonverbal literature shows that coordination between psychic and communication styles may be a fundamental aspect of human behavior, such as aspects of communication in facial expressions, verbal and nonverbal behavior, kinesics, visual behavior, and coordinated proxemics (as cited in Ellyson & Dovidio, 2012).

In this LSM study, there were two types of mimicry or treatment, namely verbal and nonverbal mimicry, each of which had its strength in the level of continuation of the love relationship. "Synchronization is defined as matching behavior, adopting the same behavior rhythm, the manifestation of simultaneous movement, and the linkage of individual behavior" (Bernieri & Rosenthal 1991, p. 119). It happens in the love life of every individual, whether in real life, written in songs, or arranged like in movies. Thus, regarding the previously mentioned definitions of LSM, this study was conducted to determine whether romantic partners' relationships could be predicted by looking at the actions of communicating with each other using verbal and nonverbal LSM theory.

Several previous studies used two theories at once, namely the LSM theory and the communication accommodation theory by Giles (1998). Among these studies were (Ireland & Henderson 2014; Richardson et al., 2014), in which they combined LSM research with CAT research to obtain the results of using function words as verbal mimicry and CAT as nonverbal mimicry analysis. In this research, they used the object of study in the form of sentences in conversation as verbal analysis and speech tone and gestures as nonverbal analysis. Slightly the same as the research of Rasmussen et al. (2017), he combined LSM research with Buck's incorporation theory (1994). Rasmussen et al. (2017) had the same goal as previous studies that combined LSM with CAT: to find similarities in matching language styles through conversation, tone, gesture, and others.

Previous studies examined language style matching with several objects of study and different research methods and as in several studies using research methods using LIWC (Ireland & Pennebaker, 2010; Gonzales, Hancock, and Pennebaker, 2010; Ireland et al., 2011; Meinecke and Kauffeld, 2019) and using the LIWC method to get the results of calculating the similarity of LSM in conversations. During the dyadic conversation, they analyzed function words (articles, prepositions, etc.). Although they had the same research objectives, not all used the same research object. Ireland and Pennebaker's (2010) research analyze writing and looks for LSM in everyday and professional writing.

Previous research on LSM analysis did not mix it with other theories; instead, following previous research was research by Liu, Xie, and Zhang (2019) entitled "It is not Perceived Quality of Consumer Review." The data in this study were analyzed by following previous research from Ludwig et al. (2013). Ultimately, the researcher found that LSM significantly and positively affected the number of helpful votes received in a review. The last previous study was research on verbal and nonverbal communication

(Mandal, 2014; Ariza, 2022). He was equally researching verbal and nonverbal used by humans in daily life from all aspects, especially in love affairs. The difference was that Mandal uses the developmental interaction theory by Buck (1994). In contrast, Ariza (2022), the theory used to analyze the data in his research is the language specificity theory by Atwood (2007) and the nonverbal distinctiveness theory by Gilberg (2002).

From several previous studies, it could be concluded that LSM was used in romantic relationships and in writing investigations, interrogation, speech, and movies. The researcher chose to use a very rarely investigated study, namely the prediction of relationship resilience through LSM in the form of verbal and nonverbal mimicry.

LSM was one of the communication actions carried out by the people closest to them. The LSM we used when communicating with the closest people should be analyzed more. This research aimed to educate readers that LSM still needs to be discovered by some people. On the other hand, the researcher aimed to explain how LSM occurred in a person's romantic relationship. In addition, this research also aimed for an update of the LSM research that would enrich the findings of the previous studies.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a Mixed Method Research (MMR) (Creswell et al., 2007) research design, which was quantitative to analyze the required data and qualitative descriptive to analyze and explain in more detail the quantitative results. Thus, this combined approach could provide a more detailed understanding of the research problem. In this study, the instrument was the researcher herself. In contrast, the research instrument was a tool to assess, monitor, and record data conducted in a study (Creswell, 2012). The researcher would collect data from verbal and nonverbal mimicry between Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky in the film *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* with data from dialogue and scenes in the movie.

The data source was the film obtained from the Netflix application with a viewing time of 1 hour 39 minutes streamed in Netflix (<https://www.netflix.com/id/title/80203147?s=i&trkid=13747225&vlang=id&clip=81027615>). The data used in this study consisted of conversations between the main characters in the film *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, namely Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky, as the data of verbal mimicry. Meanwhile, the nonverbal mimicry data, consisting of attitude, facial expressions, and gestures, were also analyzed based on the LSM theory proposed by Bowen et al. (2017).

Data collection in this study was carried out through several stages. The researcher watched the film *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* in the first stage several times. In the second stage, the researcher saw parts of the scene, including verbal and nonverbal mimicry. In the third stage, the researcher classified the data obtained based on verbal and nonverbal mimicry. Parts of the scene that contain nonverbal mimicry were also captured.

"Define MMR as a research design that departs from the philosophical assumptions of the method of inquiry or methodology that provides guidance when collecting and analyzing data and mixing between approaches taken during the process" (Creswell and Clark, 2007, p. 5). However, if the data were transcripts and photos, they would still be recorded and classified. To get the results of matched pairs seen from the

compatibility of LSM, the researcher began to observe Lara Jean's conversation with Peter Kavinsky, which contained verbal and nonverbal mimicry. Next, the researcher analyzed the data based on the LSM theory proposed by Bowen et al. (2017). Verbal mimicry was analyzed using the LIWC word analysis program (Language Inquiry and word count; Pennebaker et al., 2007).

This research analyzed Language Style Matching (LSM) and used an automatic function word counting assistance program or Language Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) by Pennebaker et al. (2007). It found two forms of mimicry: verbal mimicry and nonverbal mimicry. Verbal mimicry was assisted by a program called LIWC, and the quality of LSM between Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean was 91 percent. The most dominant finding in this research was virtual mimicry, which was found to be the most common form, being body movements, Gaze, and facial expressions. Bowen et al. (2017) found that individuals can accommodate one another in various communicative domains, with body movements being the most common.

Posture was divided into fifteen body parts, two scenes with arm parts and one scene with random body parts. Facial Expression and Gaze were found to be the least nonverbal-mimicry. This research revealed two categories simultaneously, namely verbal and nonverbal mimicry, with the latter only using function words in verbal mimicry.

## FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Findings and discussion explored LSM based on Bowen et al. (2017). Verbal mimicry was analyzed using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) program (Pennebaker et al. 2007) to perform a word-by-word search for the function of words used in the conversations of Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky. Meanwhile, nonverbal communication was explained in detail about the meaning of LSM.

### *Verbal Mimicry Analysis*

From the data analysis of verbal communication, regarding Bowen, Winczewski, and Collins (2017), there was only one kind: show in voice. However, not all conversations were included in the data; the researcher analyzed and fitted into the LSM model. The data were analyzed with the LIWC automated program (Pennebaker et al., 2007) with the following formula to get LSM:

$$LSM_{ppron} = 1 - (|ppron1 - ppron2|) / (|ppron1 + ppron2|)$$

LSM<sub>ppron</sub> is the result of LSM per function words. Ppron1 or function words used by Peter Kavinsky were obtained from the conversational data program which was analyzed using a computer-based program, LIWC. Ppron2 or function words used by Lara Jean were obtained from the conversational data program which was analyzed using a computer-based program, LIWC.

The formula above is divided based on the research which is carried out. There are 4 steps in the formula, namely, looking for the results of the comparison of the function words of the LSM ( $|ppron1 - ppron2|$ ), the sum of the function words of the LSM ( $|ppron1 + ppron2|$ ), the absolute value of the LSM ( $|ppron1 - ppron2| / (|ppron1 + ppron2|)$ ), then the final value of the LSM  $\{1 - (|ppron1 - ppron2| / (|ppron1 + ppron2|))\}$ .

### *The Difference of the Function Words Used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky*

To get a comparison of LSM function words, the researcher used the following formula:

$$\text{LSMppron} = (|\text{ppron1} - \text{ppron2}|)$$

The formula above is used to get the results of the comparison of the function words used by each actor, Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. The formula applies not only to the Ppron function words but also to the eight listed function words such as Ipron, Article, Preposition, etc. To get the results from the formula above can be seen in table 1.

Table 1. The difference of the Function Words Used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky

| LSM Function words  | Peter Kavinsky<br>(person1) | Lara Jean<br>(person2) | Different |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Personal Pronouns   | 19.98                       | 15.79                  | 4.19      |
| Impersonal Pronouns | 6.69                        | 9.13                   | -2.44     |
| Article             | 3.45                        | 3.76                   | -0.31     |
| Preposition         | 12.97                       | 11.06                  | 1.91      |
| Negation            | 3.24                        | 4.19                   | -0.95     |
| Adverb              | 6.69                        | 8.27                   | -1.58     |
| Auxiliary Verb      | 12.76                       | 14.93                  | -2.17     |
| Conjunction         | 5.44                        | 5.26                   | 0.18      |

Table 1 explained that there was a percentage of function words used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky. To find out and get the results of the percentage of function words used, the researcher used the LIWC automatic analysis program (Pennebaker et al., 2007). After getting the number of words from each speaker, the researcher used the existing formula to get the results of the different words used by the object of study (Lara and Peter). In the first step, the researcher put the number of each function word into the existing formula. The researcher reduced the number of function words from Peter and Lara to get the percentage of the different function words used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. The LSM personal pronouns with the formula for the number of function words of Person 1 personal pronouns (Peter Kavinsky) were reduced by the number of function words of Person 2 personal pronouns (Lara Jean). The formula was applied to all categories of function words (LSMppron, LSMipron, LSMart, Etc.).

The numbers were then added up according to the existing formula. For Personal pronouns, Peter Kavinsky used 19.98 percent of personal pronouns, while Lara Jean used function word personal pronouns at 15.79. These two numbers were then subtracted using the existing formula to get a result of 4.19. Figure 4.19 compared function words with the types of personal pronouns used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. For impersonal pronouns, the researcher began to enter the number of function words in the impersonal pronoun table. For the article function words, Peter used 3.45 article function words, while Lara used 3.76. The two numbers were then Auxiliary Verb 12.76 14.93 -2.17 Conjunction 5.44 5.26 0.18 24 subtracted according to the formula provided to get a comparison of article function words. Then 3.45 minus 3.76 were the



results of comparing article function words as much as -0.31, which meant -0.31 percent of the word function word article comparison used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean.

For prepositions, the preposition function word used by Peter as the first person is 12.97, while the function preposition used by Lara Jean is 11.06. Then these numbers were subtracted from each other, and the result was 1.91, which meant the number of comparisons of prepositional function words Peter and Lara was 1.91 percent. For Negation, the negation function of person one or Peter Kavinsky was 3.24, while the function of Negation by person two or Lara Jean was 4.19. The two numbers were then subtracted from each other, and got the result of a comparison of the negation function word between Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean of -0.95. For adverbs, to compare adverb function words, the two adverb function words used by Peter and Lara were then reduced according to the formula provided. Then 6.69 was deducted by 8.27, and the comparison results of article function words were -1.58. It meant -1.58 percent of the article comparison of function words used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean.

For auxiliary verbs, Person 1 and Person 2 auxiliary verbs were subtracted from each other to get the results of a comparison of function words of auxiliary verbs by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. Function words of the Auxiliary Verb person 1, 12.76, minus the function word of the Auxiliary Verb person two, 14.93 then got the results of comparing the auxiliary verb function words as much as -2.17.

For conjunction, the researcher began to enter the number of function words in the conjunction table. For conjunction function words, Peter used 5.44 conjunction function words, while Lara used 5.26 conjunction function words. The two numbers were then subtracted according to the formula provided to compare conjunction function words. Then 5.44 minus 5.26, the researcher got a comparison of the conjunction function words of 0.18, which meant 0.18 percent of the comparison of the conjunction function words used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean.

#### *The Similarity of Function Words Used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky*

To get a sum of LSM function words, the researcher used the following formula:

$$\text{LSMppron} = (|\text{ppron1} + \text{ppron2}|)$$

To get the results of the similarities of the function words in LSM, the researcher used the formula that has been provided. The available formulas not only applied to personal pronouns as written in the formula column. However, the formula was also used in the eight written function words. The results of the function word equations used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean following the existing formula could be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. The similarity of function words between Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky

| LSM Function words  | Peter Kavinsky<br>(person1) | Lara Jean<br>(person2) | Sum   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Personal Pronouns   | 19.98                       | 15.79                  | 35.77 |
| Impersonal Pronouns | 6.69                        | 9.13                   | 15.28 |
| Article             | 3.45                        | 3.76                   | 7.21  |
| Preposition         | 12.97                       | 11.06                  | 24.03 |
| Negation            | 3.24                        | 4.19                   | 7.34  |
| Adverb              | 6.69                        | 8.27                   | 14.96 |
| Auxiliary Verb      | 12.76                       | 14.93                  | 27.96 |
| Conjunction         | 5.44                        | 5.26                   | 10.7  |

Table 2 contained the percentage of function words Lara Jean, and Peter Kavinsky used. To find out and get the results of the percentage of function words used, the researcher used the LIWC automatic analysis program (Pennebaker et al., 2007). After getting the number of words from each speaker, the researcher used the existing formula to get the word sum (word similarity) used by the research object (Lara and Peter). That was the LSM personal pronoun with the formula for the number of function words of the Person 1 personal pronoun (Peter Kavinsky) increased by the number of function words of the Person 2 personal pronoun (Lara Jean).

The description of the contents of the table was explained in detail as follows. Through the LIWC program, the number of function words used by Peter and Lara was obtained. Peter Kavinsky used 19.98 percent of the function words used for personal pronouns, while Lara Jean used 15.79 functional pronouns. These two numbers were then added to each other using the existing formula, then got the result of the personal pronouns to function word equation 35.77. Peter's impersonal pronouns were 6.69, while Lara's impersonal pronouns were 9.13. To get the equivalent of the function words used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean, the researcher entered the two numbers into the available formula, 6.69 was added by 9.13, and it got 15.28. The result of the addition of the Peter and Lara function words was the result of the similarity of the function words used by Peter and Lara, namely 15.28.

For article function words, Peter used 3.45 article function words, while Lara's article function words were 3.76. The two numbers were added according to the formula provided to get the similarity of the article function words. Then 3.45 plus 3.76 got 7.21, meaning 7.21 percent of the article function words used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. Other explanations included the preposition function word used by Peter was 12.97, while the preposition function word used by Lara Jean was 11.06. The two preposition function words were then added up, and the researcher got result 24.03 which was the result of the similarity of the preposition function words used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean.

For adverbs, to get the adverb function word equivalent, the two adverb function words, Peter and Lara, were then added to each other. Then 6.69 plus 8.27, and the result of the adverb function word equation was 14.96. It meant that 14.96 28 percent of the article had the exact function words Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean used. For Auxiliary Verbs, Person 1 and Person 2 auxiliary verbs were added to each other to get the similarity of the function words of the auxiliary verbs by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. The function word of the second person auxiliary verb, 12.76, plus the function

word of the second person auxiliary verb, 14.93. Then the result of comparing the auxiliary verb function words was 27.96.

*The absolute value of function words used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky*

The formula was used for all categories of existing function words. This formula aimed to get the absolute value between the differences and the similarity of the function words Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean used.

$$\text{LSMppron} = (|\text{ppron1} - \text{ppron2}|) / (|\text{ppron1} + \text{ppron2}|)$$

To get the absolute value results, the researcher divided the differences and similarities of the function words used by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. It could be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. The absolute value of function words between Peter and Lara

| LSM Function words  | Different | Sum   | Absolute Value (Diff/Sum) |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|---------------------------|
| Personal Pronouns   | 4.19      | 35.77 | 0.11                      |
| Impersonal Pronouns | -2.44     | 15.28 | 0.15                      |
| Article             | -0.31     | 7.21  | 0.04                      |
| Preposition         | 1.91      | 24.03 | 0.07                      |
| Negation            | -0.95     | 7.34  | 0.12                      |
| Adverb              | -1.58     | 14.96 | 0.10                      |
| Auxiliary Verb      | -2.17     | 27.96 | 0.07                      |
| Conjunction         | 0.18      | 10.7  | 0.01                      |

Table 3 explained that there was a percentage of function words used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky. To find out and get the results of the percentage of function words used, the researcher used the LIWC automatic analysis program (Pennebaker et al., 2007). After getting the number of differences and similarities of words from each speaker in Tables 2 and 3, then the researcher used the existing formula to get the absolute value (diff/sum) used by the object of research (Lara and Peter), which was the number of function words from the existing word differences (table 2) was divided by the number of function words from the word Sum (table 3). The result of the division would be an absolute value.

The researcher looked for the absolute value obtained by dividing the results of comparing function words and the similarity of function words used by Peter and Lara, which have been discussed in Tables 2 and 3. For personal Pronouns, in the function words, personal pronouns difference number 4.19 divided by sum or a similarity number 35.77. Researchers found a result of 0.11. For impersonal pronouns, the difference between the function words of impersonal 30 pronouns was -2.44, divided by the similarity of function words of impersonal pronouns, which was 15.28. In the distribution of these results, researchers got a result of 0.15.

For article function words, the difference of the function words was -0.31 divided by the equation of the function words of article 7.21, resulting in the article's absolute value being 0.04. For prepositions, the difference between the prepositional function word was 1.91 divided by the prepositional function word equation 24.03, resulting in the article's absolute value of 0.07.



The difference in the negation function word, which was -0.95, was divided by the similarity in the negation function word, which was 7.34. In the distribution of these results, the researchers got a result of 0.12. At a result of 0.12, the result should be a minus, but in the calculation of LSM, in Bowen et al. (2017), Pennebaker (2002) states that the value of mines is still counted as a plus value. Therefore, minus was omitted in the final value result column.

For adverb function words, the difference between adverb function words was -1.58 divided by the adverb function word similarities of 14.96, which results in an absolute value of 0.10 percent. For auxiliary verb function words, the number of difference adverb function words was -2.17 divided by the auxiliary verb function word equation of 27.96, which resulted in an absolute value of 0.07 percent. For conjunction function words, the number of different function words was 0.18 divided by the number of similarity function words, 10.7, resulting in an absolute value of 0.01 percent.

#### *The Language Style Matching of Function Words Used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky*

To get the final result, a score of the language style matching (LSM), used by Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky, was counted using the following formula:

$$\text{LSMppron} = 1 - (|\text{ppron1} - \text{ppron2}|) / (|\text{ppron1}| + |\text{ppron2}|)$$

The last formula used for the eight function words aims to find the LSM results of each function word. All function words were searched for the average value. The average value would be the final percentage of the level of LSM strength that occurred in Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean.

Table 4. Function words LSM score between Peter and Lara

| LSM Function Word      | Absolute Value (Diff/Sum) | LSM  |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Personal Pronouns      | 0.11                      | 0.89 |
| Impersonal Pronouns    | 0.15                      | 0.85 |
| Article                | 0.04                      | 0.96 |
| Preposition            | 0.07                      | 0.93 |
| Negation               | 0.12                      | 0.88 |
| Adverb                 | 0.10                      | 0.9  |
| Auxiliary Verb         | 0.07                      | 0.93 |
| Conjunction            | 0.01                      | 0.99 |
| LSM Total Score (mean) |                           | 0.91 |

The table above listed the results of the absolute values calculated in the 2nd, third, and fourth tables. In Table 4, the researcher calculated the 32 LSMs that happened to Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky using the existing formula. LSMppron was equal to 1, then was reduced by the absolute value results; the researcher got the original LSM results for each function word. Then all the LSM from the word function were searched for the average value (mean) and would be the final score of the LSM as a percentage of whether people 1 (Peter Kavinsky) and people 2 (Lara Jean) had an interest in each other or not at all.

The detailed explanation of the result of the adverb's absolute value was 0.10, which was entered into the formula as follows:

$$1 - (0.10) = 0.90$$

The result of 0.90 was called LSM. Then, after the eight function words got the LSM results, the researcher looked for the average value of the eight function words. Using a mathematical formula (mode, mean, median), the researcher used the mean formula, referred to as the average value.

Table 5. The percentage of LSM scores



Table 5 illustrated the percentage from 0 to 1.00. It meant that the lower the number of LSMs in conversations between two or more people, the more there was no compatibility or interest in the conversation. In this research, Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky got the final result with a range from 0.85 to 0.99, in which the possibility of mutual attraction occurs.

The object of this research, the movie "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" had a happy ending. Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky ended up dating because of their attachment to each other. The ending of the film was equivalent to the results of calculations by the LSM that have been obtained in this research; the two objects received an almost perfect score of 0.99, which meant that according to the LSM, the two objects were related to each other in the focus of verbal mimicry because the scores generated from the LSM's analysis were close to the level of perfection, 0.99.

According to Bowen et al (2017), LSM may not always reflect or facilitate interpersonal relationships, but the researcher did not reveal broader patterns of behavior that occur with LSM during interactions. The most dominant finding in this research was verbal mimicry. Verbal mimicry in this research was assisted by a program named LIWC by Pennebaker et al. (2007). The researcher revealed that 44 the quality of LSM that occurred between Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean was 91 percent. This value strongly supports the ending of the film used as the object of study. In this research, the researcher saw that verbal mimicry can actually be seen and calculated according to the speaking partner.

### ***Non-Verbal Mimicry Analysis***

From the analysis of nonverbal mimicry data, regarding Bowen et al. (2017), there were four types of nonverbal mimicry: Gaze, Posture, facial expression, and motor movement. However, not all nonverbal actions were included in the data; the researcher analyzed and fitted into the LSM model. The data analysis was explained as follows:



Figure 1. Lara turned away as she walked away from Peter without responding to Peter

The action happened right before Lara's house when Peter drove her home. To trick Peter's ex, Peter made a deal so that Lara could be his fake girlfriend. Lara did a Body Movement by turning her body as if ignoring Peter. In line with Bowen et al. (2017), Lara did this as a form of non-verbal mimicry, namely **Posture**.

In this scene, the non-verbal mimicry used by Lara Jean was Posture because she turned around as if to ignore Peter, who made a deal with her. According to Bowen et al. (2017), there are fifteen forms of Posture, one of which is upper body posture as practiced by Lara Jean.



Figure 2. Lara waved while shouting Peter's last name

The action occurred on the school grounds as Lara exclaimed, "Hey, Kavinsky!" while swinging his arms up slowly. Lara did this to accept a fake date offer they did as a swindler for Gen (Peter's ex) and Sanderson (Lara's ex-brother, who also got a love letter from him). After all, she had the pleasure of immediately accepting Peter's offer as her fake boyfriend to trick Sanderson. In line with Bowen 35 et al. (2017), Peter did this activity as a form of non-verbal mimicry, namely **Posture**, because Lara waved her hand and called Peter's name.

Bowen et al. (2017) included a statement by LaFrance (1982) that the postures are divided into fifteen body parts led by a graphical representation of five upper body positions, eight arm positions, and two random postures to encode unexpected positions. In the second figure, Lara took out the Posture of the arm, which was waving toward Peter Kavinsky.



Figure 3. Peter smiled as he kissed Lara

This action happened based on falsehood to trick people into seeing the action, so rumors circulated that Peter and Lara were dating. The kiss was not done based on love but a diversion of issues. It was because the meaning of the kisses was only known to them, so the kiss was included in the non-verbal mimicry of LSM. In line with Bowen et al. (2017), Peter and Lara did this activity as a form of nonverbal mimicry, namely **Motor Movement**.

Bowen et al. (2017) mention motor movements by Bavelas et al. (1986) that motor movements do not just happen but occur for a reason or can be called a "delivery point." Bavelas et al. (1986) also wrote that Motor Movements combinbody movements, gestures, and eye contact. In the case of Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean, eye contact and gestures occurred in sync and gave rise to an LSM quality in them.

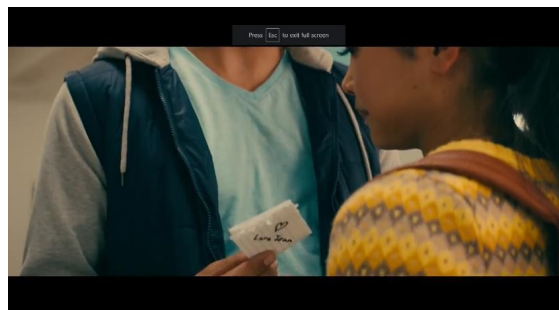


Figure 4. Peter gives a letter to Lara

Peter carried out the action right in front of Gen, which was Peter's fundamental goal to make Gen jealous of his new relationship. When Peter was still with Gen, Gen always asked Peter to give her a letter daily, but Peter never did. Therefore, this action was included in matching language styles in the form of nonverbal communication because sending a letter every day was their way of getting closer to each other. In line with Bowen et al. (2017), Peter and Lara did this activity as a form of non-verbal mimicry, namely **Motor Movement**.



Figure 5. Lara just leaked Peter without speaking

Lara carried out the action while talking to Peter at the cafe. Lara looked at Peter when Peter explained that he kept in touch with Gen over the phone every night. Suspiciously while frowning, Lara said, "You do this. You have the whole judgmental face scenario going on." In line with Bowen et al. (2017), Lara Jean performed this action as a form of non-verbal mimicry, namely **Facial Expressions**, because it was clear from Lara's surprised look and slightly mocking Lara's look on her face.



Figure 6. Lara looks at Peter

This action happened just as Lara was boarding the bus she was about to take on a ski trip. Peter was average, but Lara met him right after seeing Peter waved. Lara did this because she was still annoyed and jealous of Peter, who begged to ask her ex back. Lara's actions belonged to an LSM. It was in line with Bowen et al. (2017); Lara Jean did this act as a form of non-verbal mimicry, namely **Gaze**. In Bowen et al. (2017), the mimicry between the speaker's and listener's eye movements were not generated by chance. Gaze was also not produced by the 40 same visual stimuli, as shown by Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean. From the statement of Bowen et al. (2017), it could be concluded that the Gaze Lara gave Peter was not just a coincidence. LSM non-verbal mimicry occurred because Lara was jealous and annoyed with Peter, so there was non-verbal mimicry in the Gaze of Lara to Peter Kavinsky.



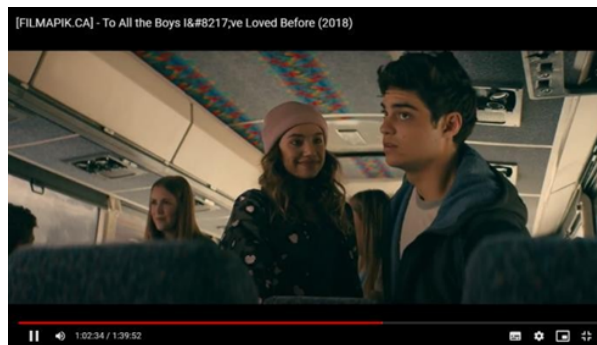


Figure 7. Peter leaks pain with disappointment

This action occurred when Lara refused to sit next to Peter with the excuse of apologizing to her friends. Peter sat sadly, looking at Lara, reluctantly agreeing to Gen's request to be beside him. It was included in LSM action because Peter's face, who began to like Lara, felt disappointed because Lara had been rejected. In line with Bowen et al. (2017), Lara Jean performed this action as a form of non-verbal mimicry, namely **Facial Expressions**.

From four types of nonverbal mimicry, the researcher found the most nonverbal mimicry is the Body Movements which happened five times. Bowen, et al (2017) take Body Movements. According to Bowen et al. (2017), individuals can accommodate one another at various communicative domain, and they do so in order to achieve not only greater communicative efficiency but also a desired level of closeness or social distance between themselves and their interaction partners means, interaction partners can determine suitability and incompatibility in interacting only through communication. Body movements are the most nonverbal mimicry because, in an interaction, there is always an interaction of body movements, although not always there.

The other most common finding in nonverbal mimicry is Posture. There are four acted that contain Posture nonverbal mimicry. According to Bowen et al. (2017), Posture is divided into fifteen body parts, namely five upper body parts, eight arm parts, and two random postures to encode unexpected positions. In this research, there is one scene with upper body parts, two scenes with arm parts, and one scene with random body parts, namely the lower body part. The least nonverbal mimicry found is Facial Expression and Gaze. In this research, only two scenes containing Facial Expression and one scene containing Gaze were found according to what was written by Bowen et al. (2017) in LSM nonverbal mimicry. This finding has explained the results as well as the uniqueness and advantages that exist in this research. In addition, the researcher also revealed the most and the least from the existing data and research results.

This research has different findings with the previous study. In this research, the researcher reveals two categories at once, namely verbal and nonverbal mimicry, while the previous study by Meineck and Kauffeld (2019), they reveal the use of function words, but only in verbal mimicry.

## CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

Bowen et al. (2017) researched the categories of language mass communication (LSM) in conversations taken from a film. Two categories of LSM were found namely verbal and nonverbal mimicry. Verbal mimicry was one type of verbal mimicry, which

was vocal through sound production and had eight function words used to determine LSM engagement between interaction partners. Unwritten mimicry included nonverbal Gaze, motor movements, postures, and facial expressions. The results of the LSM analysis showed that the two main characters in the film "To All the Boys I've Loved Before," Peter Kavinsky and Lara Jean, had an interest in and compatibility with each other.

Research could be conducted better to understand language style matching (LSM) and relationships and identify new relationships and matching language styles. The researcher suggested further research, such as the relationship between people who do not like each other, the problem of new relationships, and the use of objects with the same theory.

## REFERENCES

- Ariza, R. (2022). *A Psycholinguistics Approach of Verbal and Non-Verbal Language Peculiarities Depicted by Jane in Jane Wants a Boyfriend by William C. Sullivan*—doctoral dissertation. Purwokerto: Universitas Jenderal Soedirman.
- Auerbach, C., & Silverstein, L. B. (2003). Qualitative data: An introduction to coding and analysis (vol. 21). New York: NYU Press.
- Bernice, A. (2021). Language and the brain: A twofold study of language production and language comprehension as a separate or integrated set of processes. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, 3(5): 82-90.
- Bernieri, F. J., & Rosenthal, R. (1991). Interpersonal coordination: Behavior matching and interactional synchrony in R. S. Feldman & B. Rimé (Eds.), *Fundamentals of nonverbal behavior* (pp. 401–432). Washington: Cambridge University Press.
- Bowen, J. D., Winczewski, L. A., & Collins, N. L. (2017). Language style matching in romantic partners' conflict and support interactions. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 36(3): 263-286.
- Brekke, B. M. (1991). Nonverbal Sensitivity of Emotionally Disturbed Adolescents in Decoding Facial, Body and Vocal Cues of Emotion. Unpublished Dissertation. Missoula: University of Montana.
- Burger, W. P. (2013). *Exploring the complex computer-mediated communication needs of learners in a multilingual, multicultural online learning environment*. Raleigh: North Carolina State University.
- Cannava, K., & Bodie, G. D. (2017). Language use and style matching in supportive conversations between strangers and friends. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 34(4), 467–485.
- Chartrand, T. L., & van Baaren, R. (2009). Human mimicry. *Advances in experimental social psychology*, 41, 219-274.
- Christiansen, M. H., & Chater, N. (2016). The now-or-never bottleneck: A fundamental constraint on language. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 39(1), 57-58.
- Creswell, J. W & Vicki L.P. C. (2007) *Designing and conducting: Mixed methods research*. London: Sage Publications.
- Creswell, J. W. (2012). Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research 4th edition. Boston: Pearson.
- Ellyson, S. L., & Dovidio, J. F. (Eds.). (2012). *Power, dominance, and nonverbal behavior*. Springer Science & Business Media.

- Giles, H. (Ed.). (2016). *Communication accommodation theory: Negotiating personal relationships and social identities across contexts*. Cambridge University Press.
- Gonzales, A. L., Hancock, J. T., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2010). *Language style matching as a predictor of social dynamics in small groups*. *Communication Research*, 37(1), 3-19.
- Harper, R. G., Wiens, A. N., & Matarazzo, J. D. (1978). *Nonverbal communication: The state of the art*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Ireland, M. E., & Henderson, M. D. (2014). Language style matching, engagement, and impasse in negotiations. *Negotiation and Conflict Management Research*, 7(1), 1-16.
- Ireland, M. E., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2010). Language style matching in writing: Synchrony in essays, correspondence, and poetry. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 99(3), 549.
- Ireland, M. E., Slatcher, R. B., Eastwick, P. W., Scissors, L. E., Finkel, E. J., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2011). Language Style Matching Predicts Relationship Initiation and Stability. *Psychological Science*, 22(1), 39-44.
- Isboli, G. H. P., Pépece, O. M. C., & Gaiotto, S. A. V. (2017). Films as object of studies for research in applied social sciences. *Revista Reuna*, 22(3), 60-73.
- Levelt, W. J. (2013). *A history of psycholinguistics: The pre-Chomskyan era*. England: Oxford University Press.
- Lindberg, R., McDonough, K., & Trofimovich, P. (2021). Investigating verbal and nonverbal indicators of physiological response during second language interaction. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 42(6), 1403-1425.
- Liu, A. X., Xie, Y., & Zhang, J. (2019). It is not just what you say, but how you say it: The effect of language style matching on perceived quality of consumer reviews. *Journal of Interactive Marketing*, 46, 70-86.
- Ludwig, S., De Ruyter, K., Friedman, M., Brüggem, E. C., Wetzels, M., & Pfann, G. (2013). More than words: The influence of affective content and linguistic style matches in online reviews on conversion rates. *Journal of Marketing*, pp. 87-103
- Mandal, F. B. (2014). Nonverbal communication in humans. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 24(4), 417-421.
- Mayo, C., & Henley, N. M. (Eds.). (2012). *Gender and nonverbal behavior*. Springer Science & Business Media.
- McLeod, S. (2019). *Freud's 5 Stages of Psychosexual Development*. Simply Psychology, Retrieved 2019, from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/>.
- Meinecke, A. L., & Kauffeld, S. (2019). Engaging the hearts and minds of followers: leader empathy and language style matching during appraisal interviews. *Journal of Business and Psychology*, 34(4), 485-501.
- Naibaho, L. (2021). *Psycholinguistics in language learning*. Jakarta: Universitas Kristen Indonesia.
- Niederhoffer, K. G., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2002). Linguistic style matching in social interaction. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 21(4), 337-360.
- Pope, M. C. (2014). *Literature and multimedia through the latter half of the twentieth and early twenty-first century in new literary hybrids in the age of multimedia expression: Crossing borders, crossing genres*. Amsterdam Philadelphia: John Benjamin Publishing Company.

- Rasmussen, H. F., Borelli, J. L., Smiley, P. A., Cohen, C., Cheung, R. C. M., Fox, S., & Blackard, B. (2017). *Mother-child language style matching predicts children's and mothers' emotion reactivity*. Behavioural Brain Research.
- Richardson, B. H., Taylor, P. J., Snook, B., Conchie, S. M., & Bennell, C. (2014). Language style matching and police interrogation outcomes. *Law and Human Behavior*, 38(4), 357.
- Shockley, K., Richardson, D. C., & Dale, R. (2009). *Conversation and coordinative structures* (pp. 305-3019). Topics in Cognitive Science.
- Singer, M. (2013). *Psychology of language (PLE: Psycholinguistics): An introduction to sentence and discourse processes*. London: Psychology Press.
- Van Baaren, R., Janssen, L., Chartrand, T. L., & Dijksterhuis, A. (2009). *Where is the Love? The Social Aspects of Mimicry*. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.