

REGISTER VARIATION IN THE YOUTUBE COMMENT SECTION OF LORNA SHORE'S "*UNBREAKABLE*": A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF THE DEATHCORE FAN COMMUNITY

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Abstract

Language has become an important part of how online communities interact and express their identities. In music communities, especially among deathcore fans, certain words and expressions are often used repeatedly and understood only by people who share the same interests. This phenomenon can be observed in the YouTube comment section of Lorna Shore's *Unbreakable*, where fans actively discuss the song using distinctive linguistic expressions. This study aims to identify the register variations found in the comments and explain their meanings and communicative functions within the deathcore fan community. A descriptive qualitative method was employed in this study. The data consisted of 89 comments selected from the official *Unbreakable* music video on YouTube using purposive sampling. The comments were collected through documentation techniques and analyzed using Miles and Huberman's interactive model. The findings show that the registers used by the fans can be grouped into five categories: Musical Register, Performance Register, Evaluative Register, Emotional Register, and Community Register. These registers not only help fans communicate more effectively but also reflect shared experiences, musical knowledge, and a sense of belonging within the community. The study highlights that language variation in online music communities is closely connected to social interaction and group identity.

Kata Kunci : register variation, sociolinguistics, YouTube comments, deathcore community, Lorna Shore

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction: The development of digital technology has transformed the way people communicate in their daily lives. Today, interactions are no longer limited to face-to-face conversations, as people can easily express their opinions through various online platforms. Among these platforms, YouTube has become one of the most popular spaces where people not only watch videos but also actively participate in

discussions through the comments section. For many users, the comments section is more than just a place to express their opinions. It has also become a social space where people with similar interests meet, exchange ideas, react to content, and build a sense of community through language. One particularly interesting example can be found in the comments section of the music video for "*Unbreakable*" by American deathcore metal band Lorna Shore. As one of the most well-known deathcore bands today, Lorna Shore has attracted listeners from various countries and cultural backgrounds. Although these listeners come from diverse places, they often use similar expressions when discussing the band's music. Words and phrases like *breakdown*, *blegh*, *peak metal*, *insane vocals*, *goosebumps*, *filthy*, and *fire* appear repeatedly throughout the comments. At first glance, these expressions may seem like ordinary internet slang. However, within the deathcore metal community itself, these expressions have meanings that are widely understood by its members and reflect shared experiences as fellow fans of the genre.

The researchers chose the song "*Unbreakable*" as the object of this study because its official music video on Lorna Shore's YouTube channel generated a large number of public comments containing recurring linguistic expressions used by many members of the deathcore music fan community. These naturally occurring interactions provided rich sociolinguistic data for examining register variation in online environments.

This phenomenon also ultimately demonstrates that language is closely related to social groups. People belonging to the same community often develop their own ways of speaking to communicate more effectively with one another. The words they choose are influenced not only by the topic being discussed but also by the values, experiences, and culture shared within the community. As a result, certain expressions become common among members of a community while remaining unfamiliar to those outside the group. In sociolinguistics, this type of language variation is known as register, which refers to the use of language associated with a particular social context, activity, or community.

Research on register has been conducted in a variety of contexts, such as workplaces, educational settings, online gaming communities, television programs, and social media platforms. These studies generally indicate that different communities tend to develop distinctive vocabularies that reflect their communication needs and social identities. However, studies specifically focusing on the registers used by deathcore fans in online music communities are relatively limited. Most previous research has concentrated on slang, code-switching, stylistic styles, or identity construction, while the registers used in discussions surrounding extreme music genres have received far less attention. This suggests there is still room for further research in this area.

The YouTube comments section for the song "*Unbreakable*" provides a compelling source of data, containing spontaneous interactions generated by fans from around the world. Unlike interviews or questionnaires, these comments are written naturally without any researcher influence. They reflect how members of the deathcore community actually communicate, expressing admiration, evaluating musical elements, and responding emotionally to the song. More importantly, the repeated use of certain expressions suggests that community members have a common linguistic repertoire that serves as part of their community interactions.

Based on this phenomenon, this study aims to identify register variations found in the YouTube comments section of Lorna Shore's music video "*Unbreakable*", and to explain the meaning and communicative function of these register expressions within the deathcore

music fan community. It is hoped that the findings of this study will contribute to sociolinguistic studies on language variation in digital communities while providing a better understanding of how online music fandoms develop their own communication patterns through language.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Method: This study employed a descriptive qualitative research method. A qualitative approach was chosen because the research focuses on understanding the meanings and functions of register used by members of the deathcore fan community in their natural interactions on YouTube. Rather than measuring numerical data, this study aims to describe and interpret language variation found in the comment section of Lorna Shore’s music video “*Unbreakable*”. Through this approach, the researcher was able to identify register expressions and explain how they function within the community from a sociolinguistic perspective.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data analyzed in this study was collected from the YouTube comments section of the song “*Unbreakable*” by the band Lorna Shore. From the available comments, the researcher selected 89 comments deemed relevant to the research objectives. The selected comments contained words, expressions, or phrases commonly used by members of the deathcore fan community. These comments were chosen because they naturally represent how fans communicate, express their opinions, and interact with each other online.

After examining the data, it was found that the comments contained a variety of registers that reflect the linguistic characteristics of the deathcore community. Although each user expressed different opinions and emotions, many of them used similar terms that were widely recognized within the community. This suggests that fans share a shared linguistic repertoire that helps them communicate more effectively with other members who share similar musical backgrounds and experiences.

To clarify the analysis, the identified registers are grouped into five categories based on their communicative function and meaning. These categories are Musical Register, Performance Register, Evaluative Register, Emotional Register, and Community Register. This classification helps explain how different types of registers are used by fans when discussing music, performances, emotional experiences, and their sense of belonging to the deathcore community.

The overall findings are summarized in Table 1.

Tablel 1.

No.	Register Category	Examples
1	Musical Register	Breakdown, riff, vocals, blegh

2	Performance Register	Pit, live, drummer, stage
3	Evaluative Register	Peak, metal, masterpiece, insane
4	Emotional Register	Goosebumps, chills, can't stop listening
	Community Register	We, use, deathcore, fans

The following discussion explains each category in more detail by describing its meaning, function, and use in interactions between members of the deathcore music fan community.

CONCLUSION

1. Conclusion

This study aimed to identify the variety of registers used by members of the deathcore fan community in the YouTube comments section of Lorna Shore's song "*Unbreakable*". Based on the analysis, the researchers found that the comments contained a variety of registers closely related to fans' musical knowledge, emotional expression, performance discussions, evaluations, and sense of community.

The findings indicate that registers are used not only as a means of communication but also as markers of group identity. Terms such as breakdown, pit, riff, goosebumps, and peak metal have meanings readily understood by community members, while potentially confusing to outsiders. This suggests that language reflects the shared experiences and background knowledge of the deathcore fan community.

Overall, this study supports the sociolinguistic view that language varies according to its users and social context. The registers found in YouTube comment sections demonstrate how online communities develop their own linguistic characteristics to strengthen interactions, express appreciation for music, and reinforce their collective identity..

2. Implication

The findings of this study contribute to sociolinguistic research by demonstrating that register variation is not limited to professional work or formal communities but also develops naturally within online fan communities. The language used by deathcore music fans reflects shared knowledge, values, and experiences that distinguish them from other online communities.

This study also demonstrates that social media platforms like YouTube provide valuable linguistic data for examining how language evolves in digital communication. Therefore,

Online comment sections can serve as a valuable resource for future sociolinguistic studies, particularly those focusing on language variation, identity, and online interactions.

Furthermore, this research can help readers better understand that many expressions used in music communities are not simply slang, but function as registers that carry specific meanings within specific social groups..

3. Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, future researchers are encouraged to examine register variation in other music communities, such as metalcore, hardcore punk, black metal, hip-hop, or K-pop fandoms, to compare how different music communities construct their own sociolinguistic characteristics.

Future studies could also investigate registers on various social media platforms, including Reddit, Discord, Instagram, TikTok, and X (formerly Twitter), where interaction patterns and language use may differ from those found on YouTube.

Finally, future researchers are encouraged to combine register analysis with other sociolinguistic approaches, such as identity construction, discourse analysis, or communities of practice, to gain a broader understanding of language use in digital communities..

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