

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Language Variation

Language is not homogeneous or uniform; rather, it exhibits diverse variations. Language variation can be influenced by geographic, social, cultural, and historical factors. Language variation was pioneered by William Labov in the late of 1960s, related to the fact that languages have various resources to produce certain linguistic expression. These changes can consist of several social factors, such as class, gender, and age. The main concept in Labov's theory is that language is not monotonous, but depends on social, geographical, and demographic contexts. Language change can also occur through social networks, with younger generations promoting changes that are not merely spreading from one community to another.

To support the Labov's theory about language variation, Holmes (2013) also emphasizes that language variation is closely related to the social and cultural identities of its speakers from different backgrounds and social contexts. Hudson (1996) states that language is not a homogeneous system, but rather a phenomenon continuously influenced by its speakers and the social environment in which it is used. Therefore, even though the language is the same, speakers can use different forms of language. And similar to Wardhaugh (2006), this language variation is an inherent characteristic of language itself. Language variation can occur at various linguistic levels, such as phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon. However, in this study, the primary focus is on lexicon variation, namely differences in vocabulary used to express the same meaning or concept. Furthermore, language variation is not considered a linguistic error, but rather a natural phenomenon resulting from language use in social life.

In English, language variation can also occur, especially in Standard British English and General American English. Differences between British and American English can be seen in vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation. However, this study focuses more on the differences between British and American English Vocabulary used to express the same meanings, activities, emotions, and concepts. The analysis

is conducted through dialogue in the *Love at First Sight (2023) Movie Script*, which presents characters with British and American linguistic backgrounds in the same interaction context. This allows for a direct comparison between the two language varieties. Therefore, these differences are an important study in sociolinguistics because they reflect the identity, background, and speech community of their speakers.

2.1.1 The Concept of Labov's Language Variation Theory

In the context of vocabulary, Labov explains that language variation is closely related to speech communities, namely groups of speakers who share the same linguistic norms. Standard British English and General American English can be seen as two speech communities with different vocabulary norms, even though both fall into the category of standard varieties. Labov states that:

“The social stratification of language reflects the social stratification of the speech community.” (Labov, 1972:113)

The Labov's statement above demonstrates that the vocabulary differences between British and American English reflect the linguistic and cultural identities of their speakers. Labov also emphasizes that the use of certain language forms is influenced by social and situational contexts. For example, in the *Love at First Sight 2023* movie script, this language variation is evident in the differences in vocabulary used in the categories of daily activities, spelling, and slang.

2.1.2 Factors Causing Language Variation

As mentioned earlier, language variation is caused by various factors, so that these changes or variations do not occur randomly. Related factors can be geographical, social, cultural, and historical.

a) Geographical Factors

Geographical factors influence language use based on specific regions or locations. According to Holmes (2013), when groups of speakers are separated by geographical distance, the languages they use tend to develop differently over time. This can be clearly seen in the development of British English and American English. Although both

varieties originate from the same language, the geographical separation between the United Kingdom and the United States has resulted in differences in vocabulary.

b) Social Factors

Supported by Wardhaugh (2006), language use is influenced by social variables such as social class, age, gender, educational background, profession, and social identity. Speakers tend to choose certain forms of language to fit in with certain social groups or to express social relationships. In the context of dialogue in movie scripts, vocabulary choices often reflect the social roles and relationships between characters. The use of vocabulary in Standard British English and General American English can represent the social identity and cultural background of characters in films.

c) Cultural Factors

In language variation, culture certainly has a significant influence on language use, especially vocabulary formation. This is also confirmed by Holmes (2013) who states that language is a reflection of the values, customs, and cultural experiences of its speakers. Therefore, cultural differences can result in differences in vocabulary even though the meanings are the same.

The culture referred to can be in various aspects. For example, British and American cultures have different systems in education, transportation, and daily lifestyles. These differences in systems can be reflected in the vocabulary used, thereby enriching the lexical variety in English.

d) Historical Factors

In linguistic variation, history also plays an important role in language change. Hudson (1996) states that language evolves along with historical events, including migration, colonization, and language contact. Thus, these historical influences have led to the emergence and persistence of a number of words in American English that differ from British English.

Quoting from the book *Metodologi Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris oleh Dr. Ahmad Izzan, M.Ag* (humaniora:10) the historical development of the English language can be divided into three periods. The first period began with Old English and lasted until England was conquered by the Normans from France in 1066. The second period, Middle English, began in 1066 and lasted until 1500. The third period is Modern English, from 1500 to the present (Kumparan, 2022). In this modern English category, the British Empire influenced American immigrants, leading the United States to spread the language throughout the world. This also caused it to absorb vocabulary from various other languages, becoming a global and international language.

2.1.3 Relevance of Language Variation

Understanding the concept of language variation is very important in this study because it forms the theoretical basis for analysing the vocabulary differences between British English and American English in the film *Love at First Sight (2023)* movie script. The vocabulary differences found in the film's dialogue are not coincidental, but are influenced by geographical, social, cultural, and historical factors.

By applying the concept of language variation, this study confirms that vocabulary differences between British English and American English are a natural and systematic linguistic phenomenon. In addition, this concept also helps to connect the use of language in film dialogue with the social and cultural backgrounds of the characters.

2.2 Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. It is concerned with how language use interacts with, or is influenced by, social factors such as gender, ethnicity, age, or social class. (Sheffield, 2025) defines sociolinguistic is the study of choice, and "the primary task of sociolinguistics is to uncover, describe, and interpret the socially motivated choices" made by individuals.

In the context of vocabulary, sociolinguistics plays a crucial role in explaining why language varieties originating from the same system can develop differently. William Labov, a leading figure in sociolinguistics, asserts that language variation cannot be separated from the social structure of the community in which it is spoken. His theory also got supported by Wardhaugh (2006) that states:

“Sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal of a better understanding of the structure of language and how languages function in communication.” (Wardhaugh, 2006:13)

The statement above confirms that a sociolinguistic approach can also be used to understand the differences between Standard British English and General American English as a result of the functions of language in different societies. These differences are not only linguistic but also reflect the cultural norms and communication habits of each community of speakers. In addition to social factors, the context of language use is also a primary concern in sociolinguistics. Labov emphasizes that speakers can adapt the language forms they use depending on the situation and social relationships with their interlocutors.

2.2.1 The Concept of Sociolinguistic

In general, sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that examines the relationship between language and society. Sociolinguistics focuses on how language is used in social contexts and the social factors that influence language variation. According to Wardhaugh (2006), sociolinguistics seeks to understand *“who speaks what language to whom and when,”* emphasizing that language cannot be separated from its speakers and the social situations in which it is used.

Furthermore, Holmes (2013) added that language functions not only as a means of communication but also as a marker of social identity. Therefore, differences in language use, including differences in vocabulary, reflect the social, cultural, and speech community backgrounds of the speakers.

2.2.2 Relevance of Labov’s Sociolinguistic Theory

William Labov's sociolinguistic theory is highly relevant to this study because it provides a theoretical basis for understanding the vocabulary differences

between British English and American English as a social phenomenon. The dialogue in the *Love at First Sight (2023)* movie script represents the use of language in a specific social context, so it can be analyzed using a sociolinguistic approach.

Using Labov's theory, this study views differences in vocabulary in film dialogues not as individual or coincidental differences, but as reflections of the different social and cultural backgrounds of the speakers. Therefore, sociolinguistics becomes the main framework for analysing the lexical variations found in the film script.

2.3 Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a crucial component of language, serving as the foundation of communication. Without vocabulary, one cannot convey meaning effectively, and comprehension of English texts is diminished. In linguistic studies, vocabulary is considered the fundamental unit of language because words are the primary means of expressing ideas, actions, feelings, and social relationships. Without vocabulary mastery, effective communication cannot occur, even if the speaker understands grammatical rules. According to Hatch and Brown (1995) vocabulary is defined as follows:

“Vocabulary refers to the words that language users understand and use in communication.” (Hatch & Brown, 1995:1)

This definition emphasizes that vocabulary encompasses not only a passive list of words but also the active use of words in real-life communication contexts. Then, in relation to this research, vocabulary will be understood as all lexical forms used by the characters in the script of the film *Love at First Sight (2023)*. This vocabulary serves as the primary unit of analysis for comparing language use between Standard British English and General American English.

2.3.1 Types of Vocabulary

Vocabulary can be classified based on its function and role in a sentence. One common classification used in linguistic studies is the division of vocabulary into content words and function words.

1) Vocabulary as a Content Words

Content words are open-class, meaning they allow for the addition of new vocabulary as language and culture evolve. Content words serve as the words that convey the primary meaning in a statement. Content words include:

a. Nouns

Noun is a class of word which used to people, things, places, and even the idea or another concept. The main function of noun can be a subject, object, and complement. The examples of noun are book, pen, Oliver, airplane, airport, trousers, justice, truth.

b. Verb

Verb is the core of every sentence, because it explains what the subject does or what the condition of the subject is. (Husnunnisa, 2025b) added the verb is used to describe actions or states, directly or indirectly, visibly or unseen. Simply put, a verb is an action word used to describe something the subject does.

Verbs consist of **action verbs**, which describe specific actions/activities, such as: "give," "speak," "buy," etc. There are also auxiliary verbs used to support other verbs or these **auxiliary verbs** cannot stand alone. For example, "to be" verbs include "is/am/are/was/were" or "do/does/did," and "modal verbs" such as "can, may, could, might, should, shall."

c. Adjective

The adjective is a word that is used to explain or provide further information about a noun or pronoun. Previously, adjectives were only studied in general terms, such as *beautiful, handsome, tall, short, etc.* However, these examples of adjectives can be adapted to various types (Swawikanti, 2025), as follows:

a) Absolute Adjective

Absolute adjectives are adjectives that cannot be compared because they show maximum or absolute properties.

Example:

Jake is **dead**.

b) Attributive and Predicative Adjectives

Attributive adjectives are adjectives placed before nouns. Meanwhile, predicative adjectives are adjectives that appear after linking verbs such as "is," "be," "seem," and "look."

Example:

She made a **big** mistake.

It seems **simple**.

c) Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

This adjective is used to compare two or more things.

1) Comparative Adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare two things. They are usually added with -er (for one syllable) or with "more" (for more than one syllable).

Example:

“You are **faster** than him.” (fast + -er).

“She is **more intelligent** than me.” (more + intelligent).

2) Superlative Adjectives

Superlative adjectives are used to express the greatest or highest degree of comparison. They are usually added with the suffix -est (for one syllable) or preceded by the word "most" (for more than one syllable).

Example:

“You are the **fastest** guy in this class.” (fast + -est).

“She is the **most intelligent** of all.” (most + intelligent).

d. Adverb

Adverb is a word that provides additional information in a sentence. (Husnunnisa, 2025) added adverbs provide a clearer and more

detailed description of a verb, adjective, or other adverb. Some adverbs can also modify phrases, clauses, or even entire sentences.

a) Adverb of Time

Adverb of Time is a time information used to describe when or how long an action takes place. In English, this time information usually answers the questions "when" and "how long" (duration).

Example:

She found my bag **yesterday**.

From **Monday to Thursday**, he attended private training.

b) Adverb of Manner

This adverb has a function to tell someone how something can happen, or answer the question how. Adverbs of manner usually have the ending -ly.

Example:

Randy paints your face **badly**.

c) Adverb of Place

This adverb is just as popular as the adverb of time. As we know, an adverb of place is an adverb used to describe where an event occurs.

Example:

We can stop **here** for lunch.

2) Vocabulary as a Function Word

Meanwhile, function words are words that function grammatically, such as prepositions, conjunctions, and pronouns. Yule (2020) explains that function words are words that have little lexical meaning but serve to express grammatical relationships with other words in a sentence. Then, function words act as structural structural elements in language, enabling sentences to be grammatically structured and easily understood. Function word includes:

a. Prepositions

Prepositions are used to show the relationship between nouns or pronouns and other elements in a sentence, especially relationships of place, time, and direction.

Example: She is waiting **at** the airport.

b. Conjunctions

Conjunctions function to connect words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. Types of conjunctions include:

Coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or)

Subordinating conjunctions (because, although, while)

Example: She wanted to stay, **but** she had to leave

c. Pronouns

Pronouns replace nouns to avoid repetition and maintain discourse cohesion. Types of pronouns: Personal pronouns (I, you, they)

Possessive pronouns (my, their) Demonstrative pronouns (this, that).

Example: I missed **my** cousins.

2.3.2 The Role of Vocabulary in Communication

Vocabulary plays a crucial role in the communication process because word choice determines the clarity, accuracy, and nuance of a message's meaning. Differences in vocabulary choice can lead to differing interpretations, especially in different social and cultural contexts. Besides serving as a means of conveying meaning, vocabulary also serves as a marker of the speaker's social and cultural identity. Wardhaugh (2006) explains that vocabulary choice can indicate the speaker's social, regional, and cultural background. Wardhaugh states:

“Vocabulary choice is a powerful indicator of social and regional identity.”
(Wardhaugh, 2006:38)

Therefore, the choice of the right vocabulary can indicate the social, regional, and cultural background from which a speaker comes. This statement is also supported by (Abadi, 2023) who states that a strong vocabulary allows you to train your thoughts confidently and persuasively. Similarly, in personal relationships, a broad

vocabulary enriches conversations, fosters deeper connections, and enables us to express our feelings more accurately.

Furthermore, in the context of *Love at First Sight (2023) Movie Script*, the use of vocabulary plays an important role in strengthening the way characters communicate, especially the main characters. There are two main characters that can be analysed, namely Oliver from England and Hadley from America. Thus, the vocabulary used by both character is slightly different and can give the audience an idea of each character's social background. In this study, vocabulary not only functions as a means of communication but also as a marker of the speaker's social and cultural identity, as well as allowing for a comparative analysis between Standard British English (Oliver) and General American English (Hadley).

Based on the explanation about vocabulary as the basic unit of language, it can be concluded that differences in vocabulary can occur among speakers, especially from different socio-cultural backgrounds. Differences in the use of vocabulary among speakers are normal in language use. For example, the use of British vocabulary for Oliver and American vocabulary for Hadley. To understand the reasons for vocabulary differences between Standard British English and General American English, a broader theoretical framework is needed, namely the concepts of language variation, sociolinguistics, and lexical variation, which will be discussed in the next subtopic.

2.4 British and American English as a Language Variety

2.4.1 Standard British English

Standard British English (BrE) is a variety of English commonly used in formal contexts in the United Kingdom, such as education, mass media, government, and official publications. The term Standard British English usually refers to the variety of English commonly used in professional communication in the United Kingdom. Although no formal body has ever regulated the use of English in the United Kingdom, a fairly rigid Standard British English has been taught in British schools since the 18th century (Nordquist, 2018). Trudgill (2000) states this

variety is often associated with linguistic norms and has become the standard in British media and literature, often linked to Received Pronunciation (RP).

“Standard British English is not a dialect in the usual sense, but a variety which is not tied to any particular region.” (Trudgill, 2000:7)

The above quote from Trudgill (2000:7) emphasizes that it is not a particular regional dialect, but rather a standardized and widely accepted form of language. British English has a number of distinctive vocabulary words that reflect the culture and social system of British society, such as *flat, lift, centre, lorry or petrol*. This vocabulary is the main distinguishing feature between British English and other varieties of English, including American English.

2.4.2 General American English

General American English refers more specifically to the English language commonly used in the United States, particularly in the context of national media, education, and formal communication, and across geographical regions and social classes, and is generally understood by English speakers around the world. The term General American was coined by English professor George Philip Krapp in his book *The English Language in America (1925)*. In first edition, *History of the English Language (1935)*, Albert C. Baugh adopted the term General American, referring to it as the dialect of the central and western states.

This variety is widely used in the national media, education, and film, so it has a wide range of uses. According to Algeo (2006:6), American English is not a deviant form of English, but rather a variety that has developed independently.

“American English is not a deviation from British English, but a variety that has developed its own norms.” (Algeo, 2006:6)

Based on Algeo's statement that American English developed as a result of geographical and social separation between Britain and America, as well as American historical and cultural influences. In terms of vocabulary, American English exhibits certain characteristics, such as the use of words like apartment, truck, and gasoline, which differ from their British English equivalents.

2.4.3 Differences between British English and American English as Language Varieties

British English and American English are two main varieties of the English language that developed from the same linguistic roots, but underwent different developmental processes due to geographical separation and differing socio-cultural contexts. English was brought to North America by English speakers in the 17th century, and since then the language has developed relatively independently from the English used in the United Kingdom. This separate development process led to the emergence of systematic linguistic differences between British English and American English

The difference between these two varieties is not only visible in one linguistic aspect, but encompasses various levels of language. Not all aspects will be analysed, but only aspects such as vocabulary, spelling, and slang. Crystal (2003) emphasizes that the differences between British English and American English are not obstacles to communication, but rather a reflection of the richness of English as a global language. These variations, in fact, demonstrate English's ability to adapt to different social and cultural environments.

Although this study specifically focuses on vocabulary differences, understanding other linguistic aspects is still necessary as a theoretical foundation. This is important to show that vocabulary differences do not exist in isolation, but are part of a broader system of language variation. In general, the differences between British English and American English can be classified into three categories that will be discussed, namely vocabulary, spelling, and slang differences.

1) Differences in Vocabulary

Vocabulary differences are the most prominent feature in the comparison between British English and American English. These two varieties often use different words to refer to the same objects, activities, or concepts. These differences arise as a result of separate language development, as well as the influence of different social and cultural environments in England and the United States. The differences such as:

“mobile phone” (BrE) and “cell phone” (AmE); “trainers” (BrE) and “sneakers” (AmE); etc. Crystal (2003) states that these vocabulary differences develop systematically and have a clear historical background.

In the context of a *Love at First Sight (2023) Movie Script*, the choice of vocabulary not only serves as a means of communication but also as a linguistic strategy to build character, cultural background, and the linguistic identity of the characters. Katie Lovejoy, as the scriptwriter, consistently uses British English vocabulary for the character Oliver and American English vocabulary for the character Hadley. This consistency shows that vocabulary variation is used to emphasize each character's linguistic background to the audience. Furthermore, this function becomes increasingly important because dialogue conveys the character's identity quickly and clearly.

Thus, from the choice of vocabulary written by Katie Lovejoy, it can be seen that these differences in vocabulary serve as evidence that language varieties play an important role in building character identity and authentically representing language variation in film media. Moreover, it not only functions as a linguistic element, as the dialogue reflects real language use in everyday life. It not only serves as a linguistic element but also as a narrative device that strengthens characterization and the realism of the story.

2) Differences in Spelling

Besides vocabulary, spelling differences are also an important feature that distinguishes British English from American English. These differences are largely influenced by historical factors, particularly the spelling reform carried out by Noah Webster in the United States in the early 19th century. The reform aimed to simplify English spelling and to distinguish America's linguistic identity from that of England. As a result of this reform, spelling differences emerged such as *colour (BrE) and color (AmE)*, *favourite (BrE) and favorite (AmE)*, etc. Crystal (2003) emphasizes that these spelling differences are systematic and based on a long historical process, so they should not be considered language mistakes.

In the context of the *Love at First Sight* movie script, spelling plays an important role because it not only conveys meaning but also visually reflects the linguistic background and identity of the characters. Katie Lovejoy, the script-writer, consistently uses different spellings in the movie script, because it indicates that spelling variations serve as markers of the characters' linguistic identity. Although these spelling differences do not affect oral comprehension of meaning, in the written script, they serve an important representative function. Spelling becomes one way to emphasize the language varieties used by the characters and maintain the authenticity of the cultural backdrop in the story. As Crystal (2003) asserts:

“Spelling differences between British and American English are systematic and historically motivated.” (Crystal, 2003:304)

From the quote above, Crystal also emphasizes that spelling variations do not hinder communication but rather reflect the richness and diversity of the English language.

Thus, the difference in spelling between British English and American English in *Love at First Sight (2023) Movie Script* is not coincidental but rather a linguistic strategy. It was deliberately written by Katie Lovejoy, the script-writer, to strengthen characterization and realistically represent language variation. This spelling difference serves as evidence that language variation in written media has interrelated linguistic and narrative functions, and it also shows that spelling variations are used as markers of the characters' linguistic identities.

3) Differences in Slang

Slang is a form of informal language that is often used in everyday conversation, especially by certain social groups. In contrast to standard vocabulary, slang is more free, creative, and contextual. Its meaning can change over time, and some forms of slang can even become accepted as part of standard language as their use becomes more widespread. According to Yule (2010), slang is a form of language variation that reflects social identity and group membership. British English and American English have different slang even though they are used to express the same meaning.

These slang differences reflect variations in popular culture, lifestyle, and social values of the speakers.

(Pawar, 2023) states that British slang is more influenced by historical references. British slang is also often based on class-based variations. Meanwhile, American slang arises from an amalgamation of ethnic and cultural minorities. The uniqueness of American history stems from a constant blend of ethnic and social minorities, which makes it difficult to trace the exact origin of this slang. This cultural diversity, pop culture and regional variations contribute heavily to the evolution of American slang. Additionally, it tends to be more informal and direct.

In the context of the *Love at First Sight (2023)* Movie Script, the difference in slang between British English and American English is used consistently to distinguish the characters Oliver (British) and Hadley (American). For example, this is seen in the use of the terms *geek (BrE)* and *nerd (AmE)* to refer to someone who is very interested in academic or technological fields. Katie Lovejoy, the scriptwriter, deliberately wrote this to help the audience implicitly recognize the characters' linguistic backgrounds through the language style used, without needing further explanation, and to strengthen the naturalness of interactions between characters, especially in relaxed and personal conversations.

Thus, the differences in slang between British and American English in *Love at First Sight (Movie script)* are used consciously and systematically by Katie Lovejoy, as the scriptwriter. Slang variations can be one indicator, besides vocabulary and spelling, in these two language varieties. These slang differences also reflect the social and cultural differences of their speakers and reinforce the status of British English and American English as language varieties, some of which are also informal in the context of everyday communication.

2.4.4 Relevance British English and American English as a Language Variety

In the context of academics and education, understanding British English and American English helps English learners recognize differences in vocabulary,

spelling, and language style used in various written and spoken sources. This is important to prevent misunderstandings in the learning and communication process. According to Crystal (2003), the existence of various English varieties does not weaken the function of English as an international language; rather, it enriches its use. Therefore, no single variety can be considered more correct or superior to others.

In the context of the *Love at First Sight* movie script, the relevance of British English and American English is also clearly evident. The use of these two language varieties serves as a tool to build characters and cultural backgrounds authentically. Katie Lovejoy, the scriptwriter, consistently uses vocabulary, spelling, and slang that suit the linguistic background of each character, making the dialogue feel more realistic and convincing. Studying these two varieties is important for understanding how language is used in real communication contexts, including in audiovisual works such as films. Thus, this contributes to enriching the understanding of the role of British English and American English as living and dynamic language varieties.

By understanding the relevance of British English and American English as language varieties, it can be concluded that the differences between them are not merely variations in form, but also reflect the social, cultural, and historical identities of their speakers. One of the most prominent aspects of language variation, which is also the focus of this study, is lexical variation related to the differences in British and American vocabulary. Therefore, the next section will specifically discuss the concept of lexical variation, including its definition, and the categories of differences that can distinguish British English from American English, particularly as represented in the *Love at First Sight (2023) Movie Script*.

2.5 Comparative Theory

Comparative theory in linguistics is generally used to compare words that are related or different words with the same meaning. Comparative theory is used in this study as a basis for comparing two language objects that originate from the

same language system but develop in different social and geographical contexts. The comparative approach aims to systematically identify linguistic similarities and differences based on certain criteria (Crystal, 2008). Therefore, this comparative theory is suitable for supporting research in analyzing vocabulary variations between Standard British English and General American English that appear in the dialogue of the *Love at First Sight (2023) Movie Script*.

2.5.1 The Concept of Comparative Theory

In linguistics, comparative analysis is used as a method to compare equivalent elements of language, such as vocabulary, structure, or meaning between language varieties. This approach is to systematically identify linguistic similarities and differences by placing the compared language elements in a parallel position. According to Kridalaksana (2008:13), this comparative approach has a purpose to find the differences and similarities of languages through the study of language elements. Thus, this analysis allows researchers to understand the distinctive characteristics of each language or language variety being compared.

The comparative analysis in this study focuses on comparing vocabulary. Vocabulary was chosen because it is an aspect of language that is easy to observe in everyday communication and clearly shows the differences between British and American English. Differences in vocabulary reflect the development of language influenced by geographical, social, cultural, and historical factors, making it important to analyse in the context of language variation. By using this approach, the researcher can understand how vocabulary differences are consistently used to indicate the language identity of characters in the *Love at First Sight (2023)* movie script as well as observe the dominant varieties of English used.

2.5.2 Comparative in British and American English Context

British English and American English are two standard varieties of the English language that originate from the same language system, but developed in different social, cultural, and geographical contexts. This separate development has led to the emergence of linguistic variations, particularly in vocabulary, which then became characteristic of each variety. Crystal (2010:304) explains that the differences between British English and American English not only include

phonological and orthographic aspects, but are also clearly seen in the lexical choices used in everyday communication. According to Crystal (2010: 306), the vocabulary differences between British English and American English arise due to long historical processes, including geographical separation, local cultural influences, and different social developments in England and the United States. Therefore, vocabulary continues to evolve, eventually leading to differences. These differences are a natural linguistic phenomenon and not a linguistic error.

In this study, comparative theory is used to compare vocabulary in British English and American English that appear in the *Love at First Sight (2023)* movie script. The movie was chosen because it features two characters from British and American backgrounds, so some dialogues reflect the use of different vocabulary according to their respective language variations. With the help of dialogue analysis in the film, vocabulary differences can be observed contextually, in both formal and informal situations, providing a concrete picture of the use of British English and American English in popular media. Therefore, this comparative theory serves as a theoretical foundation to analyse vocabulary variations in the *Love at First Sight (2023)* movie script, while also reinforcing the understanding that these differences are part of language variation influenced by geographical, social, cultural, and geographic factors.

2.6 Lexical Variation

Lexical variation is the difference in word forms or vocabulary choices (lexicon) used to express the same meaning or concept. In linguistics, lexical variation is one of the clearest indicators of distinguishing language varieties, particularly in English. As David Crystal states:

“One of the most noticeable ways in which varieties of English differ is in their vocabulary.” (Crystal, 2003:303)

Same as Crystal's statement above, differences in vocabulary are a key characteristic of comparative analysis between Standard British English and General American English. Lexical variation arises as a result of historical developments, cultural influences, and the communicative needs of the speaking

communities. Trudgill (2017) argues that the differences in vocabulary between these two varieties are not random but develop systematically within different speech communities.

In the context of *Love at First Sight (2023) Movie Script*, lexical variation is analyzed using a comparative approach, with data drawn from the script's dialogue. This film provides an ideal context because it presents British and American characters interacting in the same communication situation. This allows for direct comparison of vocabulary choices without significant differences in topic or setting. To maintain consistency and analytical clarity, the vocabulary found in the film script is classified into several analytical chosen categories, such as: vocabulary differences in daily activities, spelling, and slang.

a. Vocabulary Differences in Daily Activities

This category refers to the use of different vocabulary for daily activities to express the same concept or meaning in British and American English. These differences can arise due to geographical and cultural differences between the two languages.

In the context of the film *Love at First Sight (2023)*, which highlights cross-cultural interactions between British and American characters, these kinds of vocabulary differences are likely to appear in everyday dialogue, especially when characters talk about where they live, travel, or personal activities.

In addition, historically, figures such as Noah Webster developed dictionaries and introduced new spellings that were more “American” in an effort to create a national language separate from British English. Since then, the differences between Standard British English and General American English began to take shape systematically and are still used today in various sectors such as education, technology, law, and media.

b. Vocabulary Differences in Spelling

This category refers to differences in spelling or writing words in British and American English, but the pronunciation and meaning are

the same. In short, American English spelling is simpler in many words to facilitate writing and communication, while British English spelling still retains the influence of French and Latin spelling.

These spelling differences are the result of different language codifications in the United Kingdom and the United States. In the context of the film *Love at First Sight* (2023), which is predominantly dialogue-based, the script still maintains spelling conventions according to the language variety of the characters. As Crystal (2003) asserts:

“Spelling differences between British and American English are systematic and historically motivated.” (Crystal, 2003:304)

Therefore, understanding these spelling differences can help classify vocabulary more accurately and show that spelling differences are part of systematic and socially meaningful language variation.

c. Vocabulary Differences in Slang

Slang is a form of informal language that is often used in everyday conversation. Wardhaugh (2006) adds that slang serves as a marker of group solidarity and social identity. From a sociolinguistic perspective, Labov (1972) asserts that slang not only functions as a means of communication but also as a symbol of social identity, whereby slang can reflect social membership and group solidarity.

In the context of British English and American English, differences in slang vocabulary reflect the cultural, historical, and social environments of each country. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), in addition to creating more creative and expressive expressions, slang also functions as a symbol of identity and cultural expression. Therefore, despite originating from the same language, different social and historical developments have resulted in distinctive variations in informal expressions.

2.7 Previous Related Studies

In this, the researcher begins by reading and understanding previous research which is related to the research being conducted. Thus, the researcher obtains relevant supporting, complementary and comparative references so that the writing of this research is more adequate. In addition, this is intended to strengthen the arguments of the research we are conducting by using a literature review of existing research.

1. A Comparative Between British English and American English: Vocabulary Analysis (Ari Fajria Novari, Yeni Maryani, Heva Rostiana; 2021)

This journal was created to analyze the comparison between British and American English. Based on this research, there are still many English learners or users who are confused about differentiating the two, especially for those who are still very unfamiliar with English. The researcher used qualitative research with the characteristics of content analysis, and through observation and documentation through the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 9th edition which was published in 2015. The data found by the researcher includes 150 words to be analyzed. From the data, the researcher got the results of the differences between British and American English having three categories, namely differences in Vocabulary, differences in Spelling, and differences in Pronunciation. There were 50 different words in vocabulary, 50 different words in spelling, and 50 different words in pronunciation. In the differences in pronunciation, the researcher found the characteristics of the differences, namely vowels, diphthongs, consonants and stress. So, from the following findings and analysis, it is hoped that learners can see and understand the differences in which varieties of English they will use easily and consistently.

2. Linguistic Variations between American and British English in Daily Communication (Mutiara Sofa; 2025)

This journal was created to identify and analyze the main differences between American English and British English that arise in everyday communication, as well as to examine the implications for understanding and interaction between

speakers from different backgrounds. This research was conducted using descriptive-comparative methods, and data was collected through library research and observation of language use through documentation of examples of speech and authentic texts sourced from the media, informal conversations, and digital platforms. The results show that there are significant variations in vocabulary, such as the use of the words “*apartment*” (AmE) and “*flat*” (BrE), spelling differences such as ‘*color*’ (AmE) and “*colour*” (BrE), and variations in vowel pronunciation that can affect the understanding of messages in oral communication. In addition, differences in grammatical structure and tense usage were also found to be factors that could potentially cause ambiguity for learners and speakers of different dialects. The data findings will be analyzed using content analysis techniques that emphasize the process of identifying, categorizing, and interpreting linguistic differences in both language variations. Based on these findings, this study confirms that increased awareness and adaptability to linguistic variations are essential for effective communication in an international context with minimal misunderstanding. This study contributes to the development of English language learning that is more responsive to the diversity of language use at the global level.

3. British and American English Vocabulary: A Contrastive Study (Sanidya Ashari; 2020)

This journal was created to explain the differences and similarities between British and American English vocabulary. This research was conducted using descriptive-qualitative methods, and data was collected from invitations, gathering and transferring data, classifying data, and providing data characteristics taken from the Oxford and Merriam Webster dictionaries. The results of the study show that there are three types of differences between British and American English vocabulary. First, completely different vocabulary. This means that the vocabularies of British and American English are completely different. Second, slightly different vocabulary, which means that there are slight differences or slightly different words in the first or second words between British and American English. And finally, different spellings. This means that the way words are spelled is different. Then, there are also three types of similarities between British and American English in vocabulary. Based on the findings, this study confirms that increasing awareness

and adaptability to linguistic variations is very important and contributes to the development of English language learning that is more responsive to diversity and similarities in international language use

