

**Lexical Choices and Constructions of Dramatic Style in the Gospel of
Matthew: A Stylistic Analysis of the New English Translation**

ABSTRACT

Ester Rabeka Manu¹

Theresia M. Tamelan²

Dethan E. Ortalisje³

This study aims to identify and explain how lexical choices in the New English Translation (NET) of the Gospel of Matthew contribute to the construction of dramatic style. This research employed a qualitative descriptive method using a stylistic approach. The data consisted of words, phrases, and expressions found in the NET version of the Gospel of Matthew and were analysed using the stylistic theories of Leech and Short, Culpeper, and relevant theories of dramatic style. The findings reveal that lexical choices contribute significantly to the construction of dramatic style through three major dimensions: emotional intensity, authority, and conflict. These lexical choices function as stylistic resources that create readers' emotional engagement, establish power relations among characters, generate tension, and support narrative development throughout the text. The findings further indicate that the dramatic style of the NET version of the Gospel of Matthew is shaped not only by the narrative content itself but also by the strategic use of language that reinforces emotion, authority, and conflict within the narrative.

Key words: *Lexical choices, dramatic style, stylistics, Gospel of Matthew, NET Bible*