

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

This study aimed to investigate how lexical choices in the New English Translation (NET) of the Gospel of Matthew contribute to the construction of dramatic style. Using a qualitative stylistic approach, the study analysed lexical items found throughout the Gospel and examined their contribution to dramatic effects within the narrative. The analysis focused on three major dimensions: emotional intensity, authority, and conflict.

The findings reveal that emotional intensity is an important stylistic resource in the Gospel of Matthew. Lexical choices expressing fear and anxiety, sorrow and distress, joy and amazement, anger and aggression, as well as compassion and reassurance contribute to the emotional engagement of readers. These expressions intensify the narrative by allowing readers to experience the feelings of the characters and become emotionally involved in the events being described. As a result, emotional intensity enhances the dramatic quality of the text by creating empathy, suspense, and emotional contrast.

The study also finds that authority plays a significant role in constructing dramatic style. Lexical choices related to imperative authority, divine authority, instructional authority, judicial authority, reassuring authority, and prophetic authority establish relationships of power, legitimacy, and leadership throughout the narrative. These expressions portray Jesus as a figure possessing exceptional authority and influence. Through commands, teachings, judgments, and prophetic declarations, authority-related lexical choices contribute to characterization, narrative progression, and dramatic tension.

Furthermore, conflict emerges as another major stylistic resource. Lexical choices expressing opposition and hostility, persecution and suffering, betrayal and rejection, violence and destruction, and confrontation and dispute create tension and sustain narrative development. These expressions highlight struggles between characters and intensify readers' engagement with the story. Conflict-related lexical choices therefore function as important linguistic devices that strengthen the dramatic effect of the Gospel.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that lexical choices contribute significantly to the dramatic style of the NET version of the Gospel of Matthew. Emotional intensity creates emotional engagement, authority establishes power relations and narrative direction, while conflict generates tension and dramatic movement. Together, these three dimensions interact to produce a vivid, emotionally engaging, and dramatically effective narrative. Therefore, the dramatic style of the Gospel of Matthew is not only a result of its narrative content but also of the strategic use of lexical choices throughout the text.

Theoretically, this study contributes to stylistic research by demonstrating that dramatic style can be systematically analysed through lexical choices associated with emotional intensity, authority, and conflict. The findings extend previous stylistic studies by showing how these dimensions interact within biblical narrative discourse to create dramatic effects and reader engagement.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the findings of this study, several suggestions are offered for future research and academic application.

First, future researchers may conduct similar studies using other Bible translations, such as the King James Version (KJV), New International Version (NIV), or English Standard Version (ESV), in order to compare how different lexical choices influence dramatic style and reader interpretation.

Second, future studies may expand the scope of analysis by examining other stylistic features, such as syntax, speech presentation, metaphor, or discourse structure. Such studies could provide a broader understanding of how dramatic effects are constructed in biblical narratives.

Third, researchers may apply similar stylistic approaches to other books of the Bible, including the other Gospels, in order to explore similarities and differences in language use and narrative style.

Finally, for students and teachers of English, this study may serve as a useful reference for understanding the relationship between language and literary effect. The findings demonstrate that lexical choices are not merely linguistic elements but important stylistic resources that influence meaning, emotion, characterization, and reader engagement.