

GENTLEMAN'S RESTRICTED CODES AND ELABORATED CODES IN THE "KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE" MOVIE

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Abstract

The present study aims to analyse the content of the Kingsman: The Golden Circle movie (2017). The use of restricted codes and elaborated code by the main character Gary 'Eggsy' Unwin in the movie and how they convey the concept of English gentleman was investigated by applying the descriptive qualitative method. The movie script and the scenes in the movie were the data that were being analysed. Data were collected through observation using a non-participatory technique. The data were analysed using the Barthesian semiotic analysis method. It was found that there were seven types of restricted codes namely secrecy, intimacy, novelty, jocularity, sympathy, expressiveness, and nominative. While the use of elaborated code was found in the forms of verbal and non-verbal communications. The findings in this research showed that the main character employed the restricted codes and the elaborated codes to express proximity and to convey the idea of the new English gentleman of the 21st century.

Keywords: Restricted Codes, Elaborated Codes, Gentleman, Slang Language, Semiotic Analysis

1. INTRODUCTION

We, human beings, use language to communicate our ideas and to relate with others. Only humans can sophisticatedly and systematically produce and evolve the language (Kolodny & Edelman, 2018). In terms of relating with other human beings, the language can be used to signal the speaker's social identity which is the membership of a certain social group. When we meet our 'in-group' partners, we deploy a specific, understandable language with its typical signs. Whereas when we are to speak in a public and formal forum, we will use a rather acceptable, prestigious language (Hardini & Sitohang, 2019). Bernstein (2005) named the former as restricted codes and the latter as elaborated codes.

Our curiosity is about how this duality of the communities' speech system can help us to understand the emergence of new words and concepts in today's societies. Fiorensera and Handayani (2021) stated that most people tend to use a language that is more comfortable connecting with their interlocutors. It means that people will not use formal or elaborated code all the time. Hart and Risley (1995) argue that lower-class people talk less with fewer words while people from the higher class speak more with a wider lexicon range. Johnson, D. C., Johnson, E. J., Hetrick, D., and Johnson, D. C. (2020) based on socioeconomic status and sociolinguistic hierarchy distinguishes the minoritized lower-class

language from the White middle-class language. They pinpointed that there is a language deficit among lower-class youngsters which makes their conversation more predictable compared to a middle-class youngster. While Tairova (2021) exclaimed that people share their emotions using slang language. She highlighted that the hectic modern people's life impels them to use slang language for the sake of brevity and saving time. The slang language or restricted code is already part of our speech. The usage of the two variants of the language is displayed clearly by the main characters in the Kingsman The Golden Circle movie (2017).

Bernstein's theory was born within the context of British speech communities based on social class in the 1960s. Kingsman: The Golden Circle movie has British nuances in many aspects (Schwanebeck, 2018b). With the current British socio-cultural background, the film is an adaptation of the comic series "Secret Service" by two prominent English comic writers Mark Millar and Dave Gibbon. Matthew Vaughn is the English director of the movie and together with Jane Goldman (another British writer) had written the screenplay. It features British actors such as Taron Egerton, Edward Holcroft, Mark Strong, etc. Although the movie is distributed worldwide by Fox and Columbia (American studio companies), it is produced by a British company. The Golden Circle sequel of Kingsman movies portrays a gentleman spy, Eggsy, who wants to stop a murderer, Poppy, to launch her eugenic plan. The main character Eggsy displays his manners as a gentleman in the secret agency business who sometimes shows his being a working-class youth by using British slang as well.

The use of slang, an obvious example of the restricted codes' usage,

has been recently studied Slang language is peculiar to a distinct social group. Slang language use has been widely investigated. Adi and Azmi (2018) stressed the origin of slang due to social factors. They discovered that 18 slang terms used in the *Little Man* movie are mostly express social distance function. Sudiyanti, L. N., I Wayan Suarnajaya, and I Wayan Swandana (2018) found that there are 259 slang words in the *Step-up: All In* movie classified into four types: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, and clipping. While Aristya Dewi, P., Suastra, I. M., and Udayana, I. N. (2018) found in *The Wolf of the Wall Street* movie primary slang words (27 words) and secondary slang words (9 words). The restricted codes' usage in the Kingsman movies has been recently studied. The forms of slang employed in the *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* movie has been identified by Agsa and Ambalegin (2020) in their qualitative research. They categorized their findings of slang expressions into 5 types of slang including abbreviations, shortened forms, interjections, figurative expressions, and nicknames.

Some researchers shed light on the semiotic of 'gentleman' in the Kingsman movies. The revival of the James Bond 'franchise' of gentleman spy is pointed out in's study. They underlined the 'gentlemanliness in the main characters of the first sequel of the Kingsman movie and the Secret Service comic, such as Harry Galahad's "impeccable suit and thick-rimmed glasses" complete with an umbrella. Moreover, Moffat and Bond (2017) quoted a part of the conversation in the comic between Eggsy and Uncle Jack; Uncle Jack asks him: 'Do you want to be a gentleman, Gary? A dashing, urbane ladies, man? The ultimate version of who you are now?' Mark Millar and Dave Gibbons, (2012) pinpointed that being a gentleman can be trained which

involves the rejection of becoming feminine and aspiring to the upper class. Krarup and Sørensen (2020) in their study on *Kingsman: Secret Service* movie, argued that the movie emphasizes the gentlemanliness of the gentleman spy. They further noticed that this *Kingsman* sequel honors a Bond's gentleman spy type, though the hero is a young working-class man. While Bennett (2013) pointed out the emergence of the new term 'chav' in Britain as a group of people with negative behavior and low social class clothing. Eggsy, the main character, was a young *chav* hero who is becoming a member of the British upper-class gentlemen with the elitist lifestyle. Schwanebeck (2018a) highlighted the stance of *Kingsman* movies in the Bond-franchise spy movie. He also pointed out that a break with Bond-type movie tradition with the recruitment of working-class youth (*chavs* in today's UK) into the elite, high-class spy team.

The display of restricted codes and elaborated codes' usage in a movie appears to be less investigated recently. Moreover, the portrayal of a gentleman in the *Kingsman* second sequel movie this are signaled from the usage of restricted codes, and elaborated codes so far have not been researched yet. So, the researcher poses the research questions as follows: What is restricted codes and the elaborated codes employed by the character of Gary "Eggsy" Unwin in *Kingsman Thee Golden Circle* movie? How does the use of the restricted codes and the elaborated codes by Gary "Eggsy" Unwin convey the concept of the 21st-century British gentleman?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Restricted codes and Elaborated codes

Bernstein (2005) first coined the terms restricted codes and elaborated codes due to the grade of syntactic predictability.

Restricted codes refer to the verbal and extra-verbal channeling of ideas among members of a certain social group sharing a common interest, identification, and expectations. It is called 'restricted' because the structure of speech is simplified, the lexicon range is narrowed, and thus it limits the elaboration of intent verbally and explicitly and it became highly predictable. While the elaborated codes' users explore more grammatical resources and somehow organize their speeches respectively. Tairova (2021) underlined the uniqueness of the slang language that its usage is restricted to a certain group of people. People have the chance to reinforce their social identity by using it. Hence, restricted codes presuppose a close social relationship. Further, Tairova (2021) enlisted the functions of restricted codes, primarily slang words, as follows: first, a chance to enjoy secrecy among in-group members; second, to express closeness in an intimate relationship; third, it contains a new construct of terms; fourth, it presents jokes; fifth, it raises sympathy; sixth, It displays expressiveness; seventh, it explicit nominatives. It is because both the speaker and the interlocutor share the same cultural identity and mentality, there's no urgent need to elaborate their intent verbally and explicitly. Many things are taken for granted by the users of restricted codes including closed communities, close friends, and kid peers.

Meanwhile, the speakers of the elaborated codes plan what they want to say and will elaborate their intent so that it can be understood by a broader audience. Thus, the elaborated codes are more universal in nature than the restricted codes. The talk needs to be elaborated because the discrete intent of the speaker is not taken for granted by her or his interlocutors. Ivinson (2018).

An important reminder from Bernstein is that all members of the society regardless of their social class might use the restricted codes and the elaborated codes alternately (Ivinson, 2018). Maton and Muller (2007) stressed that the users of elaborated codes are more specialized than the restricted codes' ones and they apply more mixtures of words in their speech. In other words, the restricted codes imply personal knowledge. The modern societies with a more complex division of labor tend to demand the elaborated codes' mastery. The mastery of the codes is favorably done at school and home. Examples of elaborated codes are instructional language, the language of the law, good manners language, and so on.

2.2 The English gentleman

The image of a gentleman in *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* movie can be well explained using the semiotic approach of Roland Barthes. Barthesian semiotics conceptualised that signs consist of signifiers and the signified. There are two degrees of meaning (Siregar, 2022), which are denotative (most literal meaning) and connotative (secondary, culturally created meaning). In Barthes' perspective, the image in the media content is linked to aesthetics and ideology which can be analysed at the connotative level to account for how an understanding is formed via complex semiotic interactions. Bouzida (2014) then affirms that the Barthesian semiotic is suited for analyzing the media such as advertising, movies, caricature, etc.

The idea of a new English gentleman is conveyed through speech and manners throughout the movie. Berberich (2016) concluded her investigation on the concept of the English gentleman by highlighting that the British culture today still provides space for the concept of a gentleman to

be developed. Terci (2013) affirmed that every man and woman possess the chance to be a gentle person as long as she or he is being instructed and accompanied to acquire sublime characteristics such as good manners, responsibility, respectfulness, moderation, loving-kindness, gratefulness, and so on. He further differentiated the true gentleman and the gentleman of manners, though the two concepts are similar from the point of view of intelligence, morality, and manners. The true gentleman affects the lives of millions of people up to the coming generations because of his impactful way of life or heroic activism.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The present research analysed the content of *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* movie. The action movie is directed by Matthew Vaughn and released on the 20th of September, 2017. The descriptive qualitative method was employed because it accommodated what the researcher had explored. Situmorang & Herman (2021) pointed out that the qualitative method depends on the text and image data. This research is a content analysis study. Krippendorff (2018) stated that content analysis is "a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from texts (or other meaningful matter) to the contexts of their use" (p. 24). The object of the study was the utterances that can be isolated from the movie script and some snapshot images of the movie.

In collecting the data, the observational method with a non-participatory technique was applied. The researcher collected the data following several steps: first, the researcher will obtain the primary data by watching the movie repetitively with the English caption; second, the movie script as the primary data will be downloaded and be

made available for the analysis; third, the researcher snapshot some part of the movie becoming important images data; fourth, the researcher collect and compare the secondary data from the movie critics or other researches; fifth, the author classifies the data, analyzes the data according to the referred theories and make the conclusion.

Here, the Barthesian semiotic analysis is employed. Bouzida (2014) indicated that the second level of meaning of the signified is captured in a myth while the second level of meaning of the signified is captured in connotation. Dianiya (2020) pinpointed that the method of Roland Barthes' semiotics starts with the denotation, describing the object directly identifying the signifier and the signified as the elements of the sign, then it continues with connotation which brings out the meaning of the reality taking into consideration the whole sign system of

the first phase. The third phase, myths deals with the signs that existed before. Founded on the Barthesian semiotic method, the writer will elaborate the data in the stages of denotative, connotative, and mythical.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section elaborates and explains the findings from the content analysis of Kingsman the Golden Circle movie. For the convenience of reading this section is divided into two-part: first, the identification of the restricted codes and elaborated codes in the movie; second, the manner the concept of the English gentleman is being conveyed by the use of restricted codes and elaborated codes.

4.1 The most dominant restricted codes and the elaborated codes employed by Eggsy

Table 1. Restricted Codes uttered by Gary 'Eggsy' Unwin

No.	Function	Data	Quantity
	Secrecy	down, permission to blow, chuffed	3
	Intimacy	Babe, Bruv, Aw, buddy, bloody hell, fuck, baby, what the fuck	21
	Novelty	a brain fart	1
	Jocularly	fucking, fucking hell	3
	Sympathy	for fuck sake, bullshit, look like a dick	4
	Expressiveness	fuck, shit, bullshit, fucking, fuck off, dickhead, bollocks	20
	Nominative	fuckers, lightweight, A Jack, and Coke, saving someone arses	5

Gary 'Eggsy' Unwin in the Kingsman: The Golden Circle movie employed the following restricted codes and elaborated codes:

Data 1:

Restricted Code: "*Permission to blow* these *fuckers* away." (00:05:52)

The expression "*permission to blow*" is a restricted code usually employed in the military operation

context. Eggsy applied this expression as it is well understood by his superior as the request to shoot the enemy in an operation. Eggsy, here, uttered a kind of secret language belonging to his in-group (the Kingsman secret service).

The word "fuckers" derived from the term "fuck" means an act of having sex, generally employed to exclaim unpleasantness. The restricted code

“fuck” is an interjection form used for displaying annoyance. Here, Eggsy applied the term to address the annoying enemy. The word is to convey the expressiveness, because either it is surprising or a very serious thing. Here, the employed utterance denotes a very serious thing or situation.

Data 2:

Restricted Code: “*Babe*.” (00:10:48)

The term “Babe” above means darling, sweetheart, love, dear. The slang word “Babe” is usually addressed to a beloved one. Eggsy used this expression 11 times in the movie. Eggsy employed the term to express his intimacy with Princess Tilde, his girlfriend.

Data 3:

Restricted Codes: “And Tilde made that for you herself, *bruv*.” (00:11:32)

The term “bruv” above is a nickname that means brother or a male friend. Eggsy here addressed one of his best friends Brandon “bruv” so to express closeness in a relationship. Eggsy employed the term in this sense 6 times in the movie.

Data 4:

Restricted Code: “Harry would've been *chuffed*.” (00:17:41)

The slang word “chuffed” means happy or very pleased. The term “chuffed” contains a military context in the British speech community. Here, it is shown implicitly that Eggsy had undergone some military training as a Kingsman agent so he got used to some military slang words, and at the same time, he is closely related to Harry Galahad.

Data 5:

Restricted Code: “You're having *a brain fart*!” (01:30:35)

This terminology “a brain fart” combines the word “brain” and “fart” (release of gas from the bowels through the bottom). It means a moment of temporary forgetfulness of something or

someone. The expression contains a nominative function since it denotes a specific new meaning.

Data 6:

Restricted Code: “Hey, Merlin. Still *fucking* spectacular, eh?” (00:19:36)

The term “fucking” comes from the word “fuck” which means an act of fornication. Here, the interjection is used by Eggsy for effecting a humorous situation, a jocularity.

Data 7:

Restricted Code: “Are you sure | I don't *look like a dick*?” (02:12:32)

The expression “look like a dick” contained a self-evaluation statement. It means “look like a bad person” Here, the stressed self-accuse of Eggsy functions to raise sympathy for his interlocutor, in this case, his mentor, Harry Galahad.

Data 8:

Restricted Code: “*Fucking hell*.” (00:34:19)

The term “fucking” is derived from the term “fuck” which regularly means an act of sexual intercourse. It functions, here, for displaying the expressiveness because it is surprising or it is a very serious thing. In all scenes, Eggsy uttered the term 14 times, which conveys the expressiveness of the conversation.

Data 9:

Restricted Code: “No, I love *a Jack and Coke*, bruv.” (00:38:19)

The term “a Jack and Coke” is a shortened expression that means a mixture of Jack Daniels and cola drink. This beverage is very popular in American South. It also means a cynical expression for those who cannot drink straight Jack Daniels shots. It is an idiom addressed to those who are regarded as not brave enough or mature enough to handle a situation.

Data 10:

Elaborated Code: “I don't think we can underestimate the impact of ECB's quantitative easing measures and course,

the liquidity wave from the US Federal Reserve rate hike getting pushed back.” (00:23:24)

The utterance of Eggsy above shows a well-planned speech and sophisticated diction of a well-informed speaker. Here, Eggsy employed an elaborated code to match the discussion with the Swedish king, his father-in-law to be. Eggsy was demonstrating that he could be included in the rank of knowledgeable gentleman. The elaborated code used by Eggsy here affirmed the upward social mobility he was experiencing at the moment.

As we can notice from Table 1 above, there are seven kinds of restricted codes in the movie in terms of its function including secrecy, intimacy, novelty, jocularity, sympathy,

expressiveness, and nominative. Eggsy employed restricted codes mostly to express intimacy (21 times) and to display expressiveness (20 times). It indicated that Eggsy as a gentleman did not hesitate to use restricted codes and elaborated codes for demonstrating intimacy and expressiveness spontaneously. So, Gary Unwin nicknamed Eggsy in Kingsman’s The Golden Circle movie has employed the restricted codes and the elaborated codes which signal his social identity, express his close relationships.

4.2 The use of the restricted codes and the elaborated codes by Eggsy

Data 1:



Figure 1. The first scene: the encounter of a well-suit Eggsy with Charlie who wears a hoodie.

Denotation: The scene depicted in Figure 1 shows how the working-class members and the upper-class member are in opposition or not at the same level in daily life. The scene before this one shows the opposition by displaying how Charlie came out from a rather dark street sidewalk while Eggsy came out from a well illuminated and ornamented building. This opposition is confirmed by the utterance of Charlie: “You look like a gentleman, I look like a pleb.”

Connotation: In the scene, Charlie represents the working class with his hoodie, while Eggsy represents the new upper-class with his neat suit. Their outfits and their group members are contrasted in the scene. **Myth:** The outfit signals the membership of a social class. Morgan (2018) indicated that the bespoke tailored suit in the Kingsman movies functions as a means for upward social mobility. It also signifies the

hegemonic masculinity of an English gentleman.

The scene (00:01:24 – 00:01:48) complete with its satirical dialogue signals to the audience about the social inequality theme and its tension with the concept of a gentleman. A gentleman cannot be from the working class and

cannot be a working class at the same time. This linkage is noticed by Moffat and Bond (2017). Similarly, Terci (2013) argued that naturally, people linked the concept of an English gentleman as an upper-class status with the possession of wealth and some noble jobs.

Data 2: Non-gentleman VS Gentleman



Figure 2. The new recruit of the Golden Circle, Angel, dines with his boss Poppy.



Figure 3. Eggsy encounters the Swedish king who will become his father-in-law at a royal family dinner.

Denotation: The two scenes in Figure 2 and Figure 3 show how different social classes enjoy different meals in different manners. Connotation: The two scenes contrast two different conditions. The working-class criminal dines with his boss without even wearing any shirt, while the gentleman secret agent dines with the Swedish king in a

bespoke tailored suit. Morgan (2018) stressed that Kingsman movies indicated that the bespoke suit helped the main character, Eggsy, to obtain the masculine identity of a ‘British gentleman’. Angel takes the meal by his hands, while Eggsy uses the complete set of silver cutlery in eating. Myth: Social inequality can

obviously be noticed in what people eat and how people eat.

This scene (00:23:06 – 00:24:24) evoked the high standard of an English gentleman as the one who masters the table manner and the table conversation. Despite his working-class origin, Eggsy managed to display chivalry as he has

been trained to be. Here Eggsy displayed that he is a gentleman of manner. Berberich (2016) pointed out that the idea of a gentleman in the literature is often depicted as a concept related to values including dignity, loyalty, and good manners.

Data 3:



Figure 4. Eggsy encounters Charlie in the last battle.

Again in the scene (shown in Figure 4) of the encounter between Eggsy and Charlie, Eggsy wore a neat suit while Charlie wore a shirt and a casual pair of trousers typical of working-class people. Denotation: In terms of clothing, the different social classes are crystal clear. The background of the scene that displays the contrast between the well illuminated, clean modern Poppy's Dine building with the dirty neglected ruin of the old temple confirmed the irreconcilability of the different social classes. Connotation: the scene shows the different working conditions: Charlie looks like a mercenary who works only for money or personal benefit, while Eggsy maintains his composure as a gentleman secret agent who works for the benefit of millions of people. Myth: The differences between social classes are always existed and cannot be denied.

The scene (01:59:48 – 02:00:52) is part of the climax. The extract is as follow:

EGGSY: Lucky for you, Charlie...one of us understands what it means to be a gentleman. Let's make this fair. Give me the code!

CHARLIE: I can't. Only Poppy knows it.

EGGSY: Well, then you're no use to me, are you? For the record, Charlie...I'm more of a gentleman than you'll ever be.

The whole content of the movie is sandwiched between two conversations touching the idea of a gentleman: the first scene (00:01:44 – 00:01:48) and the last battle scene (01:59:48 – 02:00:52). Here the concept of a true gentleman is emphasized. Terci (2013) elaborated on the features of the true gentleman: first, the true gentleman is a leader that influences others; second, the true gentleman's noble words, actions, and

attitude impel millions of people who open up their minds and hearts to his ideals. He reforms directly or indirectly the society; third, the true gentleman is a man or a woman for others. He denied his own enjoyment. He is a loving kind philanthropist; fourth, the true gentleman always promotes peace and harmony. His happiness is to see people living together in harmony; and fifth, the true gentleman might be persecuted, even murdered. However, the persecution will not make him or her stop working for his or her people. He is a hero-activist.

The main character of the movie, Gary 'Eggsy' Unwin, had conveyed the idea of true gentlemen by becoming a reforming gentleman secret agent of the Kingsman. He was not hesitating in showing his emotion at certain moments in his life. He showed his concern for the well-being of others by executing a save-the-world mission as a Kingsman agent wholeheartedly.

Hence, the author concluded that the idea of a new English gentleman had been well portrayed in the Kingsman the Golden Circle movie for three reasons:

1. The Kingsman jargon "manners maketh man" in this second sequel is re-echoed by Harry Galahad and Agent 'Whiskey' in the 'Fight in the Bar' scene (01:10:31 – 01:13:24). This jargon denotes the concept of a gentleman.
2. The two crucial scenes describing the tension of the idea of a gentleman in the movie (the very first scene and the last battle scene) sandwiched the whole narrative of the movie.
3. Though the words 'gentleman or gentlemen' are used only six times in the movie, the non-verbal expression of a British gentleman, such as the neat suit, table-manner display, the manner of speaking, can be found everywhere

throughout the movie. Non-verbal communication is part of the elaborated codes employed by the characters in the movie.

Moreover, the three constructs mentioned above (the jargon expressed, the sandwich of scenes, and the non-verbal communication) formed the signifier for the signified (the concept of a new British gentleman), Gary "Eggsy" Unwin has shown verbal and extra-verbal communication using the restricted code and elaborated code to convey the portrayal of a new type of British gentleman who happens to work as a spy. The use of restricted code was clearly shown by the slang uttered and the manner of speaking displayed by the main character; while the elaborated code's usage was displayed by the speech, the manner of speaking, the bespoke suit, and the table-manner demonstrated by Gary 'Eggsy' Unwin.

5. CONCLUSION

Kingsman: Golden Circle movie has stood in the line of the gentleman spy movie tradition by focusing heavily on the portrayal of a gentleman. However, unlike the other Bond-type gentleman spy movies, the 'gentleman' hero of this movie, Gary "Eggsy" Unwin, is a young man from the working class. His membership of the 'chav' generation implies that he is accustomed to the use of the restricted codes when he is mingled with his friends. At the same time, Eggsy can show chivalry and use the elaborated codes when he operates as the Kingsman secret agent, and more as the future bridegroom of the Swedish princess, Tilde. However, Eggsy uses the restricted code primarily not to signal his working-class origin but rather to express intimacy. Eggsy also uses the elaborated code not to emphasize his social class, but rather to display his morality and gentility. The new British Gentleman of

the 21st century keeps the manners employing the elaborated codes but does not hesitate to express intimacy spontaneously using the restricted codes of the *chav*. A gentleman who is not afraid of an intimate, warmly expressed relationship. A gentleman who is not rigid, cold, less spontaneous in close relationships. So, the character of Gary Unwin in *Kingsman: Golden Circle* movie had successfully conveyed an idea of a new British gentleman in the 21st century through the use of restricted codes and elaborated codes.

The present study, however, contains some limitations. The study has not investigated yet the code-switching employed by the characters of the movie. The representativeness of the social classes in the movie is worth to be researched as well. They might well become the topics for further study of the movie. Meanwhile, the research provided the language teachers and linguists with an example of cultural and linguistic practices in the context of the British speech community.

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