

**MEDICAL REGISTER IN *GREY'S ANATOMY* MOVIE SERIES**

**THESIS**



**UIN SUNAN AMPEL  
S U R A B A Y A**

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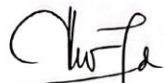
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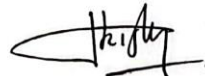
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## ABSTRACT

Masrurroh, S. (2023). *Medical Register in Grey's Anatomy Movie Series*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Suhandoko, M.Pd.

This study aims to investigate the linguistic form and analyze the underlying meaning of the medical register employed by medical professionals in the *Grey's Anatomy* movie series. The study was conducted by applying a descriptive qualitative research approach. The register theory by Halliday (2004) was employed in this study to help the analysis. The data for this study were collected from the selected episodes of *Grey's Anatomy*, which are episodes 10-15 of season 3 (aired in February 2006) and episodes 1-5 of season 18 (aired in September 2021).

To collect the data, the researcher watched these episodes several times in order to understand the plot. After that, conversations were transcribed, and footage was examined to guarantee transcription validity. The research focused on detecting linguistic forms of register within the selected episodes, which were classified by word types (nouns, verbs, prepositions, adjectives, and abbreviations) and phrases (noun phrases, adjective phrases, and prepositional phrases). To analyze the data, the researcher focused on identifying linguistic forms of register within the selected *Grey's Anatomy* episodes.

The study found that the register used in *Grey's Anatomy* consists of two types of linguistic forms: words and phrases. Nouns were discovered in seven of the word forms, while verbs were found in one, and abbreviations were found in nine. Nouns are words that are often used in medical settings to describe specific disorders, body parts, and medical tools. These specific registers help doctors and nurses communicate more effectively in the medical setting. In contrast, doctors use verbs to coordinate medical treatments. In *Grey's Anatomy*, adjectives are also used as linguistic forms to characterize patients' medical problems, falling under the category of disease register.

**Keywords:** *register, linguistic form, Grey's Anatomy*

## ABSTRAK

Masruroh, S. (2023). *Register Medis Dalam Movie Series Grey's Anatomy*.  
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Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Suhandoko, M.Pd.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk linguistik dan menganalisis makna yang mendasari daftar medis yang digunakan oleh para profesional medis dalam serial movie *Grey's Anatomy*. Penelitian dilakukan dengan menerapkan pendekatan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Teori register oleh Halliday (2004) digunakan dalam penelitian ini untuk membantu analisis. Data untuk studi ini dikumpulkan dari episode terpilih serial movie *Grey's Anatomy*, yaitu episode 10-15 season 3 (ditayangkan pada Februari 2006) dan episode 1-5 season 18 (ditayangkan pada September 2021).

Untuk mengumpulkan data, peneliti menonton episode-episode tersebut beberapa kali untuk memahami alurnya. Setelah itu, percakapan ditranskrip, dan rekaman diperiksa untuk menjamin validitas transkripsi. Penelitian difokuskan untuk mendeteksi bentuk linguistik register dalam episode terpilih, yang diklasifikasikan berdasarkan jenis kata (nomina, verba, preposisi, adjektiva, dan singkatan) dan frasa (frasa nomina, frasa adjektiva, dan frasa preposisional). Untuk menganalisis data, peneliti berfokus pada identifikasi bentuk linguistik dari register dalam episode *Grey's Anatomy* yang dipilih.

Studi ini menemukan bahwa register yang digunakan dalam serial movie *Grey's Anatomy* terdiri dari dua jenis bentuk linguistik: kata dan frasa. Kata benda ditemukan dalam tujuh bentuk kata, sedangkan kata kerja ditemukan dalam satu, dan singkatan ditemukan dalam sembilan. Kata benda adalah kata yang sering digunakan dalam pengaturan medis untuk menggambarkan gangguan tertentu, bagian tubuh, dan alat medis. Register khusus ini membantu dokter dan perawat berkomunikasi lebih efektif dalam pengaturan medis. Sebaliknya, dokter menggunakan kata kerja untuk mengoordinasikan perawatan medis. Dalam serial movie *Grey's Anatomy*, kata sifat juga digunakan sebagai bentuk linguistik untuk mengkarakterisasi masalah medis pasien, termasuk dalam kategori daftar penyakit.

**Kata kunci:** *register, bentuk linguistik, Grey's Anatomy.*



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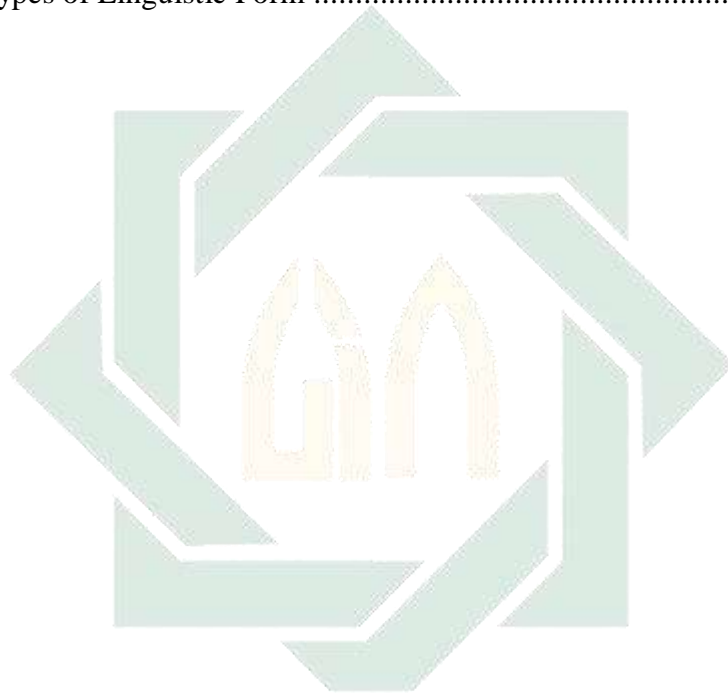
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This section contains sub-chapters that include the study's background and research problems, the significance of the study, the scope and limitations of the study, the researcher who aims to explain the study's boundaries and what this research will cover, and the definition of research.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language is commonly used as a complex tool because various phenomena of language use can be easily encountered in various human activities. Fishman (Holmes, 1994) states that a particular field involves using unique language with unique speakers, settings, and topics. Movie series is one of the platforms or media where the use of the language has the particularities of such a language. The uniqueness of this language distinguishes it from the use of language in other fields. In sociolinguistics, the peculiarities of the language in specific areas of this kind are often referred to as a register.

A register is often found in use within the environment of people with specific occupations. Register describes the language from a group of people with the same interest or work, or it can be said that the language is used in the group situation itself (Holmes, 2013). A register is a specific statement from a group that the people in it only use. For example, a chef will use several words or language to show his identity when talking to friends in the same field.

Certain professional groups initially used the concept of registers based on a

Sociolinguistic perspective. Each register helps to express group identity at a specific time or place, i.e., how you seek to self-present to others (Wardhaugh, 2006). This means that group members understand each other and develop specific terms or languages they share when they have activities within a specific environment—the characteristic of their language in addition to reflecting the identity of one particular group.

This study mainly aims to determine the types of registers used by characters in the series. Moreover, the meaning behind the registers is also determined in this study to further provide knowledge of the kinds of register and how it carries functional meaning in their practical use. In order to analyze the aimed focus, the theory of register by M. A. K. Halliday's theory which is used as the guiding perception of analysis included in this study. The elements of the register include field, tenor, and mode. Halliday (cited in Alyousef & Alyahya, 2018) explained that the field refers to the place where the conversation or language exchange occurs. This means that the field is directly related to the environment shared between the members of a group.

Meanwhile, tenor refers to the relationship between the participants in the conversations (Halliday, cited in Alyousef & Alyahya, 2018). In this sense, tenor determines the social or occupational status between the participants, whether one is higher or lower than others. Lastly, the mode as the element of the register refers to the medium used to communicate. This particular medium can be in the form of written or spoken by the participant of the communication.

Moreover, as register deals within the linguistic field, the type of register can be found through the main categorization of linguistic forms, including nouns, verbs, prepositions, conjunction, adverbs, interjections, adjective, phrases, and abbreviations (Crystal, 1987). The mentioned linguistic forms carry different vital functions in the use of language. The first linguistic form is a noun. According to Crystal (2008), noun refers to the linguistic forms addressed after words with physical attributes. This means that noun deals with linguistic forms that are most likely to relate to solid or physical things. A noun is notably different from a verb as it refers to a sentence's subject. Next, the second linguistic are verbs. Crystal (2008) explained that verbs are characterized by independent action meaning and have the function of relating with other objects. In other words, verbs relate to the other elements in word structures, such as object and followed by the complement. The third linguistic form is a preposition. Preposition refers to words with the function to show spatial relations, time, place, direction, and so forth. Crystal (2008) explained that preposition precedes or follows nouns to emphasize their information. Thus, prepositions especially clarify the position, time, place, direction, and so forth regarding the other linguistic forms involved in the sentence.

The fourth linguistic form is a conjunction. Crystal (2008) explained that conjunction as a linguistic form could connect clauses and sentences, which is also addressed as a closed system that displays the interrelation between meaning and use. It means that conjunction highlights the word classes and connects them based on their importance and use within sentences.

Next, adverb, a linguistic form, refers to words that modify various descriptions and are considered a secondary sentence element (Crystal, 2008). This means that an adverb does not necessarily need to form a sentence but has the function of a modifier when added. The following linguistic form is interjections.

Interjections refer to the traditional classification of speech with the main role of expression emotions (Crystal, 2008). This type of linguistic form does not include syntactic relationships in word classes but is still considered a linguistic form for the function of emotive expressions. Another linguistic form is the adjective which is used to specify noun attributes (Crystal, 2008). This means adjective has the main function of describing the manner and appearance of specific nouns.

The last two linguistic forms are phrase and abbreviation. Phrase refers to a group of words in terms of grammatical units that consist of noun phrases, adjective phrases, verb phrases, adverbial phrases, and so forth regarding the function that is aimed (Crystal, 2008). Thus, phrase especially carries the modifying or specifying a function to the word classes. Lastly, a linguistic form of abbreviation refers to the category of word formation with the main characteristic of shortened words (Crystal, 2008). This particular linguistic form is often found to create language variation that is more effective to use, especially in register

Several previous studies related to the focus of register analysis in various platforms and literary works. The occupational fields include sports, online media, and medical. In her analysis of register in sports using Elo and

Kyanga's (2007) technique of data collection model, Moulita (2021) examined register linguistic form in content words and noun phrases found in The Jakarta Post football news and found attributive adjective and noun phrase forms with social meaning as the dominant change meaning type. This suggests that social meaning appears more often because many new vocabularies are created in football news.

Similarly studies on registers used by journalists in online media related to the football terms in BOLA news magazine. Ningsih, Megah, and Razali (2021) examines registers in lexical and phrasal items from grammatical features and contextual meanings. The results show that there are 22 lexical items and 24 phrasal items where the lexical items are more related to the term youth to identify participating youth while the phrasal items are related to top scorers to identify who makes the top score.

Register analysis has also been carried out to see the use of words in online media such as social media and online shop community. In their research, Haryani and Putry (2021) analyzed register linguistic forms, meaning, and the motive behind its use identified in the commentaries of Rembang photographers on Instagram as the online platform found that there was abbreviation, nouns, adjectives, verbs, and compounds, clipping, noun and verb phrases found in the commentaries. Likewise, research on registers in the online shop community gathered from social media, Lubis, Ashari, and Edi (2016) found that there were a total of 100 registers identified from the online shop community with word formation abbreviations, clipping, coinage,



acronyms, compounds, borrowing, and phrases. Meanwhile, the kinds of registers found were consultative, deliberative, casual, intimate, and frozen.

Several previous studies also analyzed registers in the medical field interaction. In the study of registers used between doctors and nurses at Adi Husada Undaan Wetan Hospital Surabaya, Ambarsari and Rusnaningtias (2016) focused on vocabulary and morphological features. The results showed that the conversation between doctors and nurses is different as medical terms or registers were shared as both parties work within the same job field. The word formation process found in the data was clipping and abbreviation. Another study by Mujiono, Fauza, and Wilujeng (2017) aimed to discover the types of registers and the reasons for their use by Indonesian nurse participants at the Pakisaji Health Center, East Java. The study results show that the medical registers used among Indonesian nurses at CHC Pakisaji have the main goals of professional identity, communication effectiveness, data strength, data security, prestige, and integrity. A previous study by Adegbite and Odebunmi (2006), a study that focused on the use of registers in medical settings to determine the policy of discourse used between doctors and patients in selected hospitals in South-Western Nigeria. The findings show that the conversation between doctors and patients has a function of sharing information and confirmation along with medical communication, which requires medical registers or undergraduate language in the process. Meanwhile, Al-Azzawi and Ghitheeth's (2020) research determines the prescription discourse in the medical environment between doctors and pharmacists. The results of the study

indicate that the language used between doctors and pharmacists includes linguistic and situational aspects in order to carry out the function of medical prescription.

Based on the reviewed previous studies, it is known that the guiding theories were only focused on the linguistic forms and word formations of the registers. In this particular study, although many register analyzes have been carried out, only a few have been focusing on conversations between medical professionals. By applying M. A. K. Halliday's theory, the analysis includes categorizing register based on field, tenor, and mode, which further contributes to deeper analysis than the existing previous studies, especially in the register used between medical professionals represented in the series. This study becomes significant to highlight the use of register and the meaning extent determined by context and function during its practices. Health research is almost like privacy, precious to society. It can provide valuable information about disease trends and risk factors, treatment outcomes or public health interventions, functional capabilities, patterns of care, and health care costs and utilization.

Knowing the register in the medical professional field allows previously impossible research, leading to new insights about health and disease.

"Clinically rich information is now more available, in a more structured format, and exchangeable electronically across health and healthcare settings,"

according to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. As a result, information can be used more effectively for quality improvement, public



research is hoped that readers will gain understanding and can support further research that is interested in register.

### **1.5 Scope and delimitation**

The scope of this research focuses on the sociolinguistics branch, especially the register. This research uses a movie series entitled Grey's Anatomy episodes 10-15 season 3, episodes 1-5, season 18. So that the researcher can focus on the types of registers and its meaning found in the movie series.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

- Register: the way a speaker uses language differently in different circumstances.
- Grey's Anatomy: Grey's Anatomy is a legendary series about the medical world. The popular series, has aired since 2005.
- Linguistic Forms: a meaningful unit of speech such as a morpheme, word, or sentence.

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## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This section discusses several theories that are supported by the research. The researcher focuses on the approach of repair strategies. In this chapter, the researcher discusses related theories in Grey's Anatomy, such as register and types of linguistic forms.

#### **2.1 Register**

A register is a phenomenon that appears in linguistic activities involving communication between a group of people in one field of work. Therefore, register is closer to a comprehensive sociolinguistic study. Talking about the concept of registers, many linguists have different views about the language barrel (register), of course this difference is only based on other points of view in the meaning of registers.

Halliday (1994) states that register is a semantic concept defined as an arrangement of meanings linked explicitly to the arrangement of specific situations of the field, involvement, and means. However, because it is an arrangement of substances, the register includes expressions, namely, the Mexican grammatical and phonological features which specifically accompany or express these meanings. Usually, specific registers have indicative characteristics in the form of certain words or even phonological markers, which signal to the actors that this is the register in question.

Wardhaugh (1986) states that registers are “sets of vocabulary items associated with discrete occupation or social groups. Meanwhile, Holmes

(1995) equates registers with various languages (styles), which can be formed with functional needs for specific situations or jobs (maybe shaped by the functional demands of particular conditions or occupations).

From some of the opinions above, it can be concluded that register is the use of language associated with a particular work or social group that is used in the situation (field, tenor, and mode) associated with that group. Registers have characteristics that specifically accompany or convey meaning. These characteristics include lexicogrammatical, phonological markers that mark the register in question, signaling features in the form of certain words, selecting specific syntactic and rhetorical patterns, certain grammatical characteristics, use of terms and idioms, and choosing language styles.

The three main components in a register are a combination of field, tenor, and mode which can determine the use of different language meanings in a particular type (Halliday, 2004). The meaning of each factor provides excellent improvement in the sense of the register. Further explanation will be described below.

### **2.1.1 Field**

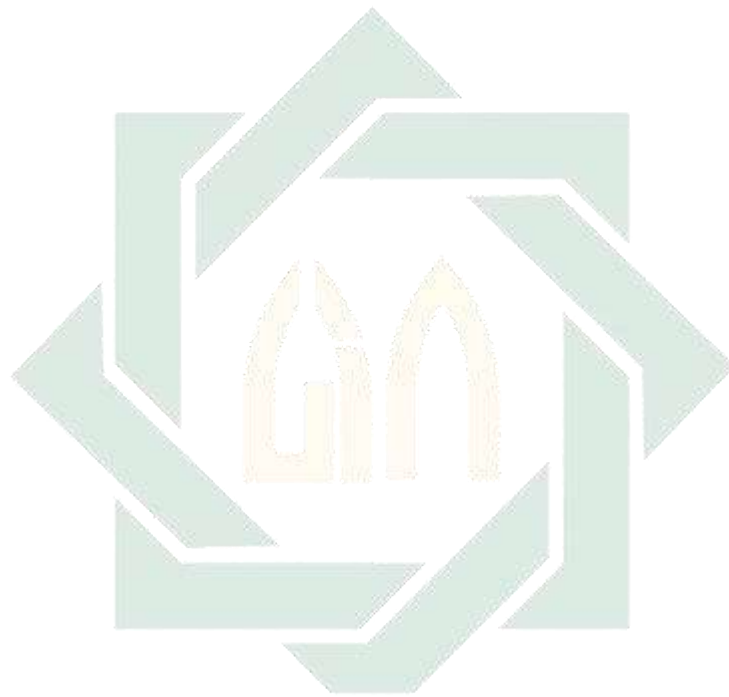
Field refers to the single aspect of a situation that explains what is happening and what is being done by participants. Halliday states (2004) field is a situation when the Register has been said because the occurring condition will affect the meaning in all ways. The word register will change if the field is not in sync with the word.







application called Disney+ Hotstar



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## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this section, the researcher describes the data collection procedure. This section will provide information about the research data, its sources, data subjects, and the instruments that will be used.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This research used a descriptive approach to analyzing data. According to Deinzin and Lincoln (2000), qualitative research involves interpretive and naturalistic approaches, which is that qualitative research studies various things in their natural setting and tries to interpret or understand natural phenomena in the meaning that people bring to them.

Qualitative is a method using descriptive explanation. The researcher used this method to elaborate on the data. Qualitative research is research that is used to investigate, describe, explain, and discover the quality or features of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or described through a quantitative approach.

#### **3.2 Data Collection**

This part is an explanation of the method to collect the data. Data collection consisted of research data, data source, research instrument, and data collection techniques.



### 3.2.3 Instrument

The researcher is the research instrument itself. The researcher themselves carried out data collection and analysis. In addition, other instruments use computers and smartphones to collect and download the series to be researched.

### 3.2.4 Data Collection Techniques

The data in this study were obtained from a movie series entitled *Grey's Anatomy* episodes 10-15 season 3 which aired in February 2006, and episodes 1-5 season 18 which aired in September 2021. Technical data collection is explained as follows:

1. The researcher watched the 10 videos for several times to ensure that the researcher understands the whole story.
2. Then, the researcher transcribed the conversations based on the conversations that appear in the movie series.
3. Re-watched the video and checked the transcription.
4. Make a list of registers that have been found in the questionnaire with the Google form.
5. Distributed the questionnaire to the researcher's friends who have no medical background.
6. Collected the answers and then classified the results of the questionnaire whether included in the register or not.









































































*tube*. The mentioned registers are commonly used within a medical environment, but not all people can understand what it means. The nouns refer to a condition or body parts used by doctors and nurses to help them to communicate in a medical context.

Moreover, in Episodes 1-5, season 18 of *Grey's Anatomy*, the characters still use many medical registers with the roles of doctors and nurses. The registers with the linguistic forms of the noun are; *episodes*, *antiseptic*, and *field*. The mentioned registers function as nouns, which refer to medical tools and the patient's health condition. Sund et al. (2014) explained that medical registers are divided into several kinds, including quality registers and disease registers; a quality register refers to the kind of register used for treatment and outcome medical procedures, while disease registers are used for data related to disease and disorder. Relating to the identified data from the object, the register with a noun as the linguistic form possessed quality and disease registers.

Another linguistic form found in the dialogues and narration taken from the *Grey's Anatomy* series is a verb. The registers are found in Episode 2, season 18. The registers are *page*. The doctors use the registers to coordinate with each other in doing the medical procedure. As the registers are used in medical procedures, they are categorized as quality registers. Sund et al. (2014) explained that quality registers are updated to collect an audit or follow-up treatment of the patients. This is reflected in the use of the registers in *Grey's Anatomy*, where the characters playing the role of doctors portray how they take the words used during medical procedures as doctors.



The last linguistic form of the registers identified in *Grey's Anatomy* is an abbreviation. The amount of abbreviations identified from the object is 9. The abbreviation is known as linguistic forms that allow shortened terms, especially in the medical environment. Abbreviations as registers are found in Episodes 9 and 15 of Season 3 and Episodes 1-4, season 18. The registers of abbreviation are *Tib-fib*, *EMT*, *RIG*, *ABC*, *BP*, *IR*, *AMA*, *OR*, and *OB*. The abbreviations used in the episodes of *Grey's Anatomy* are mostly used to describe the patient's conditions and medical tools. Based on this, the abbreviations are categorized as disease and quality registers. Sund et al. (2014) explained that registers, especially in the medical field, are formed through certain processes, including coding error and coding in which the language is formed through existing stored signals aimed at the current utilization purposes. This is related to using registers in *Grey's Anatomy*, where abbreviations refer to medical situations related to the patient and the procedure where medical tools are needed.

Aside from the linguistic form of words, the linguistic forms of phrases are also identified from the dialogue and narration in *Grey's Anatomy*. There are two forms of phrases: noun phrases and adjective phrases. Three noun phrases are identified in Episode 3, Season 3, and Episode 4, season 18. The noun phrases are *a set of hands*, *unclear anatomy*, and *skills lab*. Williams and Jago (2018) explained that linguistic accommodations in the medical field, such as the registers used between medical workers, promote better communication. This particular situation is reflected through noun phrases which are further categorized as disease registers that refers to the conditions and symptoms of illness

experienced by the patients. Aside from the disease register, the noun phrase identified from the object also refers to body parts and medical tools that are aided for better communication during the medical situation.

Therefore, to sum up, everything that has been analyzed, the registers within the Grey's Anatomy series are varied. The series shows how medical registers are used within the field, which leads to the acknowledgment that the registers found within this analysis belong to the medical field. Hence, many registers can still be found since it takes the medical field through their seasons. However, it can be challenging for the viewers who watch the series since they will find different terms used in hospitals.



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## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this part, the researcher presents the study's findings. In addition, the researcher makes ideas for future research that are related to the research topics addressed in this study.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

This study aims to answer two research questions about the medical register used by characters in TV series: (1) What are the linguistic forms of medical register found in the *Grey's Anatomy* series? (2) What are the meanings behind the medical register used by the *Grey's Anatomy* series characters? To find answers to these questions, the researcher conducted a case study on the linguistic forms of the language used by characters who share the same occupation in the *Grey's Anatomy* series, particularly in *Grey's Anatomy*: Season 3 episodes 10-15, season 18 episodes 1-5.

The research concludes from this study that the register found in the *Grey's Anatomy* series has two types of linguistic forms: word and phrase. The findings revealed that seventeen (17) data are identified in the linguistic form of a word. Nouns occurred in seven data; meanwhile, verbs were found in one data, whereas abbreviations were identified in nine. However, the researcher found no adjective in the register used by the characters in *Grey's Anatomy*. Moreover, three (3) data were identified in the linguistic form of phrase. Noun

Phrases occurred in three. However, the researcher found no adjective phrase in the register used by the characters in *Grey's Anatomy*. Based on the findings, the study discovered that the register used by the characters in *Grey's Anatomy* mostly employs abbreviation-related linguistic forms.

Furthermore, abbreviations and nouns are commonly employed in medical settings to refer to specific illnesses, body parts, and medical tools. The specified registers promote effective communication among doctors and nurses in the medical environment. These registers include quality and disease registers since they are used to describe the treatment and results of medical operations and disease and disorder data. On the other hand, doctors used verbs to coordinate medical procedures. These registers are designated quality registers because they are updated to collect audit or follow-up treatment data, accurately representing the language used by medical experts during surgeries. Adjectives and abbreviations are also mentioned as linguistic forms in *Grey's Anatomy*. Adjectives were used to characterize patients' medical conditions and hence fall under the category of disease register. Abbreviations—shorter variants of regularly used medical phrases—serve as registers to characterize patient conditions and medical tools that aid in effective communication among medical personnel.

## 5.2 Suggestion

Based on the findings of this study, there are several suggestions for future research on the medical register utilized in *Grey's Anatomy*. First, further research

may look into using prepositions in the medical register. Although prepositions were not discovered in the present study, investigating their presence and usage in other episodes or seasons of *Grey's Anatomy* could provide a more thorough picture of the language forms utilized by the characters. This could illuminate how prepositions help medical personnel effectively communicate effectively in the series.

In addition, future could conduct comparison studies across numerous TV series or literary works depicting medical settings to further study the linguistic patterns of medical registers. Researchers can uncover commonalities, variances, and patterns in the portrayal of medical language and communication by evaluating the linguistic properties of medical registers in diverse narratives. This comparative method may provide a more comprehensive knowledge of how medical registries are formed and used in various fictional situations.

Lastly, the researcher suggests that English language learners become more acquainted with register and other linguistic variants. If learners have a strong awareness of language variety, the researcher believes they can apply the proper English vocabulary based on the situation and interlocutors. This also improves learners' capacity to communicate and helps learners recognize context so they can use English properly.



