



“Good Will Hunting”

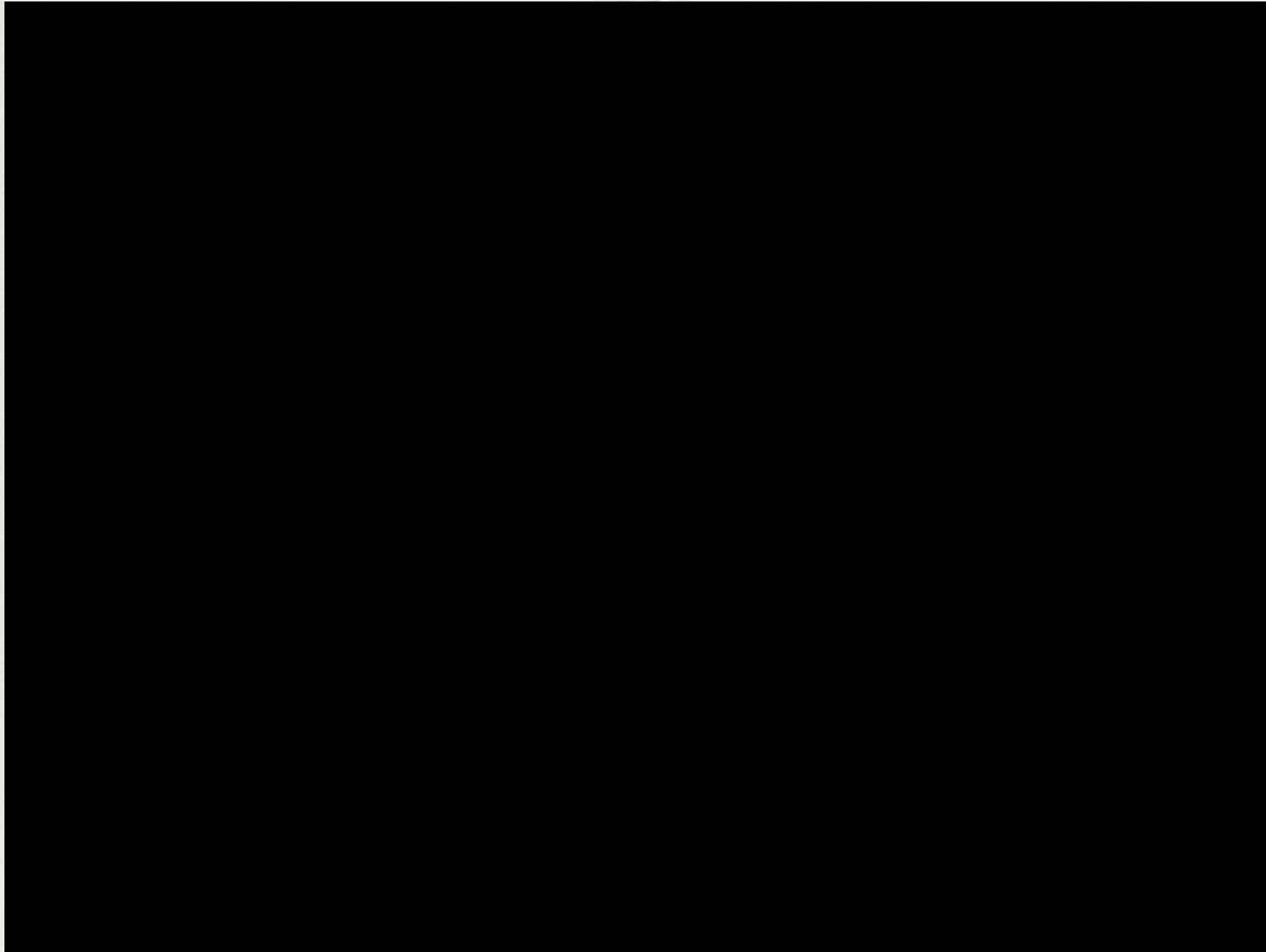
A Register Analysis

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Register Linguistic Function

- ✦ REGISTER (or diatype): refers to the **variation of language**
- ✦ Connected to the circumstances of the communication
- ✦ Considered according the **use** of such a language
- ✦ Different from **dialect**, which is considered according to the **user**
- ✦ Characterized by **four dimensions: field, tenor, mode and functional tenor**

“The Park Scene”



Field

- ✿ **Art Field:** art, art book, Michelangelo, life's works, Sistine Chapel, painting
- ✿ **War Field:** war, the breach, gasp last breath
- ✿ **Literature Field:** quote, sonnet, Shakespeare, Oliver Twist, book
- ✿ **Religious Field:** God, angel, Earth, depths of hell, Sistine Chapel, the Pope
- ✿ **Medicine Field:** cancer, hospital room, doctors, "visiting hours"
- ✿ **Anatomy Field:** head, eyes, hand, lap

Tenor

- ✿ **Consultative:**

- ✿ two way participation: doctor (Sean)/ patient (Will)

- ✿ *Feedback Fillers:* Oh; Why; Nope

- ✿ **Casual (Informal):**

- ✿ *Discourse markers:* why; right?;

- ✿ *Phrasal verbs:* stayed up; looked up; wake up; sittin' up;

- ✿ *Contractions:* lookin' (looking) same for sleepin', feelin', fuckin'; 'cause (because); wanna (want to); you'd (you would)

- ✿ *Colloquialism:* it's all right; nope; "visiting hours"; cocky; shitless; kid (?); you know what?; the depths of you (?); I don't give a shit about all that; I'm in; do you, sport?; your move, chief

- ✿ *Ellipsis:* (I) though about what you said; (I) stayed up half the night; (his) life's works. (his) political aspiration;

- ✿ *Idioms:* "seeing that"

Mode

- ✦ Is the **dimension of register**, concerning the channel of communication
- ✦ Oral communication: **direct speech, face-to-face conversation**
- ✦ **Interactivity**: discourse markers, pronouns “I” and “you”
- ✦ **Spontaneity**: phrases are simple and short

Functional Tenor

- ✿ Level of formality connected to the functions of the language
- ✿ **EMOTIVE FUNCTION:** focuses on the sender's attitude, the dialogue is extremely **sentimental**
 - Dichotomy between **pain**: for *real loss* (of his wife), for remembering the time passed to the hospital "holding her hand", for the *horrors of war* "you've never held your best friend's head in your lap and watch him gasp his last breath lookin' to you for help"; **joy and happiness** for having found his *true love*, his "angel on earth"; **wonder** for "the beautiful ceiling of the Sistine Chapel" or the smell in it; **irony** when he refers to Oliver Twist
- ✿ **PHATIC FUNCTION:** focuses on the contact to **keep the channels of communication open** (to establish, to prolong or discontinue the communication)
 - "You know what occur to me?"; the repetition of "right?" at the end of many phrases (*rhetoric question*); "you know what?"; "does that encapsulate you?"