

WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES USED IN AN INTERVIEW VIDEO "WHO DOES TIFFANY YOUNG LOOK UPTO?"

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Abstract

This study entitled Women's Language Features Used in an Interview Video "Who Does Tiffany Young Look Up To?". The aims are to identify the features of women's language and to identify the language functions served by women's language features found in an exclusive interview video. This research deals with qualitative methods. In collecting the data, it was used documentation method. The techniques used are watching, note-taking, reading, and classifying techniques. For the findings, there are seven features of women's language found in the video, they are lexical hedges or fillers, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, and emphatic stress features. For the functions of language, it was found that the utterances used emotive or expressive and conative or directive functions.

Keywords: functions of language; women language; women language features

INTRODUCTION

Language and gender if in sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, and related fields is a field of study that investigate variations of speech as well as social norms for the use of language linked with a certain gender. Generally, gendered language is understood as a language that has a bias towards a particular sex (Prior, 2017). In English, it can be in the form of using gender-specific terms to refer to a profession or person, such as 'businessman' or 'waitress', or using masculine pronouns such as he, him, or his to refer to people in general which can lead to a patriarchal thing. According to Jule (2017), the history of patriarchal hierarchy has emerged between both genders, in which gender (men) is marked the norm and the other gender (women) is perceived as other or that is rather different from the norm. Society seems to have its influence on this difference.

Women's language exists because of this parathion between men and women at stages in socio-cultural life. The difference can be seen in the communication style between women and men which lies in the ability to talk about certain topics. Eakins (1978) pointed out that in shifting a topic, both genders use different kinds of transitions: men use more interjections, meanwhile, women use more conjunctions. Besides, According to Lakoff (1973), different speech styles which are applied by women are commonly signified as women's language which involves linguistic features that indicate and strengthen the inferior position of women in society.

This topic was raised because the presence of women's language use in social life is a reality. One of which can be seen in an exclusive interview video titled "Whom Does Tiffany Young Look UpTo?". In the video, the guest and the host discussed the guest's career with her role model. According to Lakoff, there are ten linguistic features of women's language. Each of these language features has its language functions, this is related to the theory by Jakobson. This study is also relevant to be discussed since Lakoff's theory can explain specifically women's language features. Moreover, from Jakobson's theory, it can be understood what the functions of language are.

This research aims to identify the features of women's language and identify the language functions served by women's language features found in the exclusive interview video. It is expected that this study will serve as a reference for readers or other researchers who desire to analyze videos from a linguistics perspective, particularly about women's language features and the functions of language.

In conducting this research, several related works have been carried out by previous researchers and are used as references in this study. They have their specification related to the object of the research.

A study was conducted by Sanjaya (2018) entitled "The Women's Language Features in Moana Movie". This study aimed to identify women's language features and to find out the context of the situation that influenced women's language. The analysis was based on the women's language features theory by

Lakoff (1975) and the theory regarding the context of the situation by Halliday and Hasan (1989). This research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative method. To collect the data, the method and technique used was the documentation method. For the findings, there were seven features of women's language found in the Moana movies. Those are lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, and emphatic stress. Related to the context of the situation that influenced women's language, it is divided into a field of discourse (what), the tenor of discourse (who), and the mode of discourse (what type of language used). The way this previous study presented the analysis can be used as a reference for this current study. The similarity of this study with the current study lies in the use of Lakoff's theory to analyze the first problem. Meanwhile, the difference lies in the object used and in the second problem study where the present study deals with the functions of the language used.

Another paper was written by Oktapiani (2017) with the title "Women's Language Features Found in Female Character's Utterances in The Devil Wears Prada Movie". This study aimed to identify the women's language features and to identify the language functions served by women's language features found in The Devil Wears Prada movie. To analyze the data, this previous study used the theory by Lakoff (1975) and Jakobson (1960). It was conducted by applying the descriptive qualitative method. In collecting the data, this study deals with the documentation method. As the results, nine features found in this research, are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonations on declarative, empty adjectives, precious color terms, intensifiers, super polite forms, hypercorrect grammar, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Furthermore, three language functions were found in this research, namely expressive function, metalinguistic function, and directive function. This previous study provides a research design that can be used as a reference for this present study. Regarding the similarities, the similarities lie in the theories applied. However, the object used is different.

The next undergraduate thesis was written by Sanjaya (2018) entitled “Women’s Language in “The Nanny Diaries” Movie”. This study aimed to identify the linguistic features of women’s speech and to analyze the functions of women’s language features found in the movie entitled “The Nanny Diaries”. Theories that were applied by this study were Lakoff’s (1973) theory and Halliday’s (1989) theory. In analyzing the data, the descriptive-qualitative method was used in this study. To collect the data, it was used as a documentation method. In the movie and script, six types of women’s language features found involved lexical features and syntactical features. Moreover, some functions of women’s linguistic features were also found in the data, namely to show politeness and avoid strong expressions. This previous study provides a way of presenting the data analysis that can be used as a reference for this current study. The similarity lies in the use of Lakoff’s theory. The differences lie in the object used and in the second problem of the study.

RESEARCH METHOD

The data of this study was taken from an exclusive interview video on the HeartRadio YouTube channel, entitled “Whom Does Tiffany Young Look Up To?”. In that video, a host and a guest talk about everything from Girl’s Generation to what will be happening in Tiffany’s future (guest’s future). The writer was attracted to analyze the video because the video contains the use of women’s language, besides there are life lessons of women that can be learned. From the title itself, it is already known that this video is about a woman’s life. The next reason is that there are several differences, such as the differences in the experiences of the guests and the host which help this study to see each other's responses. Last, the natural responses that flow from the host and guest make the writer feels helped in analyzing the conversation.

This study used a qualitative method. Rendering to Boeree (2005), the qualitative method is a method that does not require measuring or statistics. In collecting the data, this study used the documentation method. There are several techniques used in collecting the data. First, by watching the video. Second, taking notes such as words, phrases, or sentences that appeared in conversations

used by women in the video that are considered as women's language features. Third, reading the notes. Last, by classifying those women's languages based on Lakoff's theory.

In analyzing the data, the steps used by this study are first identifying the features of women's language used in the exclusive interview video. Second, by identifying the language functions served by women's language features that are found in the exclusive interview video. Then, writing the conclusion based on the data analysis.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Women's Language

Lakoff (1975) argues that the language used by women is a language that tends to strengthen their subordinate status. Her formulation of women's language is a feature of widespread cultural ideologies (stereotypes) about how women should speak as a linguistic practice of real women.

Women's Language Features

There are several linguistic features that rather than being used by men, it is used more by women, which frequently conveys doubt and lack of confidence. Women's language is characterized by the following linguistic features below.

Lexical Hedges or Fillers

This feature resembles pauses in the form of word phrases or fillers that appear in conversational sentences lacking confidence, information that is not entirely accurate, uncertainty, hesitation, and confusion. An example would be, "You know,".

Tag Questions

In many conversational situations, women predominate the use of tagging questions more than men, and such questions signal an avoidance of commitment, just like 'giving the impression of not being sure of what she is saying or what she knows, and then looking to the recipient for confirmation'. For example, "She's so nice, isn't she?".

Rising Intonation on Declarative

The declarative is spoken with a rising intonation when the speaker may be

the only one with the necessary information, but at that moment, she is still looking for confirmation. For example, “This is very good?”

‘Empty’ Adjectives

Lakoff (2004) claimed that empty adjectives are words that simply refer to emotional responses rather than particular information (p. 45). Although certain adjectives are gender-neutral and can be applied by both men and women, several are often solely used by women. “Cute,” for instance.

Precise color terms

Women possess more accurate color descriptors than men. “Magenta,” as an illustration.

Intensifiers

An intensifier is a modifier in a sentence that emphasizes more emotion in the modified word. Specifically, there is more emphasis and extra force in a sentence. Lakoff (2004) stated that the intensive “so,” which Puritans would use when they insisted on absolute superlatives, is severely stressed and appears to be more typical of feminine language than male language, though it may also be seen especially in academic speech delivered by men (p. 48). An example of an intensifier is the word “so” in the following sentence, “I like him so much.”

‘Hypercorrect’ Grammar

Based on Lakoff’s theory (1973), hypercorrect grammar is the consistent use of standard verb forms. It is argued that hypercorrect grammar involves ‘avoiding’ vulgar or offensive terms, a few examples are the term ‘ain’t’ and the use of correct pronunciations, such as stressing the last ‘g’ in words like ‘going’ rather than the more informal ‘goin’.

Superpolite’ Forms

This feature refers to the fact that women should behave and communicate politely and carefully. A request may also be understood as a politely delivered command that does not demand blind obedience but rather

gives a recommendation that something be done as a service to the speaker. Such as indirect requests.

Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

Different swear phrases are preferred by different genders. Women are known to tend to avoid curses of violence. For example, "Oh my gosh!".

Emphatic Stress

To call attention to the key phrase in a speaker's speech, the term emphatic stress is needed. Emphatic stress also refers to how to express uncertainty with our expression. In addition to giving stress, the speaker also uses empathetic stress to encourage speech, therefore, people will be convinced. Such as, "That was a BRILLIANT performance".

2. Functions of Language

Based on Jakobson's theory (1960), every act of verbal communication is arranged of six elements or factors, starting from a context, an addresser, an addressee, a contact between an addresser and addressee, a common code, and a message. Each factor serves as the center of an oriented relationship that operates between the factor and the message. In short, those six functions can be depicted as their referential function, emotive function or expressive function, conative function or directive function, phatic function, metalingual function, and poetic function.

A referential function is concerned with the context such as "Water boils at 100 degrees". Then, there is the emotive function, It is directed towards the addresser as in the exclamation "Ouch!". On the other side, the conative function has the addressee in mind (imperatives and apostrophes). The phatic function itself is used to initiate, maintain, or terminate communication, for example, "Hello?". Furthermore, there is the metalingual function which is applied to construct a shared agreement on the code, such as a definition, "What do you mean by *krill*?". Meanwhile, the poetic function is focused on 'the message and 'the focus on the message for its own sake'.

3. The Analysis of Women's Language Features and Language Functions

The results found by the writer after analyzing the data from the video are

served below.

1. *Lexical Hedges or Fillers*

In the video, the writer found 7 utterances that included lexical hedges or fillers feature of women's language features. Here is one of the data found.

Data 1.2

Tiffany Young : Absolutely. I just finished the Girls' Generation that gave celebration which is such a milestone that I've been dreaming about. After that promotion, it was straight to acting school in the studio and meeting with my friends and family, and yeah... I was nervous and scared at the same time but um...*you know* that's also a good feeling—

Ellie Lee : Yes, girl.

Tiffany Young : that you are doing something and that you are pushing yourself into new challenges. (0:46–1:09)

In the dialogue, she used “you know” which indicates the use of lexical hedges or fillers because Tiffany knows that Ellie has a career in front of the screen too, so Tiffany said “you know” in between statements about her personal feelings and the good things about it to collect Ellie's support and increase her confidence regarding her statement. The utterance above also contains a language function. The language function served by women's language feature above is an emotive function which is also called an expressive function. This language function comforts people to read the subject's emotions or feelings, wishes, and moods. The utterance is included in the emotive function because this feature expresses a woman's feelings.

2. *Rising Intonation on Declaratives*

In the video, the writer found 3 utterances that included rising intonation on a declarative feature of women's language features. Here is one of the evidence.

Data 2.2

Ellie Lee : Now that you're embarking on this solo career, did you have a lot of fears like were you freaking out ever when you were like get on that plane, you were like, oh my God, *I'm about to do it alone?*

Tiffany Young : Absolutely. I just finished the Girls Generation that gave celebration which is such a milestone that I've been dreaming about, after that promotion it was straight to acting school in the studio and meeting with my friends and family, and yeah... I was

nervous and scared at the same time but um... you know, that's also a good feeling that you are doing something and that you are pushing yourself into new challenges. (0:37–1:09)

From the data above, the rising tone uttered by Ellie at the end of the utterance when she said “I’m about to do it alone? ”and it reflects the use of rising intonation on the declarative feature. It was used by Ellie to seek Tiffany’s confirmation. Ellie said about some descriptions that maybe were experienced by Tiffany while also asking about the reality of it, like, “Did Tiffany really feel it?”. Because she is not sure yet, so there is a rising intonation at the end of her statement, which seemed to be a question but a declarative statement. Based on the description, it is pointed out that the speaker wants the hearer to react or take a certain action, it is implied that the rising intonation element included the conative or directive function. In this case, the utterance is expressed by Ellie to make Tiffanysaidor confirm the facts.

3. *‘Empty’ Adjectives*

There is one utterance in the video that included an empty adjective feature of women’s language features found by the writer. Here it is.

Data 3.1

Ellie Lee : Let me tell you something to all the fans out there, she is as *flawless* as you think that she is. Tiffany, you...I am so proud that you are here and you're doing your thing. For those of you who don't know you used to be and you still are in a girl—girl group called Girls’ Generation. If you don't know Girls’ Generation, I can’t talk to you, okay?

Tiffany Young : You can’t sit with us!(0:16–0:34)

In the dialogue, the word “flawless” indicates the use of an empty adjective feature. Ellie used that word because she feels impressed with Tiffany, be it from her attitude, talent, and her appearance. It can be stated that rather than showing specific information, she shows more emotional reactions. Therefore, since this kind of feature exclusively focuses on the word’s emotional responses to particular facts, the empty adjective feature involved the emotive function.

4. *Intensifiers*

In the video, the writer found 15 utterances that included intensifiers

feature of women's language features. One of them is shown below.

Data 4.4

Ellie Lee : Tiffany, you, I am so proud that you are here and you're doing your thing. For those of you who don't know you used to be and you still are in a girl group called Girls Generation, if you don't know Girls Generation, I can't talk to you, okay?

Tiffany Young : You can't sit with us! (0:19–0:33)

In the dialogue, the word “so” indicates the use of the intensifier feature. Ellie applied the word “so” in her utterance to show that she is really happy and feels very proud to see Tiffany and her activity there since it is known that the entertainment industry in New York is not easy to be entered, but Tiffany can. She used the intensifier to convince the viewer and the guest. From the explanation above, the utterance of Ellie regarding the use of the word so includes the expressive or emotive function since it contains the specific information's word emotional reactions

5. Hypercorrect Grammar

In the analysis process, although some utterances do not use hypercorrect grammar, the writer also found more than 5 utterances that included in the hypercorrect grammar feature of women's language features. One of them is presented below.

Data 5.1

EllieLee : Hi everyone! My name is Ellie Lee and OMG! Okay, I am *Sitting* on a couch, next to my Korean sister, Tiff—we are not actually sister, Korean in the sense of culturally.

Tiffany Young : Figure it. (0:00–0:11)

Based on the conversation above, Ellie still applied English in standard forms. From her utterance, “Okay, I am sitting on a couch,”. Instead of using the word ‘sittin’ which is more casual, since they were talking like in a casual interview session, and that can also be seen from their intimate conversation, she chooses to say “sitting”. The word “sitting” indicates the use of a hypercorrect grammar feature. Ellie applied that word to make her speech more communicative and she wanted to look like a professional person.

6. 'Superpolite' Forms

In the analysis process, the writer found one utterance that included in super polite forms feature of women's language features. Here it is.

Data 6.1

Tiffany Young : From this interview started, I was like,

Ellie Lee : Let's hold hands.

Tiffany Young : *Can you hold my hands?* (4:51–4:54)

From the conversation above, Tiffany still used the super polite forms feature. The utterance “Can you hold my hands?” in the context “Tiffany feels comfortable around Ellie and in that place (where they did the exclusive interview)” indicates the usage of a super polite feature of women's linguistic features belonging to request or polite instruction. It demonstrates that the data above, which includes super-polite terms characteristic of women's language, included the conative function since the speaker wants the hearer's reply or to persuade them to do something. In this case, the utterance is expressed by Tiffany to Ellie as a request to hold her hands.

7. Emphatic Stress

The writer found 6 utterances that included an emphatic stress feature of women's language features. Here is one example of the evidence.

Data 7.5

Tiffany Young : *She is... she's... love at her whole aesthetic.*

Ellie Lee : Yup!(4:01–4:04)

From the conversation above, the utterance of “She is...she's...love at her whole aesthetic.” by Tiffany indicates the use of the emphatic stress feature of women's language. It is applied to emphasize or strengthen her opinion or statement. She repeated the same words because she is too impressed with her. The language function served by the data that included the emphatic stress feature above is the emotive or expressive function. It is because, from certain information, this feature only focuses on the concept of the word emotional response. Tiffany said it to show her feeling for Kim. In this context, Tiffany loves Kim's whole aesthetic.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This conclusion part contains the answers to the research problems which raise two problems and two objectives. The theories used in conducting the analysis are the theory of women's language features by Lakoff and the theory of language functions by Jakobson.

After conducting the analysis, the results show that of 10 features of women's language, there are only seven features found in the video. Those are lexical hedges or fillers (7), rising intonation on declarative (3), empty adjective (1), intensifiers (15) with utterances containing words such as 'so', 'just', 'boldly', 'loudly', 'really and much more, hypercorrect grammar (more than 5), super polite forms (1) and emphatic stress feature (6). Features that do not occur in this research are tag questions, precise color terms, and avoidance of strong swear words.

Based on the theory by Jakobson, there are six functions of language, namely referential function, emotive or expressive function, conative or directive function, phatic function, metalingual function, and poetic function. Referring to Jakobson's theory, this study only found two functions of language in the utterances served by women's language features in the video, the emotive function, and the conative function. The function that appears the most is the emotive function.

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