

Intensifier and Super-Polite Forms in *Ocean's 8* Movie

A. A. Ayu Laksmi Tista Nareswari¹, Yana Qomariana², and Ni Luh Ketut Mas Indrawati³

^[1]English Department, Faculty of Arts, Udayana University
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Email: laksmitista@gmail.com

^[2]English Department, Faculty of Arts, Udayana University
Email: yana_qomariana@unud.ac.id

^[3]English Department, Faculty of Arts, Udayana University
Email: mas.indrawati@yahoo.com

Abstract: This study based on Women's Language Features and focus on finding two the most frequents Women's language features used in *Ocean's 8* movie and the most frequents features are Intensifier and Super-Polite Forms this study aims to identify the Intensifier and Super-Polite Forms features used in *Ocean's 8* movie and also to find out the functions for each data found in *Ocean's 8* movie. The data of this research was taken from the *Ocean's 8* movie (2018). The data was collected using library research method. Descriptive qualitative method was applied to analyse the data, descriptive means the data will be analysed by explaining the data with word or sentences descriptively. The data were analysed based on Women's Language Features proposed by Lakoff (1975) The finding of this study shows that women main character use more intensifier and super-polite forms, also proved Lakoff theory that women boost their statements and use more politeness speech than men. Based on the finding in this study there are three intensifier features used in *Ocean's 8* movie there are *so*, *really*, and *very* and there are three super-polite forms used in *Ocean's 8* movie there are *sorry*, *thank you*, and *polite speech*.

Keywords: *Lakoff, Intensifier, Super-Polite Forms*

I. INTRODUCTION

Sociolinguistics is the study about language relation with the society, whether the social context, social function of language, how people use language to communicate in the society (Holmes, 2013). Language is really important in human's life as the tool to communicate with other people because people are categorized as a social community and expected to be able to live among the society which needs language which to express their thought, feelings, emotions or idea.

Women has their own language and in using language to communicate because women use language to create a deeper relationship towards each other. Women usually deepen their relationship through sharing their story or by sharing their feelings and women prevent themselves to say swear words or taboo words while sharing their story or feelings because swear words is for men and women expected to be more polite than men. The belief that women's language more polite, more refined in a word, more ladylike is very widespread and has been current for many years. Parents treated girls and boys similarly, but provided different models: the mother used far more polite speech than the fathers (Coates,

2013). When people read sentences with taboo word or swear word people will instantly think man is the one who say that word because swearing commonly happen among men than women. It is clear that people have thought for a long time that women and men different in relation to the use of swear words and the other taboo expressions. It is important to note that men's language is started to be used by women, but women's language is not being used by men, apart from those who reject the masculine image (Lakoff, 1975).

Lakoff proposed a theory about women's language in her book "Language and Woman Place's" (1975). In her book she stated women has linguistic features which are divided into ten different categories that are commonly used by women than men which are Lexical hedges or fillers, Tag questions, Rising intonation on declaratives, 'Empty' adjectives, Precise colour terms, Intensifiers, 'Hypercorrect' grammar, Super-polite forms, Avoidance of strong swear words, and Emphatic stress. There are ten features of Women's language stated by Lakoff in her book "Language and Woman Place's" (1975) those features can be observed through literary works, for example book or movies. This study choose to use a movie to observed the

women's language features because movies reflect the real situation of society and movie contains of sentences and utterances therefore many previous study discuss about a few women's language features that occurred in certain movie. There are ten women's language features based on Lakoff (1975) study therefore specific topic has been chosen to analyse in this study which is intensifier and super-polite forms in *Ocean's 8* movie based on the most frequent device used by women and the device believed to be used by women those devices are boosting devices is frequently used by women (intensifier) and women also believed to be more polite than men (super polite forms). The main characters in *Ocean's 8* movie are mostly women and the story focused on the women's character. *Ocean's 8* (*Ocean's Eight*) is an American movie that was released on 2018 directed by Gary Ross. The story of this movie is about Danny Ocean's sister, Deborah Ocean who is planning to make an unforgettable stealing plan at the annual Met Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The data for this study is collected by using library research method in order to find women's language features used in the data source *Ocean's 8* Movie using theory proposed by (Lakoff, 1975). The first step in collecting the data is watched the *Ocean's 8* movie and downloaded the movie script to get the correct utterance in the movie to find the intensifier and super-polite forms features used in *Ocean's 8* movie. Lastly write down or take note of the relevant data containing the women's language features intensifier and super-polite forms from the conversation in the *Ocean's 8* movie. This research applied descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive means the data will be analysed by explaining the data with word or sentences descriptively. The discussion will consist of a description of women's language theory proposed by (Lakoff, 1975) in order to identify women's language features and analyse the function of those features. There were steps conducted in analysing the data, first collect all examples of intensifier and super-polite forms features of women's language proposed by (Lakoff, 1975), secondly we analysed the intensifier and super-polite forms features by explaining the situation in the movie and then described it, after that analysed the function of intensifier and super-polite forms using the theory proposed by (Lakoff, 1975).

In presenting the data informal method will be applied by presenting the analysis using sentences in conversation in order to give a better explanation and help the reader to understand easily. The technique used to presenting the data is describing the intensifier and super-polite forms features used by the main characters and also describe the functions of

Intensifier and Super-polite forms that are used by main characters in *Ocean's 8* movie.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Intensifier

The main characters in *Ocean's 8* movie has three intensifier features uttered which are so, really, and very. These three intensifier features is explained further as below:

3.1.1 So

Daphne : I am such an admirer of yours. I have *so* many of your pieces.
(00:25:04 – 00:25:06)

The data found in Daphne's utterance. Daphne ask Rose to meet her at a fancy restaurant and in the middle of their introduction Daphne try to get Rose attention by saying that she has Rose's design also say she is a fan when the truth is she barely know Rose Weil exists before she read the newspaper about Rose meeting Daphne's opponents.

3.1.2 Functions of So

According Lakoff as cited in Holmes (2013), the function of very as features to boost or intensify to persuade their addressee to take them seriously. The use of boost or intensify devices to strengthen the statements otherwise their statement will not be heard or paid attention to. Lakoff (1975) argues that intensive "so" is more frequent in women's language, as though to say: I feel strongly about this but I dare not to make it clear how strong.

In the data, intensifier features found in Daphne's utterance. Daphne use intensifier features *so* to boost Daphne's statements about having many of Rose's design Rose even though that is a lie therefore Daphne try to make her statements sounds like Daphne is serious about having Rose's design. After hearing Daphne say that she has many of Rose's design, Rose who at first doesn't pay attention to what Daphne say then believe Daphne's statements.

3.1.3 Really

Debbie : Do you want me to tell you how big a job it is?
Tammy : No. No, I *really* don't
(00:29:19 – 00:29:21)

The data found in Tammy's utterance. Debbie suddenly calls Tammy phone and say she is visiting to Tammy's house the moment she calls Tammy she is already in the garage Debbie's phone call shocked Tammy to the point Tammy sneakily meet in Debbie in the garage.

3.1.4 Function of Really

According Lakoff as cited in Holmes (2013), the function of very as features to boost or intensify to

persuade their addressee to take them seriously. The use of boost or intensify devices to strengthen the statements otherwise their statement will not be heard or paid attention to. Substituting an intensifier like *so* for absolute superlative (like, very, really, utterly) seems to be way of backing out of committing oneself strongly to an opinion.

In the data, intensifier features found in Tammy's utterance. Tammy use intensifier features *really* to emphasize Tammy's statements when Debbie try to tell Tammy about how much money involved in this heists plan therefore Tammy try to avoid knowing about the money because Tammy will be tempted if she know.

3.1.5 Very

Nine Ball : We're too far underground. Can't get signal.

Amita : *Very* secure down here, huh?

Cartier Employee : Five feet solid concrete
(00:37:28 – 00:37:34)

The data found in Amita's utterance. Amita realize there's a problem with the special glasses Rose is wearing because when Amita is peeking next to Rose, Amita can see the glasses can't get a signal to send the scan and ask the Cartier employee if the vault is so thick signal can't get through.

3.1.6 Function of Very

According to Lakoff as cited in Holmes (2013), the function of very as features to boost or intensify to persuade their addressee to take them seriously. The use of boost or intensify devices to strengthen the statements otherwise their statement will not be heard or paid attention to. Substituting an intensifier like *so* for absolute superlative (like, very, really, utterly) seems to be way of backing out of committing oneself strongly to an opinion. Women usually increase the strength of their speech because they think that if not they will not be heard or noticed by people who talk to them.

In the data, intensifier features found in Amita's utterance, Amita use intensifier features *very* to boost her statements when Amita peek the glasses from behind Rose there is a sign written no signal therefore Amita try to asks the Cartier employee about how secured the vault is and the Cartier employee explain the vault is indeed secured because it is under five feet solid concrete.

3.2 Super-polite forms

The main characters in *Ocean's 8* movie has three super-polite forms uttered which are sorry, thank you, and polite speech. These three super-polite forms explained further as below:

3.2.1 Sorry

Rose : Uh... Oh, *sorry*. Um... What were you saying?

Daphne : I'm trying to hire you for the Met Ball

(00:25:42 – 00:25:48)

The data found in Rose's utterance. Rose and Daphne finally meet at a restaurant for the first time when Daphne try to talk with Rose about how interested Daphne in Rose's design, Rose didn't pay any attention to it because Debbie and Lou is distracting Rose from outside the restaurant window after Rose realize she is not focus finally Rose ask Daphne about what she say.

3.2.2 Function of Sorry

According to Holmes (2013), the function of sorry as one of politeness devices, this could regarded as another way in which women show consideration for the addressee. Lakoff (1975) stated the reason women speak politely is to make the politeness involves an absence of a strong statement, and women's speech is devised to prevent the expression of strong statements.

In the data, super-polite forms found in Rose's utterance, Rose use super-polite forms *sorry* to show a politeness act because Rose is distracted when Daphne try to talk to her about Daphne wants to recruit Rose as Daphne's designer for the Met Gala.

3.2.3 Thank you

Debbie : Walking towards the bathroom.

Nine Ball : Okay, in the blind spot.

Debbie : I'm gonna keep walking

Nine Ball : Nothing, nothing. Okay. You're right there

Debbie : 12 feet, nice job! *Thank you*, Nine Ball.

(00:56:42 – 00:57:16)

The data found in Debbie's utterance. Debbie is at the museum where Met Gala will be held pretending to be a visitor, Debbie at the museum in order to check whether the camera angle already in the right position or not while Lou and Nine Ball is watching Debbie through Nine Ball's laptop, Lou and Nine Ball communicate with Debbie through an earphone.

3.2.4 Function of Thank you

According to Holmes (2013), the function of thank you is not only for being polite in certain situation but also the social and cultural values of the community. Lakoff (1975) stated the reason women speak politely is to make the politeness involves an absence of a strong statement, and women's speech is devised to prevent the expression of strong statements. In the data, super-polite forms found in Debbie's utterance, Debbie use super-polite forms *thank you* to show appreciation for Nine Ball's help hacking the security camera therefore no one will get

caught when they go inside and out from the restroom.

3.2.5 Polite Speech

Debbie : We use real names around here.

Lou : *Could I talk to you for a minute*
(00:22:01 – 00:22:03)

The data found in Lou's utterance. Lou finally found a hacker for their plan when Debbie arrived at Lou's place after meeting up with Amita, after Lou explain that Nine Ball is already in Met Gala security system, Debbie doesn't look so impressed with the hackers because of how Nine Ball look and Nine Ball also smoking.

3.2.6 Function of Polite Speech

According to (Lakoff, 1975) theory, the function of polite speech used in a conversation to avoid any strong statements when talking to addressee. Women try to be polite by making their request indirectly, which is delivered in form of questions. Politeness forms are appropriate any place and any time, although perhaps not appropriate for every person or role as stated in (Sebeok, 1960).

In the data, super-polite forms found in Lou's utterance, Lou say *Could I talk to you for a minute?* Addressed to Debbie when Debbie's statements start to sounds rude in Lou's perspective therefore Lou use indirect questions to ask Debbie to talk with Lou at the back and to prevent Debbie to talk more harshly towards Nine Ball.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research study has two research question that need to be solved they are the intensifier and super-polite forms and the functions of intensifier and super-polite forms used in *Ocean's 8* movie. These research questions were analysed based on theory proposed by Lakoff (1975) about women's language and the function of each features stated by Lakoff in Holmes, (2013). This study found there are three intensifier features, they are *so*, *really* and *very*, this study also found three super-polite forms, namely *sorry*, *thank you*, and *indirect request* used in *Ocean's 8* movie.

Intensifier and super-polite forms are used by female main characters *Ocean's 8* movie which are Debbie, Lou, Rose, Amita, Tammy, Nine Ball, Constance and Daphne. Lakoff (1975) stated that women speak more polite than men because women are expected to speak politely, Lakoff (1975) also mentioned about women boosts their statements more than men to make the addressee take women's words seriously. The analysis of data found in *Ocean's 8* movie shows that women indeed use more boosting devices than men according to how often the female main characters used the intensifier feature in their conversation; the data also show that

women show politeness act more than men in *Ocean's 8* movie.

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