

Women's Language Features Used by The Main Female Character In "The Hunger Game" Movie

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Abstract: This study discusses women's language features used by Katniss in The Hunger Games Movie. This study investigates the types and the functions of women's language in the movie used by Katniss. There are problems with this study. They are what are women's language capabilities utilized by Lara Jean and what is the most dominant feature she used in The Hunger Games movie, what are the functions of women's language features, and what is the most dominant function she used in The Hunger Games movie. The data in this study analyzed descriptively and qualitatively using the theory of women's language by Lakoff (1975) and the theory of functions of women's language features by Jakobson (1960) The data were taken from Katniss's utterances. Then, the data were identified, analyzed, and defined based on the types of women's language features based on Lakoff's theory (1975). The result of this study showed that not all types of women's language features were used by Katniss in The Hunger Games movie. This study found 9 types of women's language features. They are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. The most dominant women's language feature is lexical hedges or fillers with sixteen utterances. The functions are weakening and strengthening. The most dominant function of women's language features is weakening, with twelve utterances.

Keywords: *woman language features, function of women's language features, movie*

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a means of daily communication, either used separately, in pairs, or in groups. Language is the most effective and very necessary communication medium for individuals. Through language, social, or community-related language research, individuals could communicate their feelings and thoughts using sociolinguistics. In terms of speaking, according to the social significance of language social interactions and social identity to be delivered in the group, people use language differently. Moreover, the purpose of language is to define and provide an identity based on the speaker's gender.

The focus of language and gender study in sociolinguistics is on the impact of gender on language usage. The relationship between language and gender is the relationship between language and

the concept of men and women. According to Lakoff (as cited in Eckert, 2013), as part of their socialization, women are forced to learn a weak, trivial, and deferential style, which is basically learning how to be subordinate.

The women's language itself also discusses the topic of gender. Women's language according to Lakoff (1975) is the "language of the powerless"; a reflection of their subordinate position in relation to men. She distinguishes many language characteristics that are considered peculiar to women's speech as opposed to men. Women also apply tag questions to statements, according to Lakoff. They do this because they are less confident in themselves and women use the question in declarative statements to lift the pitch of their opinion. Holmes (1992: 33) stated "women are more linguistically polite than men, and different roles of speech are emphasized by both women and men". In 1975, Robin Lakoff

proposed an idea related to language and gender. She mentions that after conducting a review, she found that women have a certain way of using language that is different from men. Lakoff states that women have an unequal position and are discriminated against in the manner in which they are taught to use words (1975: 6). Lakoff states that when they use language to communicate, women prefer to use certain linguistic features (Lakoff via Holmes, 1992: 314).

The use of women's language characteristics can be seen in the movie in this period of globalization. Women's language can be found in literary works, such as movies, since films represent real-life social situations and include sentences and utterances. Movie is one of the great works of literature. Today, we can find movies that have the features of the women's language easily. After watching some movies, I thought that The Hunger Games movie is the best subject that can help me to succeed in this research.

The Hunger Games movie and Lakoff's theory of women's language features were chosen because the movie includes many women-related life lessons. This movie seems to be about women's lives based on the character, personality, and title. The researcher is interested in researching women's language features using Lakoff's theory because of age gaps, experiences, and behavior that influence the way they communicate. The researcher chose Lakoff's theory because Lakoff is an expert in the study of women's language features and Lakoff's theory is easy, clear, and suitable to analyzed the character.

The Hunger Games is a movie directed by Garry Ross. The Hunger Games is a series of dystopian young adult novels written by Suzanne Collins, an American author and the movie is adapted from the novel. The universe of The Hunger Games is the fictional world that serves as the setting for The Hunger Games. This study discusses the types of women's language used by the main female character and the functions of women's language in this movie. In this study, The Hunger Game's movie in which the main character of the movie was taken as the source of data. It is an interesting movie because it contains many valuable messages such as, no matter what your circumstances are, you should stand up for what you believe in, enemies can become friends and friends can become enemies.

Problems of the Study

According to the background above, the problems of this study are:

- a. What types of women's language features are used by the main female character in The Hunger Games movie?
- b. What are the functions of women's language features in The Hunger Games movie?

Aims of the Study

The aims of this study are classified into two parts:

- a. To identify and classify the types of women's language features used by the female character in The Hunger Games movie.
- b. To find out the functions of women's language features in The Hunger Games movie.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method in this study consists of data source, method and technique of collecting method and technique of analysing the data, and method and technique of presenting data.

Data Source

The data of this study were taken from the movie entitled "The Hunger Games". The movie was produced by Nina Jacobson and Jon Killik. The production company is from Colour Force. The Hunger Games universe took place in the fictional nation of Panem, a North American country consisting of the wealthy Capitol and 13 districts in varying states of poverty. Children from the first 12 regions are chosen to compete in a mandatory televised battle royal death game and it called The Hunger Games. It happened every year via lottery. This movie was directed by Gary Ross. The movie was released on 12th of March 2012 and it was premiered in Los Angeles. In the United States the movie was premiered on 23rd of March 2012. The main focus of the data is the words, phrases or sentences that contain of women's language features which used by the main female character in The Hunger Game's movie. "The Hunger Games" movie is about the representation of girl power. Women have choices and rights to choose what they want. The main female character Katniss, she volunteers to replace her sister in a tournament that ends only when one participant remains.

Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The method and technique of collecting data in this study using note taking technique. First, thoroughly watching and note taking the women's language, such as the words, phrases or sentences that appeared in the conversation used, by the main female character in the "The Hunger Games" movie. Then reading, and classifying the women language based on the theory proposed by Lakoff (1975). Second, the data were identified and selected, then analysing the function of women's linguistic features proposed by Jakobson (1960). Here are some steps of collecting the data:

- a. The first step is watching The Hunger Games movie on the website namely www.moviegagapro.com
- b. Secondly, take a note for the words, phrases and sentences which consider as the types of women's language.

- c. Read the “*The Hunger Games*” script and the movie script was taken from www.thescriptsavant.com
- d. Identify and classify the finding data into 10 types of women’s language features and find out the function of women’s language features in *The Hunger Games* movie.

Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

The collected data were qualitatively and descriptively analysed based on the theory proposed by (Lakoff 1975, Holmes 2013). The data were taken from the conversation, but not all of the sentences were used during the conversation. Only the sentence that fulfilled the feature was applied to answer every research question. These were categorized according to the types of women’s language features proposed by (Lakoff 1975, Holmes 2013). In this study, the theory that proposed by Jakobson (1960) will be used to analyse the research question number two. Identify and select the data, then categorized it into the functions of women’s language features.

Method and Technique of Presenting Data

In presenting the results, this study applied descriptive method that presents the result of analysing the use of woman’s language features and the function of woman’s language features that are found in the movie. Every data has categorized based on the types of women language features and the function of women’s language features. This is intended to make the topic more understandable to the readers.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter will present the results and the discussion based on the gathered data. The two problems of study will be also answered and explained in this chapter. There will be one section of discussion. The section will show the list of women’s language features used by Katniss in *The Hunger Games* movie and the functions of women’s language features used by Katniss in *The Hunger Games* movie.

Data 1

PEETA : No, but they taste familiar. Sugar berries?

KATNISS : Well, you can’t get them much on the market. They grow wild.

Peeta is the male tribute representing District 12 in the 74th annual Hunger Games, alongside female tribute Katniss Everdeen who had injured his leg. Katniss had to go because she might have a gamble but Peeta didn’t allowed her because Peeta needs Katniss’s help to take care of the wound. Katniss decided to leave the cave. A tiny parachute lands in front of her. It holds sleep medicine. She takes

berries out of her pocket, douses them with the medicine, and heads back to the cave. Katniss changed her mind to not leave Peeta. Then Katniss gave the berries to Peeta for him to eat. Peeta asked Katniss whether the berries that he eats are sugar berries but Katniss said the sugar berries are grown wild, there are sugar berries on the market.

The data above shows that Katniss uses well before delivering her statement. The statement is to respond to Peeta if we could not get the sugar berries on market. Katniss used well to refine her words, so she does not look firm because Katniss does not want Peeta to think that she is bad. If Katniss becomes fierce, then Katniss will lose her image as a woman, because basically, a woman is humble and polite.

Another variant of fillers found in Katniss’s utterances is the word “you know.” Women use much filler “you know” to convey uncertainty (Holmes cited in Amanda, 2017, p. 34)

Data 2

KATNISS : You’re not going to die.

PEETA : Says who?

KATNISS : Says me, we are on the same team now, you know.

As cited in Holmes (2013), Lakoff (1973) shows that hedges indicate women’s lack of confidence explicitly. The data above shows that Katniss feels unsure about what she has said. However, there is a sign of her low confidence while Katniss answering to Peeta’s question. The word “you know” indicates her uncertainty and lack of confidence. The purpose of Katniss using the word “you know” aim to get a response after giving an answer and she is uncertain when she declaring it.

According to Pearson (1985, p 47 as cited in Rubbyanti, 2017), lexical hedges as you know, well, you see, maybe, perhaps, and I think are used by women when they are about to start a conversation or discussion. They also tend to implicitly ask their friends to know what they want and they want to be understood. Therefore, this feature is also used to express Katniss’s uncertainty while giving an answer to Peeta. Hence, Katniss uses this kind of lexical hedges or fillers in this situation to express uncertainty and to get responses.

Data 3

PEETA : I found some berries down by the stream

KATNISS : I thought Cato killed you! Why didn’t you whistle? I said to whistle every 5 minutes! You didn’t whistle for an hour!

From the data above, Katniss is waiting for Peeta to whistle every 5 minutes but Peeta did not do that until an hour. As seen in the data above, Katniss uses lexical hedges “I thought” at the beginning of her statement because she feels unsure that Cato would kill Peeta or not. At first, Katniss feels unsure whether Cato would kill Peeta or not since Peeta did

not whistle for an hour. That's why when Peeta finally comes up, Katniss uses "I thought" to express uncertainty. Katniss also avoids making a firm statement. Katniss refined her firm words so as not to have been fierce because if she becomes fierce, then she will tarnish the image of women where women humble and polite.

Data 4

CAESAR : So, about that training score. E-le-ven. Give us a hint about what happened in there.

KATNISS : Um... all I can say is, I think it was a first.

Based on the conversation above, Katniss feels unsure when Caesar asks her for a hint. Katniss is not sure what happened in the games whether the training score will succeed in the first place or failed. Fillers such as um, uh, you see, see indicate Katniss's lack of confidence since she gets nervous when she is about to answer Caesar's question. Based on the five functions of women's language proposed by Judy Pearson in 1985, this feature is used by Katniss to express her uncertainty because Katniss looks hesitates while answering Caesar's question.

According to Lakoff (1973), fillers are meaningless particles that give a pause for women to think about what they want to say. Therefore, this feature helps Katniss since she needs a little time to think about what she is going to say. Katniss looks unconfident due to the situation. This shows women are not comfortable and confident with things that still unsure.

Data 5

KATNISS : *Should* we go down and help him?

HAYMITCH : Oh, you know, he wants to do it himself, but please come help me set the table.

From the data, Katniss uses "*should*" instead of "are we going to" to weaken her sentences and also away from rough words and also be polite to Haymitch because Katniss usually uses polite language to everyone, so she keeps her image.

Data 6

KATNISS : Well, *great*. If that was the reason you came over to talk to me

Katniss is talking to Cinna in front of the tent and they talk about the games. From the data, Katniss uses "*great*" to show if she uses the strengthening function. Katniss uses the strengthening function because she uses these words to reinforce her statement. Katniss uses strengthening words so that she is taken seriously with her interlocutor if she uses weak words to convey her feeling the interlocutor will not take Katniss's words seriously.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based at the results and discussion, this study finds 9 features of women's language used by Katniss in The Hunger Games film. They are; lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words and emphatic stress. There are no precise color terms that have been discovered in the film because Katniss does not speak related to color. The most dominant women's language features used by Katniss is lexical hedges or fillers. Those features are divided into 16 lexical hedges, 4 rising intonation, 15 intensifiers, nine hypercorrect grammar, 2 empty adjectives, 5 avoidance of strong swear words, 5 super polite terms, 4 tag questions. The least used feature by Katniss is emphatic stress 3. The last is precise color terms that don't have any cases in the data. In the movie, there was no scene of Katniss speaking about referencing color so there are no precise color terms in this study.

The function of women's language features is divided into two functions. Those are weakening function and strengthening function. The weakening features are hedges or fillers, tag questions, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words and the rising intonation. The empty adjectives, the intensifiers, and emphatic stress are strengthening. The most dominant function of women's language functions is weakening. Based on the data, this study uses many weakening functions because Katniss wants to lessen the force of the statement, and also Katniss uses the strengthening function a little because she keeps the tone of her voice soft

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