

WOMEN'S LANGUAGE USED BY FEMALE CHARACTERS IN *WONDER WOMAN* MOVIE

Ni Luh Putu Eka Septiari, I Nyoman Sedeng, Luh Sutjiati Beratha
ekaseptiari465@gmail.com
English Department, Faculty of Arts, Udayana University

ABSTRACT

It aimed at identifying the language features applied by female characters and finding out the functions of each type of women's linguistic features. This paper used the theory of women's linguistic features proposed by Lakoff. She describes ten women's language features: lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. The data source in this study is Wonder Woman Movie. The movie was chosen as the data source because it contained many women's dialogues and the features and function of women's language. The collected data was identified and selected, then analyzed the features of women's language used by the female characters in Wonder Woman movie and analyzed the function of women's linguistic features based on Lakoff. The method applied in collecting data was the documentation method. Afterwards, the method of analyzing data in this study was the descriptive qualitative method. This study applied the informal method in presenting the data analysis, which represented the result of analysis by using words and its purposes to give the explanation to make the readers understand easily. The findings of the analysis showed there were six kinds of women's linguistic features found in Wonder Woman Movie: lexical hedges or fillers, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, and intensive adverbs. There were also some functions of women's linguistic features found in the data. The functions of each type of feature are closely related to the context in which it is used. Each type of women's linguistic feature found in the movie displays has different functions and reasons. In general, the finding of the analysis of functions aimed to be polite and avoiding strong expressions.

Keywords: Women's Language, Female Characters, Wonder Woman Movie.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi ciri kebahasaan yang diterapkan oleh tokoh perempuan dan mengetahui fungsi masing-masing jenis ciri kebahasaan perempuan. Makalah ini menggunakan teori fitur linguistik perempuan yang dikemukakan oleh Lakoff. Dia menjelaskan sepuluh fitur bahasa wanita: batasan leksikal, pertanyaan tag, intonasi naik pada deklaratif, kata sifat kosong, istilah warna yang tepat, intensifiers, tata bahasa hiperkoreksi, bentuk super sopan, menghindari kata-kata umpatan yang kuat, dan tekanan empatik. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini adalah Wonder Woman Movie. Film tersebut dipilih sebagai sumber data karena banyak memuat dialog-dialog perempuan serta fitur dan fungsi bahasa perempuan. Data yang terkumpul diidentifikasi dan diseleksi, kemudian dianalisis fitur bahasa wanita yang digunakan oleh

karakter wanita dalam film Wonder Woman dan menganalisis fungsi fitur linguistik wanita berdasarkan Lakoff. Metode yang digunakan dalam pengumpulan data adalah metode dokumentasi. Selanjutnya, metode analisis data dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penelitian ini menerapkan metode informal dalam menyajikan analisis data, yang merepresentasikan hasil analisis dengan menggunakan kata-kata dan tujuannya untuk memberikan penjelasan agar mudah dipahami oleh pembaca. Temuan analisis menunjukkan ada enam jenis fitur linguistik wanita yang ditemukan di Wonder Woman Movie: leksikal hedges atau pengisi, intonasi naik pada deklaratif, kata sifat kosong, tata bahasa hiperkoreksi, bentuk super sopan, dan kata keterangan intensif. Ada juga beberapa fungsi fitur linguistik perempuan yang ditemukan dalam data. Fungsi masing-masing jenis fitur terkait erat dengan konteks penggunaannya. Setiap jenis fitur kebahasaan perempuan yang terdapat dalam tayangan film memiliki fungsi dan alasan yang berbeda-beda. Secara umum, temuan analisis fungsi bertujuan untuk bersikap sopan dan menghindari ekspresi yang kuat.

Kata kunci: Bahasa Wanita, Karakter Wanita, Film Wonder Woman.

I. INTRODUCTION

A language is a tool of communication. According to Richard and Schmidt (2010: 311), language is the system of human communication that consists of the structured arrangement of sounds into larger units. Similarly, Wiratno (2018: 29) stated that a language is a communication tool that is structured in units such as words, sentences, or clauses. It is expressed in verbal or written form. Besides, language is a vehicle for the expression or exchanging of thoughts, concepts, knowledge, and information and the fixing and transmission of expression and knowledge (Bussmann, 2006: 627). Therefore, language is essential as an integral part of human life for daily interaction.

While, Eckert and Ginet (2003: 52) mentioned that language is moderated by linguistic systems as part of communication. The theories above are similar to Litosselitti (2013: 9), who mentioned language is used in certain ways by humans as part of understanding their self and their surroundings. Moreover, she also mentioned that language has the potential to maintain and change human's social life. In other words, language is an important part of

human's communication and social life. In the Linguistic aspect, there is a part called sociolinguistic. Sociolinguistic is part of linguistic that discusses human's social life and language.

The difference in language use between men and women brings the influence of their language in use. Between men and women, both have their own typical style of speaking. Holmes (1992: 33) also stated that females are more linguistically polite than males and both males and females emphasize different speech functions. She said that females used the standard form of prestigious form, while males use the vernacular form, which does not have social status and is not cited as the correct form.

In sociolinguistics, the study about language and gender emphasizes the focus on the effect of gender on the use of language. The relationship between language and gender is the relationship between language and the notion of men and women. Eckert & Genet (2003: 159) mentioned that women are disempowered by being constrained to use "powerless" language, ways of speaking that are not very effective in getting others to think or do what the speaker wants them to.

She was arguing that in positioning themselves as women, in taking up a certain place in the gender order, those who made use of the various resources she identified were also positioning themselves as powerless, were rejecting positions of authority from which they might successfully launch their meanings into discourse with a reasonable hope for their success. Besides, Lakoff (1975) said that men's language is increasingly being used by women, but women's language is not being adopted by men.

Many sociolinguists suggest that men and women speak differently in any community. According to Lakoff (1975), women use more polite language, because their status is inferior to men and it affects their language. Men and women also have different features, which make them different in several aspects. As human beings, women have their own characteristics which men do not have. Physical appearances and voice qualities are the two things of women and men differences which can be seen clearly.

Women language is a very interesting subject to be studied as related to the variation of gender as the main parameter in language use. This study analyzed the women's linguistic features and their function as represented by women characters in the *Wonder Woman* movie. Based on the phenomena above, the researcher formulated the research problems as follows: 1) What kinds of women's linguistic features are found in the *Wonder Woman* movie? 2) What are the functions of those women's linguistic features found in the *Wonder Woman* movie?

II. RESEARCH METHOD

Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic

issue. The research methods applied in this study are data source, method and technique of collecting data, method and technique of analyzing data and method and technique of presenting the analysis.

The data source in this study is the *Wonder Woman* movie. The main data of this study was the utterances of the female characters in the *Wonder Woman* movie. It is based on the language features proposed by Lakoff (1975) that those features are lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers such as just and so, 'hyper-correct' grammar, 'super-polite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Hence, the data was in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that were discovered in the data source.

Wonder Woman movie was released on June 2, 2017. This movie tells about Diana, a princess of the Amazons, trained to be an unconquerable warrior. She was raised on a sheltered island paradise. When a pilot crashes on their shores and tells of a massive conflict raging in the outside world, Diana leaves her home, convinced she could stop the threat. Fighting alongside man in a war to end all wars, Diana will discover her full powers and true destiny. The movie was chosen as the data source due to its richness in women's linguistic features based on the theory proposed by Lakoff (1975) in her book '*Language and Women's Place*'.

The method applied in collecting data was the documentation method. There were some steps to collecting data in this study: first, watching and observing every utterance in the *Wonder Woman* movie. Second, listening to and comparing the subtitle and the conversations in the *Wonder*

Woman movie to make the data more effectively. Lastly, there were twelve selecting data the utterances produced by female characters based on the theory of women's language proposed by Lakoff (1975) and the function of those languages used based on the theory of Holmes (2013).

The method of analyzing data in this study was the descriptive qualitative method. Sugiyono (2008) defined qualitative research as a form of words rather than a number. It is concerned with the process rather than simply with outcomes or products, and it tends to analyze the data inductively than statistically.

This study analyzed twelve data of women linguistic features and functions used in the conversations *Wonder Woman* movie. The data was analyzed based on the theory of women's linguistic features proposed by Lakoff (1975). There were some techniques in analyzing the data in this study. First, the data were identified and selected, then analyzed the features of women's language spoken by the female characters in *Wonder Woman* movie. The last step is to analyze the function of women's linguistic features proposed by Lakoff (1975).

According to Sudaryanto (1993:145), there are two methods of presenting data, formal and informal methods. The formal method is the method that is used when the researcher is presenting the results of analysis by using symbols, diagrams, figures, numbers and tables. The informal method is the method used when the researcher is presenting the results of the analysis by using words and sentences. This study applied the informal method in presenting the data, which is presented the result of analysis using words and its purposes to give the readers more understanding of the topic.

III. DISCUSSION

3.1 Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Data 1

Etta: Ooh! **Well, I do everything.**

: I go where he tells me to go, and I do what he tells me to do.

She uttered *Ooh! Well, I do everything* when she answered Diana's question about what a secretary is. She tries to explain Diana by saying she does everything as Steve asked her to do. Etta used lexical hedges **well** in her utterance. The hedge **well** in Etta utterance is used to express her uncertainty that she is not sure about what is actually her duty as the secretary. According to Lakoff (1975: 54), anyone may do this if there are a lacks of self-confidence as everyone does in some situations, but women do it more. The function of hedge **well** in Etta utterance is used to show her uncertainty or cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement.

Data 2

Etta: Fight? We use our principles.

: **I mean**, that's how we're going to get the vote.

Etta used the hedge **I mean**, since she expressed her strong feelings to Diana about what does she mean about principles. She used hedge **I mean**, in her utterance because she has trouble telling her statement. It expresses the lack of confidence in starting a statement and insecurity of something that can be ruining her speech. The function in Etta's utterance was showing her strong feelings for Diana. Lakoff (1975:54) states that hedges show up anyway, the speaker is perfectly certain of the truth of the assertion, and there is no danger of offence. However, the tag appears as an apology for making an assertion at all.

3.2 Rising or Question Intonations on Declarative

Data 1

Etta: **really?** Specs?

The above showed the dialogue between Steve and Etta. The dialogue took place in the outfit shop nearby the Supreme War Council building. Etta then said **Really? Specs? And suddenly she's not the most beautiful woman you've ever seen?** in her utterance. Etta used rising intonation **really?** In her utterance to showed that she was surprised when she saw Steve put the specs on Diana. The function of rising intonation in Etta utterance is used to seeking for confirmation.

3.3 Empty Adjective**Data 1**

Etta: **lovely.** (Seeing Diana in an outfit that she is wearing on)

Etta's utterance can be categorized as women-only adjectives as it is projecting a strong effect on its usage. It could be seen clearly that the function of Etta's utterance was to express her admiration for the outfit that Diana wear on. Etta's utterance used the empty adjective **lovely** to strongly appreciate the blanked, which is cozy and beautiful. Lakoff (1975) states that empty adjectives commonly occur in women to women in conversation.

3.4 Hyper-correct Grammar**Data 1**

The Queen: Be careful in the world of men, Diana. They don't deserve you.

: **You have been** my greatest love.

The Queen's utterance used Nominal present perfect tense in their utterance, which the rule is S + have/has + been. They used Standard English to speak politely. They used hypercorrect grammar in their utterance to show their politeness in a polite way. Lakoff (1975: 55) states that women are not supposed to talk rough. Generally, women are

viewed as the preserves of literacy and culture, where literacy and culture are viewed as somewhat suspect in males.

3.5 Super Polite Form**Data 1**

Diana: **I'm sorry.** But you are clearly under his control.

Diana uttered, *I'm sorry* in her utterance because she felt sorry for being controlled by Ares. She uttered **sorry** to apologize in a polite way because she did not give any response directly. The function of super polite form in the data above was to apologize in a polite way. Lakoff (1975) states that language politeness is usually described in terms of compromisers, down toners, weakness or softeners.

Data 2

Diana : Mother. **Excuse me**, but after everything the man said, this must be Ares.

Amazon Warrior: what are you talking about child?

Data above showed a dialogue between female characters. The dialogue took place at the palace on Themysciran island. The topic discussed Steve and the cause of the war. They'd heard about the war told by Steve, and Diana thought the war was caused by Ares. Diana uttered, *excuse me*. When she interrupted the discussion between the Amazon Warrior and the Queen. She used super polite form in her utterance because she did not want to be rude in front of the Queen and the Amazons. Diana said it in a polite way. The function of polite form in Diana's utterance was to show her politeness developing in order to reduce friction in personal interaction.

Lakoff (1975) states that women show their use of super polite form in their speech in several ways. Some of them are by having less assertive, make an indirect request, using a euphemism,

using hypercorrect grammar, and so on. She claims that women speech differs from men in that women are more polite, which is precisely as it should be since women are the preserves of morality and civility.

Data 3

Steve : I didn't see you come in.

Diana : **Would you** say you're a typical example of your sex?

Steve : I am above average.

Data above showed a dialogue between male and female characters. The dialogue took place Steve's room when he is on Themysciran island. The topic discussed typical of sex since Diana never saw a man before Steve came to the island. Diana uttered *Would you say you're a typical example of your sex?* In her utterance when she saw Steve without any clothes on him in the shower. Diana used super polite form *Would you say you're a typical example of your sex?* in her utterance when she asks Steve to tell her about typical sex of his kind (men). She used super polite form when she asked for Steve explanation. Diana's utterance can be categorized as a positive question.

Diana's utterance has functioned as a request to the decision living up to the willingness of the addressee. The utterance as a positive question makes an implicit assumption that the addressee will answer "yes". Lakoff (1975) states that women language is considered a reflection of their individual qualities: emotions, sensitivity, sociability, expressivities, solidarity, etc. Men language is proof of their status, independence, control, etc. In general, women are considered more polite than men; sometimes, this reflects their social insecurity.

3.6 Intensive Adverbs

Data 1

Diana: No, Mother, I'm fine, I was **just**-

The data above showed a dialogue between female characters. The dialogue took place on Themysciran island. Diana was in the fighting training with the Antiope as the greatest Amazon Warrior. While practice Diana kept doubting herself and fell down on the ground, then the Queen came. Diana uttered *No, Mother, I'm fine, I was just*- in her utterance. She used intensive adverbs **just** in her utterance when the Queen asked her if she was hurt or not. In that situation, Diana gave the reason that she was just in training, and she just wanted time to prove herself that she could be the strongest warrior after all, the Amazon warrior. Lakoff (1975) states that the use of intensive adverbs seems to be a way of backing out of committing oneself strongly to an opinion, rather like tag questions. If women use hedging to express uncertainty, the use of intensive adverbs in women speech was persuade their addressee to take them seriously and to strengthen the meaning.

Data 2

Diana: **So**, you cannot sleep with me unless I marry you.

Data above showed a dialogue between male and female characters. The dialogue took place in the boat when they are going to London. Diana uttered *So, you cannot sleep with me unless I marry you.* in her utterance when Steve at first did not want to sleep beside Diana based on the reason that they are not a couple. She said that because she did not want to be one of the clichéd girls. Diana used an intensifier **so** in her utterance to express her feeling to Steve. It indicates that **so** convey the emotions that women tend to show their feelings to a greater extent than men do. Lakoff (1975) states that the intensifier **so** is supposed to

weaken a speaker's strength of feeling subsequently been viewed as a boosting device like very.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

This chapter discussed the conclusions that were drawn from the discussion in the previous chapter. The topic of discussion in this study is women's language in terms of women's linguistic features and their functions. The discussion focuses on two problems mentioned in the previous chapter, such as language features and their functions are applied by women. Based on the analysis and discussion, there are some points presented as the conclusion of the study.

First, there are nine features of women's linguistic features found in *Wonder Woman* movie. They are lexical hedges or fillers, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, and intensive adverbs.

Second, there are some functions of women's linguistic features found in the data. Those were the expressive function contained six data in the movie scene, there was only one data found contained of referential function, there was also only one dialogue contained of metalinguistic function, there was only one dialogue which contained of phatic function, and finally, there were three other data found in the movie scene contained of the heuristic function.

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