THE CORRELATION LANGUAGE AND GENDER AS WOMAN'S LANGUAGE IN THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE CONFESSION OF A SHOPAHOLIC'S MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This research studies about the correlation language and gender with the variety of woman's language feature in the main character Rebecca Bloomwood in the Confession of Shopaholic movie. There are two objectives that become the purpose of this study; 1) To find the variety of woman's language feature in the main character Rebecca Bloomwood in the *Confession of Shopaholic* movie and 2) To find the woman's language correlate to gender in the main character in the Confession of Shopaholic movie. The theory used in this research is the Sociolinguistic approach by using the theory of Robin Lakoff about woman's language features and women's language correlate to gender. The methodology used in this study is qualitative research to explain the data, because the data are analyzed and described in the form of words and sentences. The data are taken from the conversations uttered by the main character as female character. The result of the research, the researcher finds ten variety of woman's language such as precise color terms, avoiding using strong word, empty adjective, tag question, avoiding using strong word, lexical hedges, intensifier, emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar, and super polite form. Regarding the reason by using the feature is most the feature of variety woman's language has been found in the main character. Those features show woman's correlations to gender that women tend to reflect uncertainty, and their lack of confidence in conversation. This research finds woman's language is super polite than man, women's talk more evaluative and emotional than man's language.

Keyword: *Main character, Women's language, Gender, Sociolinguistics*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini meneliti tentang sebuah hubungan antara bahasa dan gender dengan meneliti variasi bahasa wanita dalam karakter pemeran utama Rebecca Bloomwood di dalam film *The Confession of Shopaholic*. Ada dua tujuan dari

penelitian ini; 1) untuk menemukan variasi-variasi bahasa wanita yang digunakan pada pemeran utama Rebecca Bloomwood dalam film *The Confession of Shopaholic*. 2) untuk menemukan hubungan antara bahasa wanita dengan gender yang ada dalam pemeran utama di film *The Confession of Shopaholic*.Teori yang digunakan pada penelitian ini adalah Sosiolinguistik dengan menggunakan teori Robin Lakoff tentang fitur bahasa wanita dan hubungan bahasa terhadap gender. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menjelaskan sebuah data, dikarenakan data penelitian telah dianalisa dan dideskripsikan melalui sebuah bahasa dalam kata dan kalimat yang terdapat dalam pemeran utama wanita di film *The Confession of Shopaholic*.Hasil dari penelitian, peneliti menemukan sepuluh variasi bahasa wanita yang diantaranya *precise color terms, avoiding using strong word, empty adjective, tag question, avoiding using strong word, lexical hedges, intensifier, emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar, and super polite form*. Berdasarkan fitur tersebut ditemukan hubungan bahasa wanita dengan gender merefleksikan bahwa wanita cenderung memiliki kekhawatiran dan kurang kepercayaan diri dalam percakapan. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa wanita berbicara lebih sopan dibandingkan pria, serta bahasa wanita lebih evaluatif dan emosional dibandingkan bahasa pria.

Kata Kunci: Pemeran utama, bahasa wanita, gender dan sosiolingustik

INTRODUCTION

Sophisticated technology develops every day. Human creates more sophisticated technology. Not only technology grows up but also literature shows on and never dies. Literature is a window how people see their life even literature can be a mirror to somebody. Nowadays in the developing era, literature shows on with a good visual for recipient. Film or movie is one of kind a literary work having a good audio visual. Since years ago, literary work was famous in a written, but already now, literature develops in visualization.

The researcher chooses *The Confession of Shopaholic*, adapted from the novel which has the same title. *The Confession of Shopaholic* tells about woman's love and life and she had a dream to become a journalist in a famous fashion magazine. the researcher is interested in analyzing women's language as the

correlation of language and gender. The researcher has two major reasons that making this movie justifiable; first, it contains language features of women's language using female character. Second, female character has same character in woman's true life, so it makes easy the researcher to find and analysis the variation of woman's language. Third, based on findings the variety of women's language, the researcher finds the correlate woman's language to gender.

RELATED LITERATURE

Language is one of the parts of live and it cannot be separated. Language, communication and human being are components which cannot be separated from each other. Agustina (1995, p.22) says, …."by language one can talk with others, express his desires, his feeling and his ideas". Language can be a communication between individuals and relationship with an environment. The researcher explains the correlation language and gender by Sociolinguistics approach. The researcher chooses to discuss language and gender as part of variety language because sociolinguistic is the study to learn about correlation language and power, class, status, and gender. Language and gender collaborate and link in a society. Human uses language for communicate in a society.

Woman and man have a different language because their occupations, societies, positions, etc. A woman's language shows the power and kind a female. The woman's manner of speaking can reflect the subordinate status in a society. Not only mitigates shows in woman's language but inessential qualifiers can be found in woman's language. Woman's language does not have essential

qualification which effectively disqualifies women from position of power and authority likes a man.

The features of women language are unified in their association with a lack power and women are forced to learn a weak, trivial, and differential style as a reflection of their powerlessness and men's power. Lakoff says, There are ten types of speech features that commonly used by women than men that based onher intuition and observation. Those speech features are lexical hedges fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies(precise colors terms), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect'grammar, 'super polite' form, avoidance of strong words,and emphatic stress. (1975, p.13)

The researcher uses Lakoff's theory because the theory is able to cover women's language phenomena in relation with the way women speak in their society completely and specifically.

The variety of woman's language feature based on gender

The researcher finds a frequently of woman's language can show in features of woman's language. Based on Lakoff said before, woman has features of language in communication. Those women use language features according to Lakoff (1975) such as;

1. Lexical hedges or fillers

Lexical hedges or fillers are signal of lack of confidence or expressing of uncertainty in the conversation, which aim to fill the gap between the conversations or to take and hold on the turn of the conversation, to begin the conversation, and to keep the conversation on the track. Lexical hedges or fillers

are expressions such as *well, you know, kinda, I think, hmm, umm*, *may, believe, seems, looks*, etc

2. Taq Question

Tag question is a grammatical structure in which a declarative statement or an imperative is turned into a question by adding an interrogative fragment called the tag." It is used as a midway between an absolute statement and yes-no question, it is less forceful from the former but more confident than the later." (Lakoff, 1975, p.15).

3. Rising Intonation

Rising intonation usually used by women who wish to continue speaking, seek for feedback or response, or feel uncertain about their own statement.

4. Empty Adjective

Women also convey their emotional reaction rather than give specific information by using empty adjective. It is a group of adjective in terms of vocabulary and it is indicating speaker's approbation or admiration for something, such as *gorgeous, fabulous, lovely*, etc

5. Precise Colors Term

Women also seem to talk like a lady shown in the choice of lexical items by making far more discriminations in naming colors or called *precise color terms*, for example *mauve, turquoise, mustard, magenta*, etc. Those vocabularies are often well identified by women.

6. Intensifier

Intensifiers signify the lack of the power to make a strong assertion. Intensifier is used " to emphasize or strengthen the meanings of the following words." (Hornby, 1989). For example,*so, very, totally, just, really* and *awful*.

7. Hypercorrect grammar

Hypercorrect grammar can be indicated when the woman use the form of comparison degree and parallel structure in their sentence. Through language it can be seen whether the speaker speaks softly, gently, or roughtly.

8. Super polite form

The lack of confidence stimulates women to use over exaggerated politeness when they use language. It is in line with Lakoff's theories which state that language used by women generally contains more. Example; *would you please……, I'd really appreciate* it….

9. Avoidance of Strong Words

Woman has more features language and woman speaks avoidance of strong word in communication. Devi (2003, p.5) says " that women tend to avoid using strong swear words and replace it with weak expletive such as *oh dear*, *my goodness*, and so on".

10. Emphatic stress

The last is *emphatic stress* features. It occurs when women want to strenghten an assertion. In stressing the opinion in written text, women may use *italic, bold, coloring, repeat, capital letter*, or *typing with longer letter* to give more emphasize or strengthen of those words

The Differences women's language and men's language features

Man and woman speak different language having been known a years ago, it depends on a sex, human birth, and society culture. Woman and man talk different way based on social culture. Men use stronger expletives such as *shit* and *damn*, whereas women use weaker or softer profanity such as *oh dear, goodness,* or *judge.* The researcher compares women's language and men's language by the features of woman's language can be known; first, women's language more use super polite from than men's language. Second, the researcher finds women language is more emotional and evaluative according to the stereotype as women's language features. Third, the researcher finds women talk more tentative than men and men talk more assertive.

METHODOLOGY

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research. This research is called qualitative research since this research presents the descriptive data, in forms of words, spoken or written by people. There are two classified sources of data in which the researcher devices the data. The first is primary data. The Primary data is the main object that the researcher uses in this analysis. The primary data are taken from *The Confession of a Shopaholic* film.

The researcher chooses the film, because the film expresses the kind of woman such as life and language. Second, is secondary data. The secondary data are the support of the primary data. It is supporting references, such as book, journal, web, article, biography, review of play, and autobiography which has relevant to the topic. In this analysis, the research focuses on the sociolinguistic approach.In collection the data, the researcher does several steps. The aim is to know the linguistics features female author presented through in film The Confession of Shopaholic. There are several methods for qualitative research. First, the researcher watches that movie and observes the conversation in the

movie. Second, the researcher compares between the subtitle and the conversation in the movie to make the data more effective. Third, the researcher selects the utterances by female characters in the movie and male characters, too. The last, the research uses the reading method to collect the data. The reading method is applied in collecting the data from the movie script *The Confession of Shopaholic* movie. Then the researcher marks the important things found in the movie script which relates to women's language features. Reading method is also used in collecting the secondary data.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The varieties of woman's language features based on Lakoff's theory are precise colors terms, avoiding by using strong word, empty adjective, tag question, rising intonation, lexical hedge or fillers, intensifiers, emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar, and super polite form features.

1. Precise Color Terms

The varieties precise color terms shows to make the conversation simpler,to reflects that woman have nature knowledge in their mind about naming colors, to prove that women have richer vocabularies than men

Figure 1.1. Screenplay (00.44)

Excerpt 1:
    And mom prices got you *brown* things …
    ….that lasted forever. You notice they were 50 percent off?

    Rebecca has a dream to be a princess when she was a little girl. When she was at shop, she watched another friend with a cute thing, *shiny* and *sparkle*. It

made her jealous, but her mother always bought something old, antique and unfashionable.

The utterance above in excerpt, woman language feature can be classified as precise color terms. The meaning of *brown* things is an old style thing, antique, ancient, primitive or unfashionable things. Her mother always buys the same thing in every year or it means forever in her life. The precise color terms *brown* meaning unique feature of woman's language. The precise color terms indicates that women have their own unique feature in language. Naming color can be included in the choice of lexical items. The unique vocabularies are often well identified by women.

Women tend to be more detail in naming color but men does not need in their language. Meanwhile, men do not concern about it and it appears in findings data researcher of men's language in this movie. The researcher explains, in our society precise color or naming color is well accepted for women but it is not for men. It might be caused by the way men view topics such as high culture.

2. Avoiding by using strong word

Avoiding by using strong word features shows to emphasize or strengthen the expression of the speaker's opinion.

Excerpt 2:

Figure 1.2 screenplay (03.12)

Rebecca : Hold on.. somebody's stolen my credit card! *Oh, my god….Somebody has stolen my credit card and gone on an insane spending spree around New York.*

Rebecca read the bill payment credit card and she shocked with the bill, she thought somebody stole her credit card to buy something. She almost forgot about the bill which she used to buy something. She used *oh, my god* word to express her shock when she saw the bill credit card.

The utterance indicates that female characters use avoiding strong word features. The identification word of avoiding strong word likes *Oh, my god, Oh,*. It can be seen in the utterance above, women talk more avoiding using strong word than men usually use swear word. That means women are more polite than men when women talk to another person.

Avoiding by using strong word is one of all features that used of woman's language. Women tend to do more avoid strong word rather than men. It related to man, man likes uses swear word in conversation. However, Rebecca avoids to use strong swear words, so it will not sound rude, by employing the expression 'oh my god'. That means men tend to use shit or hell to show emotion. Accordingly, people around him are able to view the men as real individual on his own sight.

3. Empty Adjective

Empty adjective feature language shows to give more emphasize what the speakers, to reveal the emotional reaction rather that give specific information about the speaker's opinion.

Figure 1.3 screenplay (00.45)

Excerpt 3:

> When I was a little girl, there were real prices and mom prices. Real prices got you *shiny, sparkly* things that lasted three weeks.

Since, Rebecca was a little girl, Rebecca had a thing with a mom's real prices or cheap or sale things and it was not same a real price in reality which had shiny and sparkly things. She expressed the real price liked expensive and fashionable things. The word of *shiny* and *sparkle* mean bright, glossy, glamour things and have a good quality. She described how beautiful the real price thing in reality.

The correlate woman's language to gender when uses empty adjective feature is to give more emphasize what the speakers, to reveal the emotional reaction rather that give specific information about the speaker's opinion.

4. Tag Question

The correlate language and gender is to emphasize what the speakers are talking about, to make the readers more believe of what the speaker said.

Figure 1.4 screenplay (04.08)

Excerpt 4:

> Rebecca   : Did I mention I have an interview at Alette magazine ?
> Suze   : Only about a billion times.
> Rebecca   : *Ok, it's kind of a leap, isn't it?*

Rebecca and Suze were talking about Rebecca's dream work. Rebecca told she always said billion time, she wanted to work at Alette magazine. She really wanted it. Then, she used sentence *it's kind of a leap, isn't it?.* She repeated again what she means to make sure what she wanted it.

The utterance above means the tag question feature of woman's language. Tag question is a grammatical structure in which a declarative statement or an imperative is turned into a question by adding an interrogative fragment.

The correlate woman's language to gender is tag question means the woman or the speaker wants to the approval form the utterance or wants to check if the information is correct or not.

It consists of a copy of the first auxiliary element of the main clause. It is in the middle between a declarative statement and question. This form is used as a request to seek information in which the speaker has a preference of one particular opinion to hear from the addressee. The researcher sees that the use of tag question happens because the speaker feels uncertain about the truth of her

knowledge or information she has, so that there is necessity to confirm it validity in order to mitigate the speaker's uncertainty.

5. Rising Intonation

Rising intonation features language shows to get the confirmation about the fact which was claimed by the speaker.

Excerpt 5 :

Figure 1.5 screenplay (07.01)

Suze : Ok, Bex. The most important thing is not to panic.
Rebecca : *Don't answer the phone!*
            No!
            It might be a debt collector! Hello! Its Derek Smith !

Rebecca had conversation with her close friends Suze in their apartment. Rebecca has pursued with debt collector because of her debt credit card. She was very afraid, she did not want to answer the phone. When she was doing conversation, the phone rang. She said *Don't answer the phone! No!* to Suze's boyfriend. She shocked when someone called her. This is expression of Rebecca when she was panic attack.

The main function of rising intonation on declaratives was to get confirmation about the fact which was claimed by the speaker. The researcher describes by applying rising intonation on declaratives avoided the speaker from wrong statement that harmed the speaker so that to get rich fact the main

characters or right assumption they use rising intonation. In other hand the function of rising intonation is to get audience's attention so that the audience considers the question is something important to be concerned.

6. Lexical hedges or fillers

Lexical hedges features shows to express uncertainty and lack of confidence in the conversation, to differentiate one topic into another topic and as a filler in the conversation, to give the speakers sequence time to think what they will say next, to greet the addressee, to keep the conversation still on the track.

Figure 1.6. screenplay (01.58)

Excerpt 6:

> Rebecca : Cause you *know* that thing, when you see someone cute and he smiles, and your heart kind of goes *like* warm butter sliding down hot toast? *Well*, that's what it's *like* when I see a store.

That passage above means Rebecca said her feeling like sliding down the hot toast when she thought about shopping and fashion. It seemed from her attitude and behavior when she saw dress, bag, shoes and etc. She felt like dream come true when she saw cute things. She described how her feeling about fashion, she was feeling in love with all of that. It looked from the word of *you know,like or well* she described the interest with the thing of fashion. Rebecca uses the word *well* indicates that the speaker uncertain with what is said. The utterance shows

the doubt expression of the speaker which indicates sensitivity to the other feelings.

Women tend to use the word *you know, well, like* is considered as hedge because it indicates uncertainty, that main character is trying to avoid making definite statement since the main character does not really sure with her statement.
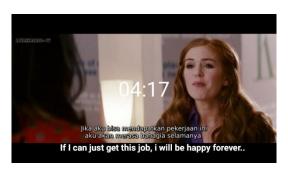
7. Intensifier and superlative as booting advice

Figure 1.7 screenplay (04.17)

Excerpt 7:

Rebecca : Suze… since I was I wanted to work at Alette magazine.
If I can just get this job I will be happy forever

This passage above means Rebecca tells to her friends Suze, she wants to work at Alette magazine. She has dream to work at fashion magazine becomes a journalist. She dreams if she gets this job, she will happy forever. She describes her feeling to her friend. The other word just has been found by researcher. The excerpt indicates as intensifiers because the main character wants to make strong assertion about her sentence. Rebecca would like to make a strong statement to Suze, if she gets the dream job. The utterance if I can just get this job I will be happy forever shows that female character wants to intensify the utterance.

The utterance above reflects women speech feature which can be classified as intensifiers. It shows that Rebecca as a female character reflects strong intensive to strengthen the meaning of her statement. The word *Just* is used to add force to another word. Intensifiers signify the lack of the power to make a strong assertion. The excerpt indicates as intensifiers because the main character wants to make strong assertion about her sentence.

8. Emphatic stress

Emphatic stress is stress used to signal emphasis on certain part of the expressions or utterances.

Excerpt 8:

Figure 1.8 screenplay(05.03)

Rebecca   : I'm sorry , *I'm terrible at interviews.*
Male   : Any financial stories that have caught your eye recently?

Rebecca is very guilty when her interviewer knows she lies. In order that, she is very terrible at interviews, she is nervous and she cannot talk any more. She is very stress and she tries to explain what should happen, but she cannot get more attention any more from the interview. It will be seen in that excerpt how her feeling about that.

The passage above means women tend to use words which are to emphasize the utterance or strengthen the meaning of an utterance. The sentence *I'm terrible at interviews* means a main character feels strength and feel guilty of her behavior.

9. Hypercorrect Grammar

The other features of woman's language is hypercorrect grammar. Hypercorrect grammars uses to avoid a gap between speakers and the readers because hypercorrect grammar is the consistent use of standard verb forms.

Figure 1.9 screenplay (03.42)

Excerpt 9:

> Rebecca : it would make my haircut look *more expensive.*
> You'd wear it with everything. It would be an investment.

The utterance above Rebecca gives her statement that hair cut looks more expensive and fashionable. She gives suggestion and advice about the hair. The main purpose of using hypercorrect grammar is to show the identity of the female character. It is a device for women to claim her identity as an educated people. Hypercorrect grammar can be indicated when the woman use the form of comparison degree and parallel structure in their sentence. Through language it can be seen whether the speaker speaks softly, gently, or roughtly.

10. Super Polite form

Super polite form is one of the variety of woman's language feature. Super polite form uses to ask the addressee politely.

Figure 1.10 . screenplay (7.15)

Rebecca	: if I give you a check for $23, will you give me one of your hot dogs and $20 cash back, *please*?
Seller	: Do I look a bank ?
Rebecca	: I have an interview
Rebecca	: *Please*, I will buy all of your hot dogs.
Seller	: You will take 97 hot dogs ? Done.

Rebecca wants to buy a scarf, but she does not have money and her credit card is decline. She is doing something to get a money from the seller hot dog. She goes to seller, and she tells she wants to cash back, if she check for $23 to buy a hot dogs. She needs $20 for to pay the scarf. The word of Rebecca say *please* means, she would like to gets the response from seller to help her. She wants use the credit card to buy hot dogs, but the seller must give her a money.

The word *please* reflect women language features as super polite form. It is kind of super polite form as polite request. It shows that female character reflect polite request which need hope and request something from a seller. Furthermore, the researcher detects main character as a female use word super polite form to ask somebody or to request something. Almost in the conversation, women use the super polite form when they talks to request or to ask with another person. The

word of super polite form feature language means human behavior looks impression polite.

CONCLUSION

The researcher's conclusion is the female character (Rebecca Bloomwood) uses all the variety of woman's language features in *The Confession of Shopaholic* movie. There are precise colors, avoiding using strong words, empty adjective, tag question, rising intonation, lexical hedges or fillers, intensifiers, emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar, and super polite form. The next research finding concerns with the use of women's speech features by main characters in the movie.

The main characters uses several kinds of woman's language feature such as lexical hedge, tag question, and intensifier to show hesitancy, avoid saying definite thing, respond and confirm something, invite someone to tell the story, encourage other speaker to participate in talk, strengthen the meaning, and describe emotional state. Then the uses of rising intonation, emphatic stress and super polite form reflect giving an opportunity the addressee and indicating high appreciation to the addressee. The dominance of the variety makes the correlates of woman's language to gender is first, the researcher gets fact women's language more use super polite form than men's language. Second, women language is more emotional and evaluative. Third, the researcher finds women talk more tentative than men and men talk more assertive. Those are expression of tentative and assertive from the hedges, tag question, and intensifier features.

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