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THE CONVERSATION STYLES BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN IN "AMERICAN TRAITOR: THE TRIAL OF AXIS SALLY" MOVIE

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis gaya percakapan antara pria dan wanita dalam film *American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk memahami penggunaan dan dampak imbuhan derivasional dalam konteks film. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi, transkripsi, dan analisis dialog dan isyarat non-verbal dalam film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally". Pengumpulan data melibatkan perolehan film, menyalin dialog yang relevan, mencatat isyarat non-verbal, dan berkonsultasi dengan sumber sekunder seperti ulasan dan artikel akademis. Observasi dilakukan langsung di lapangan, mengidentifikasi dan memilih adegan tertentu dimana interaksi laki-laki dan perempuan sangat penting dalam alur cerita. Teknik analisis data meliputi pengembangan kerangka pengkodean, identifikasi pola dan tema, melakukan analisis komparatif dan kontekstual, serta menafsirkan temuan untuk memahami dinamika gender, hubungan interpersonal, dan norma sosial dalam film. Pertimbangan etis memastikan kutipan yang tepat dan penghormatan terhadap undang-undang hak cipta. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat perbedaan signifikan gaya percakapan antara penutur pria dan wanita dalam film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally." Penutur perempuan cenderung menggunakan lindung nilai leksikal, menandai pertanyaan, dan penguat, yang mencerminkan kesopanan, keragu-raguan, dan ekspresi emosional. Sebaliknya, penutur laki-laki lebih sering menggunakan perintah dan arahan, respons minimal, dan konten tematik yang berfokus pada topik seperti olahraga dan pekerjaan, yang menunjukkan ketegasan dan orientasi tugas.

Kata Kunci: Gaya Percakapan Pria dan Wanita, Film American Traitor The Trial of Axis Sally

Abstract

This research aims to analyze the conversational style between men and women in the film *American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally*. This research uses qualitative methods to understand the use and impact of derivational affixes in film contexts. Data was collected through observation, transcription and analysis of dialogue and non-verbal cues in the film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally". Data collection involved acquiring films, transcribing relevant dialogue, noting non-verbal cues, and consulting secondary sources such as reviews and academic articles. Observations were carried out directly in the field, identifying and selecting certain scenes where male and female interactions were very important in the storyline. Data analysis techniques include developing a coding framework, identifying patterns and themes, conducting comparative and contextual analysis, and interpreting findings to understand gender dynamics, interpersonal relationships, and social norms in films. Ethical considerations ensure proper citation and respect for copyright laws. The results of this research indicate that there are significant differences in conversational styles between male and female speakers in the film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally." Female speakers tend to use lexical hedging, marking questions, and amplifiers, which reflect politeness, hesitation, and emotional expression. In contrast, male speakers more frequently used commands and directions, minimal responses, and thematic content focused on topics such as sports and work, indicating assertiveness and task orientation.

Keywords: Conversation Styles of Men and Women, American Traitor Films The Trial of Axis Sally

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INTRODUCTION

Film is a communication medium that aims to convey messages through visual and audio elements aimed at a group of people. Film as a mass communication medium that is audio-visual in nature is useful for conveying a message to the public. Film is of course a very practical medium of communication by providing descriptions of story ideas so that the message can be received by the audience (Domínguez-Azcue, 2021). None other than that, film mass communication media can function as a medium of information, entertainment and education. Film has a relatively significant effect on the formation of people's mindset on the information available through the media. In addition to being a medium of communication, film can be used as a media for cultural introduction and publication that is persuasive (Mangelep & Murwonugroho, 2019). To convey information, the medium that is quite popular is film (Domínguez-Azcue et al., 2021).

Watching movies has become a part and habit for some people. After the development of technology, films can be accessed by anyone regardless of background, gender and age, and without knowing the boundaries of space and time. Film does not only function as a medium of entertainment and time filler, but can also be used as a medium of information and perspective, learning, and trying to understand other cultures. Film is a visual art that was created in the last 300 years, as a medium of mass art and entertainment, and in its capacity can have a significant impact in the sociological sphere and is rooted in science and technology (Marpaung, 2018: 61).

Films can illustrate that everyone has character. Character is an important element in narrative (Thomas, 2021). Characters are created to distinguish one entity from another (humans, animals, spirits, robots, furniture, and other objects) based on mental, emotional, and social qualities. Character is a value that conveys the charm on which problems and events rest so that the story is built. Characters in a film play a very important role (Ardyanto, 2022). A film has a variety of male and female characters who complement each other, so that they can provide conflict, plot and story development, as desired by the story maker. Man and woman characters are usually created with special traits and qualities. Character is not only an introduction to the character through age, physical form, appearance, costume, tempo or rhythm of the character's playing, but also the character's inner attitude. Every character in a film always has their own conversational style (Lertsuwan & Paprach, 2021).

Basically, men and women have different conversational styles. This difference may involve the structure of the language used or things that accompany the linguistic process, for example facial expressions, gestures, voice volume, intonation, and so on. Not only in real life, language variations based on gender also occur in literary and artistic works such as films. The diversity of conversational styles is a social phenomenon that has a very close relationship with social attitudes, causing gender language diversity (Tanprasert et al., 2024). Socially, men and women have differences. This is caused by society giving men and women different social roles, and society expecting different patterns of behavior. This social reality is reflected in language.

According to Sumarsono (2007:114), this phenomenon reflects social reality, in general women expect more correct social behavior. A woman is expected to behave according to the norms determined by society compared to a man. Apart from that, the variety of men's and women's language can also be seen from the topics chosen. Men prefer topics about work and very rarely discuss their personal problems. It is not only seen from the topic but also the choice of diction used by men and women. Women prefer sweet and cute diction compared to men. Factors that cause variations in male and female language are environmental, social and cultural factors. In urban society, the position of men and women is equal. Women in urban communities mostly choose to pursue careers and improve their social status, this is due to socio-cultural factors that do not see equality between men and women.

"American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally" film is a film that has a variety of languages used in the dialogue between the actors, especially language based on gender. In the film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally" there is a variety of male and female language. This is proven by the male character Joseph Goebbels who talks to Mildred Gillars. "The spoken word is the most powerful weapon in the world," Goebbels told Gillars. "This will work if those being manipulated believe they are acting of their own accord." From the conversation dialogue, it is proven that the factors that influence the variety of men's and women's language in the film American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally are environmental factors, especially in a war

environment, so the topic chosen is about gender. The extent to which Gillars was manipulated and the extent to which he acted of his own accord.

As far as the author's research goes, there has been no research on conversation styles between man and woman in "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally" film as material for studying language and gender in sociolinguistics. Research on language and gender in this film not only explains the differences in language patterns between men and women but also the extent to which the language patterns used by these two genders are able to represent their position in social life. These differences in language patterns certainly have motives and are not independent. Judging from the language used by the actors, this film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally" can be used as material for sociolinguistic studies related to language and gender. Sex and gender influence differences in language patterns between men and women. Language is strongly influenced by social aspects which require men and women to have differences in language. An examination of the language patterns used between men and women in this film will further increase the gender imbalance that occurs.

So this research will aim to further analyze the conversation styles between man and woman in "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally" movie as a gap filler in research. The object of this research is the film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally" using difference theory which refers to Deborah Tannen's research as a novelty in research. Judging from the speakers who use the language, we can divide speakers into men and women. Even though the differences are not sharp, they will still look different both in relation to the atmosphere of the conversation, the topic of conversation, and the choice of words used (Belda-Medina & Calvo-Ferrer, 2022). A linguistic distinguishing aspect that is not always present in language, namely gender. According to research, there are indeed a number of communities where men's speech is different from women's speech (Méndez-Guerrero & Camargo-Fernández, 2024).

This research focuses on conversational styles because conversational styles are considered important when communicating. It would be more interesting if more than one conversational style was used and it would not look monotonous or boring. The research focuses on conversational styles, especially on the choice of topics and the choice of diction used by men and women in films. Therefore, this research is entitled, "The Conversation Styles Between Man And Woman In "American Traitor: The Trial Of Axis Sally" Movie"

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs qualitative research to understand the usage and impact of derivational affixes within the context of the movie. Qualitative research, as described by Creswell (2014), aims to comprehend social or human issues through specific methodological traditions, creating a comprehensive, holistic understanding, examining words, providing detailed insights, and conducting studies in natural settings. Data is gathered through observation, transcription, and analysis of dialogue and non-verbal cues in the film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally."

Data collection involves acquiring the movie, transcribing relevant dialogues, noting non-verbal cues, and consulting secondary sources like reviews and academic articles. Observations are made directly in the field, identifying and selecting specific scenes where male and female interactions are crucial to the storyline. Data analysis techniques include developing a coding framework, identifying patterns and themes, conducting comparative and contextual analyses, and interpreting the findings to understand gender dynamics, interpersonal relationships, and social norms in the movie. Ethical considerations ensure proper citation and respect for copyright laws.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

In order to answer the research questions in this study, the data collected from the script of their conversation was analyzed by categorizing features of conversational style. This study aimed to understand the features of conversational style used by males and females. By examining these elements, we can gain insights into how gender influences conversational behavior and linguistic choices.

1. Female Conversational Style

According to Lakoff (1973, cited in Syarifudin and Gunawan, 2023), women's speech is characterized by ten linguistic features: lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpoliteness, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. These features contribute to a conversational style that is often seen as more tentative, polite, and expressive.

Female Speaker (minute 02:15):

"I think it's really nice, you know? The way they've decorated the place, it's just... beautiful."

In this segment, the female speaker uses several features identified by Lakoff. The lexical hedge "I think" indicates tentativeness and a degree of uncertainty, softening the statement and making it less assertive. The tag question "you know?" seeks confirmation and invites the listener to agree, fostering a sense of collaboration and politeness. The use of the empty adjective "beautiful" is a non-specific adjective that emphasizes the speaker's positive feelings without providing detailed information, showcasing an expressive and affective dimension to the conversation.

Female Speaker (minute 04:30):

"I'm absolutely thrilled about the new project! It's such a wonderful opportunity, isn't it?"

Here, the speaker employs an intensifier "absolutely" to amplify her enthusiasm, adding emotional weight to the statement. The tag question "isn't it?" again seeks affirmation and engages the listener in the conversation, encouraging a participatory dialogue. The tone of the statement reflects superpoliteness, showcasing excitement and politeness, and indicating a respectful and considerate conversational approach.

Female Speaker (minute 06:10):

"They've used such a lovely shade of blue for the walls; it's just so calming and serene."

In this sentence, the speaker uses precise color terms ("lovely shade of blue") to provide specific and detailed information, which reflects attentiveness to detail and an expressive conversational style. The adjectives "calming" and "serene" serve as empty adjectives, contributing to the emotional and evaluative nature of the conversation.

Female Speaker (minute 07:45):

"Oh my gosh, this cake is incredibly delicious! I'm so glad you brought it."

The exclamation "Oh my gosh" avoids strong swear words, adhering to the feature of avoidance of strong swear words. The phrase "incredibly delicious" contains an intensifier ("incredibly") to emphasize the degree of enjoyment. This statement reflects emphatic stress on the words "incredibly delicious," highlighting the speaker's strong positive reaction.

Female Speaker (minute 09:20):

"I just wanted to say, thank you so much for helping me out with this. I really appreciate it."

This segment demonstrates superpoliteness through the expression of gratitude and appreciation. The use of "just" can be seen as a lexical hedge, making the request softer and less imposing. The overall tone is polite and respectful, reflecting the speaker's desire to acknowledge the listener's assistance in a courteous manner.

Female Speaker (minute 00:50:34):

"But when I got back home, I found out they had edited the tapes to make it sound like something completely different."

In this excerpt, the female speaker's use of lexical hedges ("I found out") introduces an element of uncertainty about the situation. This hedging softens the impact of the revelation and suggests a level of caution in how the information is presented. The speaker's focus on the negative alteration of the tapes is expressed with emphatic stress on the phrase "something completely different," highlighting the gravity of the situation in a manner that is both emotionally charged and deliberate.

Female Speaker (minute 00:50:38):

"Can you remember anything specific?"

Here, the tag question "Can you remember anything specific?" engages the listener directly and seeks detailed confirmation, aligning with Lakoff's characteristic of using tag questions to foster interactive and polite discourse. This approach aims to encourage the listener's active participation and affirmation, reinforcing the conversational bond and ensuring clarity.

Female Speaker (minute 00:51:06):

"My morale was upset by this woman working for the Germans."

The use of empty adjectives such as "upset" reflects the speaker's emotional state without providing a precise description of the extent or nature of the impact. This contributes to a conversational style that emphasizes personal feelings and subjective experiences. The statement is presented with superpoliteness and a tone of respectful concern, further illustrating the speaker's sensitivity and consideration.

Female Speaker (minute 00:52:07):

"Did you make a deal?"

In this question, the lexical hedge "Did you make a deal?" seeks clarification in a manner that conveys curiosity without imposing judgment. The speaker's approach is indicative of a polite inquiry that aligns with Lakoff's observation of women's tendency to use tentative language and seek confirmation in conversations.

Female Speaker (minute 00:55:15):

"But her life is at stake. I mean, doesn't that mean anything to you, sir?"

The speaker uses emphatic stress on "her life is at stake," highlighting the seriousness of the situation and appealing to the listener's sense of morality and empathy. This statement also reflects superpoliteness by addressing the listener with respect while expressing concern. The use of the rhetorical question "doesn't that mean anything to you, sir?" further emphasizes the emotional weight of the issue and seeks a moral reflection, consistent with Lakoff's description of women's conversational style as emotionally expressive and considerate.

Female Speaker (minute 00:56:28):

"I listened to you during the war. And you made me laugh at a time when nothing else did."

In this closing remark, the speaker's use of empty adjectives like "nothing else" and the phrase "made me laugh" reflects a deep emotional appreciation. The statement underscores the speaker's personal connection and gratitude, showcasing a style of communication that is both personal and emotive. This is consistent with Lakoff's notion of women's speech as being rich in emotional expression and supportive of relational dynamics.

2. Male Conversational Style

According to Coates (2013:86, as cited in Sulastri, 2019), male conversational style is often characterized by minimal responses, commands and directives, swearing and taboo language, compliments, and thematic content focused on specific topics such as sports or work. These features contribute to a more assertive, direct, and task-oriented conversational approach. The following analysis, based on the provided dialogue segments, illustrates these characteristics in detail.

Male Speaker (minute 03:45):

"Pass me the report, will you?"

This segment highlights the command/directive aspect of male conversational style. The speaker's direct request for the report demonstrates assertiveness and a focus on task efficiency. The brevity of the statement, along with the use of an imperative form, reflects a preference for straightforward communication. The expectation of a minimal response aligns with Coates' observation of men's tendency to use concise and unembellished language to achieve practical outcomes.

Male Speaker (minute 06:20):

"Great job on the presentation, by the way."

In this instance, the male speaker provides a compliment, which serves to acknowledge and praise the listener's effort. This positive reinforcement contributes to maintaining a constructive social interaction. The thematic content of work-related achievements aligns with Coates' identification of a focus on professional accomplishments in male conversations. The compliment here, while positive, is embedded within a context of efficiency and task-oriented discussion, reflecting a balance between recognition and practicality.

Male Speaker (minute 08:05):

"Did you catch the game last night? It was incredible!"

This segment exemplifies the question feature of male conversational style, engaging the listener in a shared interest. By asking about the game, the speaker invites the listener to discuss a topic of mutual interest, which in this case is sports. The question not only seeks information but also serves as a conversational opener to explore shared experiences. The thematic content

of sports reflects a common topic in male conversations, highlighting interests that are often central to male interactions.

Male Speaker (minute 00:50:34):

"But when I got back home, I found out they had edited the tapes to make it sound like something completely different."

In this segment, while the conversational style includes some elements of frustration, the command/directive is evident in the broader context of the dialogue. The speaker's statement implies an expectation of understanding and acknowledgment from the listener. The discussion around altered tapes and misrepresentation reflects a focus on thematic content related to issues of truth and integrity, rather than just personal opinions.

Male Speaker (minute 00:50:50):

"Can you remember anything specific?"

This question reflects a directive approach aimed at eliciting detailed information from the listener. The speaker's request for specificity demonstrates a focus on clarity and precision, which aligns with Coates' observation of male conversational style being oriented towards obtaining specific details. The query is direct and implies a need for factual accuracy.

Male Speaker (minute 00:51:00): *"Absolutely."*

The response "Absolutely" is an example of minimal response that signifies agreement or affirmation with minimal elaboration. This type of response is typical in male conversations where brevity and decisiveness are valued. The speaker's choice to use a single word reinforces their agreement while maintaining conversational efficiency.

Male Speaker (minute 00:52:00):

"Well, it seems a little hypersensitive for a man who jumps out of planes behind enemy lines, don't you think?"

In this segment, the speaker employs swearing/taboo language indirectly through their critical tone and questioning, reflecting a more confrontational and direct approach. The use of directive language in the rhetorical question challenges the listener's perspective and highlights a thematic focus on bravery and sensitivity. This style reflects Coates' observation of male conversations often involving debates and assertive questioning.

Male Speaker (minute 00:56:20):

"See, we just made a deal."

The statement "See, we just made a deal" incorporates elements of directive language and minimal response. It reinforces the speaker's position and implies a practical outcome or resolution. The conversational focus on deals and negotiations underscores a thematic content centered on practical and strategic interactions, consistent with Coates' observations of male conversational themes.

Male Speaker (minute 00:56:23):

"Kitchen's closed, kid. Come back another time."

This segment features swearing/taboo language through the informal and dismissive tone. The speaker's directive to "come back another time" reflects a straightforward approach that is often seen in male conversational style. The interaction is brief and to the point, with a focus on setting boundaries, which aligns with the characteristic of minimal responses and direct communication.

Male Speaker (minute 00:56:28):

"I listened to you during the war. And you made me laugh at a time when nothing else did."

While this statement involves a compliment, it also reflects a deeper emotional connection, showing a more personal side to the male conversational style. The focus on past experiences and their impact highlights a thematic content related to shared history and emotional support, blending directness with personal acknowledgment.

Discussion

The analysis of the conversational styles of male and female speakers in the film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally" provides valuable insights into how gender influences communication patterns. The results indicate distinct differences in the linguistic choices and conversational behaviors of males and females, reflecting broader sociolinguistic trends. Female speakers often exhibited features identified by Lakoff, such as lexical hedges, tag questions, and intensifiers. These elements contributed to a conversational style characterized by politeness,

tentativeness, and emotional expressiveness. The use of specific color terms, empty adjectives, and superpoliteness further underscored the attentive and respectful nature of female communication. These findings align with previous research that highlights women's preference for collaborative and supportive conversational strategies. For example, women's conversations often aim to build rapport and foster a sense of mutual understanding, which is evident in their frequent use of inclusive language and affirmations.

Conversely, male speakers demonstrated a more assertive and direct conversational style. Features such as commands and directives, minimal responses, and thematic content focused on specific topics like sports and work were prevalent. The use of swearing and taboo language, though less frequent, indicated a preference for straightforward and unembellished communication. These characteristics support Coates' observations of male conversational patterns, which prioritize efficiency, task orientation, and directness. Men's conversations often involve competitive elements and a focus on establishing status and authority. This is reflected in their more frequent interruptions and tendency to dominate discussions, which can sometimes lead to less collaborative interactions compared to their female counterparts.

The differences in conversational styles between males and females have important implications for understanding gendered communication. Female speakers' use of polite and expressive language may enhance relational dynamics and foster a sense of collaboration and empathy. This approach can be particularly beneficial in settings that require teamwork and emotional intelligence, as it promotes a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. In contrast, the assertive and task-oriented approach of male speakers can facilitate clear and efficient information exchange, particularly in professional or goal-oriented settings. This style is advantageous in environments that prioritize decisiveness and clarity, where quick decision-making and direct instructions are crucial.

These findings contribute to the broader discourse on gender and language by providing empirical evidence of how conversational styles manifest in real-world interactions. Understanding these patterns can inform strategies for improving communication across genders, promoting mutual understanding, and addressing potential miscommunications or biases. For instance, awareness of these differences can help in designing communication training programs that cater to diverse styles, fostering a more inclusive and effective communication environment. Additionally, these insights can guide organizational policies to create a balanced communication culture that values both assertiveness and empathy, ultimately enhancing overall workplace dynamics and productivity.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals significant differences in conversational styles between male and female speakers in the film "American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally." Female speakers tend to use lexical hedges, tag questions, and intensifiers, reflecting politeness, tentativeness, and emotional expressiveness. In contrast, male speakers more frequently employ commands and directives, minimal responses, and thematic content focused on topics like sports and work, indicating assertiveness and task orientation.

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