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THE FEATURES OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY THE FEMALE CHARACTERS IN RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON MOVIE

Abstract

The research entitled The Features of Women's Language Spoken by the Female Characters in Raya and The Last Dragon Movie. It aims to identify the type of women's language features based on Lakoff's (2004) theory and the social context based on Holmes's (2013) theory. This research studied and reviewed some studies related to women's language. This research was conducted by using a descriptive qualitative method, for collecting the data was watched the movie several times, read subtitles of the movie, and selected the female character's utterances that contain the women's language features. As a result, there are found 63 data women's language features in this movie. There were seven types of women's language features found in this movie. There were lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, intensifiers, rising intonation, empty adjectives, super polite forms, and emphatic stress. Based on the findings of type of women's language features, there were social contexts such as the participants, the participants in this movie are Sisu, Raya, Boun, Namaari, Dang Hu, Tong, Virana, and Benja. The setting, this movie mostly takes place while sailing in the ocean on a boat. The topics, the topic discussed are mostly about gems and how to save the world from druun and the function.

Keywords: Women's Language, Women's Language Features, Movie

Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul Fitur Bahasa Perempuan yang Dituturkan oleh Karakter Perempuan dalam Film Raya dan Naga Terakhir. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis fitur bahasa perempuan berdasarkan teori Lakoff (2004) dan konteks sosial berdasarkan teori Holmes (2013). Penelitian ini mempelajari dan meninjau beberapa penelitian yang berkaitan dengan bahasa perempuan. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif, untuk mengumpulkan data dilakukan dengan menonton film beberapa kali, membaca teks film, dan memilih ujaran karakter perempuan yang mengandung fitur bahasa perempuan. Hasilnya, ditemukan 63 data fitur bahasa perempuan dalam film ini. Terdapat tujuh jenis fitur bahasa perempuan yang ditemukan dalam film ini. Yaitu lexical hedges atau pengisi, tag question, intensifiers, intonasi naik, kata sifat kosong, bentuk super sopan, dan penekanan. Berdasarkan temuan jenis fitur bahasa perempuan, terdapat konteks sosial seperti partisipan, partisipan dalam film ini adalah Sisu, Raya, Boun, Namaari, Dang Hu, Tong, Virana, dan Benja. Latar, film ini sebagian besar terjadi saat berlayar di lautan di atas kapal. Topik, topik yang dibahas sebagian besar tentang permata dan cara menyelamatkan dunia dari druun dan fungsinya.

Kata kunci: Bahasa Perempuan, Fitur Bahasa Perempuan, Film

INTRODUCTION

Gender is a term that refers to the roles, behaviors, expressions, and identities assigned by society as appropriate to a gender. Traditionally, gender is associated with two main categories male and female. (Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, 2003) stated, "Gender is a system way of

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categorizing ideas about men and women”. Gender differences between men and women in society certainly have different roles. “Gender differences in language are often just one aspect of more pervasive linguistic differences in the society reflecting social status or power differences” (Holmes, 2013, p. 162).

Language is a communication tool used by humans to convey ideas, thoughts, feelings, and information to each other. “Language is both an individual possession and a social possession” (Wardhaugh and Fuller, 2015, p. 82). Language involves the use of symbols such as words, sounds, and gestures that have a specific meaning understood by users of the same language. Language can also include the rules of grammar, pronunciation, syntax, and other structures used to form sentences and effective communication. According to (Fasold and Connor Linton, 2006, p. 9), “language as a finite system of elements and principles that make it possible for speakers to construct sentences to do particular communicative jobs”. Without language, they will get into some trouble when interacting with other people because they cannot understand the messages conveyed without language. Because of that, human should know how to use the language in their life.

The study of sociolinguistics focuses on how language is used in various social contexts and the relationship between language and society. Hudson, (2011, p. 1) stated “sociolinguistics as the study of language in relation to society”. In sociolinguistics, the study of language and gender emphasizes the focus on the effect of gender on the use of language. According to (Holmes, 2013), “Sociolinguistics is the study of the interaction between language and society”. The relationship between language and gender is the relationship between language and the notion of men and women. The study of language and gender in sociolinguistics emphasizes the importance of the effect of gender on the usage of language. The relationship between language and gender is the link between language and men’s and women’s thoughts.

Women’s language is one of the main topics of discussion in sociolinguistics. Studies about women’s language focused on how women produce speech which has several differences from how men produce speech. “Women of each social class group use the more standard variants more often than men of equal status” (Coates, 2004). The importance of women’s language in this research lies in their unique communication style, different from the standard language spoken by most other individuals. Lakoff (1975) stated, “that women are generally lacking status in society because they are more subordinate than men”.

This study discusses how women use language it is one of the main topics of discussion in sociolinguistics. The study of Women’s Language focuses on how women produce speech, which has some differences from the way men produce speech. According to (Lakoff, 1975), “the term “women’s language” means languages used only by women and the descriptive language of women only”. The purpose of this study is to see the language features used by the female characters in this movie and the social context of each language feature that is used by the female characters.

METHOD

This study was conducted by using qualitative methods to analyze the language used by female characters in *Raya and The Last Dragon* movie from a sociolinguistic approach. Creswell (2014) states that qualitative research is an analytical process based on diverse methodological traditions of inquiry that examine a social or human phenomenon. The data source of this study is one of Disney + movies entitled *Raya and The Last Dragon*, which was released in 2021. The data in this study are in the form of utterances spoken by the female characters. The data were analyzed according to the theory of women’s language features which was proposed by Lakoff (2004) and the theory of social context by Holmes (2013). There are some steps for collecting the data. First, open the Disney+ Hotstar platform through the website (“Disney+ Hotstar | Stream your favorite stories and more,” n.d.). Second, watch the movie several times. Third, read the subtitle of the movie. Fourth, select the conversation that contains the women’s language features of the female characters by Lakoff’s (2004) and Holmes’s (2013)

theories. This study uses the content analysis method to analyze the data, with the following steps: first, Organize all of the utterances that contain women's language features. Second, Classify the type of women's language features in the utterances spoken by the female characters. Third, Analyze the social context of the utterances spoken by female characters. The method employed to provide the analysis is an informal method. (Sudaryanto, 2015) There are two types of methods for presenting analysis results: formal and informal. The formal method means that the results of the analysis are presented in the form of symbols, tables, diagrams, or numbers. The informal method means presenting the results of the analysis by using words and sentences to provide explanations for easy understanding by the reader.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Lakoff (2004), claims that lexical hedges or fillers convey the sense that the speaker is uncertain about what he or she is saying or cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement. The words classified as hedges such as I think, I guess, like, well, and kind of. There are some examples of statements that contain women's language features and identified as lexical hedges or fillers.

(1) (00:51:05-00:51:10)

Sisu : Does that include babies?

Raya : Uh, well...

Sisu : She's so cute. I mean looks at those cheeks.

In this situation, the conversation happened when Raya and Sisu were on the boat on their way to Spine. At that time, Raya and Sisu talking about the old lady who wants to hurt Sisu. The function of the hedges that Raya uses in her speech is used to show doubt in her sentences, Raya doubts about what she said to Sisu. This utterance is categorized as a lexical hedge or filler because of the use of "well." Raya used "well" in her utterance because she was uncertain and not confident in answering the questions asked by Sisu.

2. Tag Question

The other women's language features proposed by Lakoff (2004) is the tag question. Tag question used when the speaker is stating a claim but lacks full confidence in the truth of that claim, they use tag questions, which are usually known as "yes-no". This can be seen when a woman says, "Did you?", "aren't we?", "isn't it?", "don't you?". There are some examples of statements that contain women's language features and identified as Tag Question.

(2) (1:15:19-1:15:26)

Raya: Uh, what did you just call her?

Tong: Noi. It's her name. It's written on her collar. Have none of you ever checked?

Based on the social context, the data showed the dialogue between Raya and Tong. The utterance took place on the boat when on the way to Fang's. At that time, Raya was having dinner on the boat together. While eating Tong called out the name of the baby who came with them from Talon. Raya asked Tong what he called the baby. Tong said that the baby's name was Noi, and it was on the collar of the baby's shirt. The function of this tag question is to refer to asking questions and getting responses because she is curious and needs confirmation.

In her utterance, it can be seen that Raya uses women's language features tag questions. The words "what did" at the beginning of her utterances shows that she doesn't know the answer to her question, and is confused. She wanted to hear the answer to his question, why did he know that? In this context, the phrase "What did?" refers to getting an answer or confirmation.

3. Rising Intonation on Declarative

Lakoff (2004) said that declarative sentences contain the intonation of declarative, but also have a rising intonation towards the end of a word, for example, "it's really good". Speakers often use this feature when they are looking for more information about something. Therefore, the purpose of using this feature is to weaken an utterance. There are some examples of statements that contain women's language features and identified as Rising Intonation on Declarative.

(3) (0:48:35-0:48:44)

Raya : Alright, Dang Hai, I'll take that dragon gem piece. He turns to reveal

Chai : Whoa! I'm not Dang Hai! I'm Chai, the flower guy.

Raya : Where is Dang Hai? ↗

Based on the social context, the data showed the dialogue between Raya and Chai. The utterance took place at Talon, when Raya wanted to meet Dang Hai to find the gems, but she met Chai the flower guy. Then Raya asked Chai where Dang Hai was, and Chai showed where Dang Hai was. It turns out that Dang Hai has become a statue. The function of this rising intonation is to getting a response because she feels confused and needs confirmation.

This utterance is categorized as a rising intonation because, in her utterance, Raya changes her tone to the rising one. She says, where is Dang Hai? ↗ with the real meaning that she wants to know where Dang Hai is. She used a rising intonation to ask where Dang Hai was, because she didn't see Dang Hai but met Chai the flower guy.

4. Empty Adjectives

Empty Adjective is used in women's language to indicate the speaker's desire to show the connection between the expression of emotion and the interlocutor. According to Lakoff (2004), empty adjectives are words that express emotions without any specific information. Because this feature is often used to show an emotional reaction to the other person, speakers will strengthen their utterances when using this style. People typically use neutral words like "great" or "cool" to show appreciation or admiration, while in this case, women like to use specific terms like "wonderful," "beautiful," "sweet," etc. There are some examples of statements that contain women's language features and identified as Empty Adjectives.

(4) (00:04:39- 00:04:40)

Young Raya: Hey, bud. That was awesome. Give me some shell

Based on the social context, the data showed Raya's utterance. The utterance took place at the dragon temple, when the tuk-tuk turns back into a ball and rolls down the room hallway, which is full of traps. But the tuk-tuk rolled under the net unscathed. The tuk-tuk opens and walks down the hall, but it works distracted by a passing bug but tuk-tuk stays on task and Raya crawls safely under the nets behind tuk-tuk. This utterance is categorized as an empty adjective because of the use of the word "awesome." Raya's utterance is indicated as women's language in the empty adjective feature because she shows her admiration for tuk-tuk using the word "awesome." She uses this feature to express her appreciation for tuk-tuk.

5. Intensifiers

According to Lakoff (2004), when speaking, intensifiers are helpful for accentuating words. Intensifiers can be used to communicate one's strong feelings and make a stronger statement as well as to protect one's feelings, such as using "very" or "so" to boost a device. The function of women applying the intensifier to their language is to strengthen an assertion that shows women's feelings about something. There are

some examples of statements that contain women's language features and identified as Intensifiers.

(5) (1:09:19-1:09:32)

Sisu : When they put their faith in me, it empowered me beyond anything I could imagine. The same can happen with Namaari.

Raya : I really wish I could believe that. I once thought that we could be friends.

Based on the social context, the data showed Raya's utterance. The utterance took place at the dragon temple. At that time Sisu pulls down some foliage to reveal the dragon statues. There she explained how all the dragons turned to stone and explained the beginning of the dragon gem. Sisu said the four dragons combined their magic and created the dragon gem. The four dragons hand Sisu the gem and They immediately get turned to stone by druun. Sisu didn't know why they trusted her with the gem.

This utterance is categorized as an intensifier because of the use of the words "really". Raya used word "really" that show their emotions towards the person's actions. The word "really" means that she meant the emotion that she feels. She told Sisu that she really wished he could be friends with Namaari. By using the word "really", this strengthens her words in conveying her feelings. The word "really" refer to expressing feelings because she expresses her feelings when talking to others by using polite language.

6. Super Polite Forms

According to Lakoff (2004), Women are generally expected to speak more politely than men, which is also related to hypercorrect grammar. In order to maintain their position, women choose to speak in a good manner, which gives the impression that they are speaking less forcefully. This feature is indicated through the utilization of polite expressions, like the utterance of "Sorry", "Please" or "Thank you". There are some examples of statements that contain women's language features and identified as Super Polite forms.

(6) (00:25:46-00:25:52)

Sisu : Hello? Hello?

Raya : Mmf-mph!!

Sisu : Ooo, I'm sorry, I didn't see you there.

Based on the social context, the data show a conversation between Sisu and Raya. The dialogue took place at the shipwreck when Sisu appeared and heard someone's voice but he didn't see the person who spoke. The use of super polite form in Sisu's utterance to apologize for not seeing Raya fall down because of Sisu. This utterance is categorized as super polite form because of the use of the word "I'm sorry." Sisu uses the word "I'm sorry" because he wants to apologize to Raya for not seeing her fall which was caused by Sisu. This style serves to show her politeness to the interlocutors.

7. Emphatic Stress

To emphasize a message, women frequently utilize words that accentuate their speech. For example, in the sentence "It was a brilliant performance." The word "brilliant" is an example of "emphatic stress". This word can be used to make the meaning of an utterance stronger. Sometimes men do not consider of the stress, because they cannot show any emotion in their language. It is different from women. There are some examples of statements that contain women's language features and identified as Emphatic Stress.

(7) (0:45:40-0:45:50)

Boun : It's kinda like a promise. You take what you want now and you promise you'll pay it back later.

Sisu : Pay it back later, What an amazing concept! Thanks, Captain Boun!

In this situation the conversation happened when Sisu and Boun on a boat at the edge of the waters of the Talon area. At that time, Boun told sisu how to buy a gift for dang hai who didn't have any money at the time and sisu agreed to Boun's suggestion. The function of this emphatic stress is to expressing feelings because she expresses her feelings when talking to others by complimenting them. In her utterance, it can be seen that Sisu uses women's language feature emphatic stress. Sisu added the word "amazing" in the middle of her utterances because to say that the idea that Boun gave was very good.

CONCLUSION

This chapter is a conclusion of the results of this study. Based on the analysis of women's language features used in the utterances of female characters in *Raya and The Last Dragon* movie, only seven out of ten features were found. The features that were found are lexical Hedges or filler, tag question, rising intonation, empty adjectives, intensifiers, super polite forms, and emphatic stress. Meanwhile, 3 other such as avoidance of strong swear, precise colour terms, and hypercorrect grammar were not found in this study. 63 data on the use of women's language features are found in *Raya and The Last Dragon* movie. There were 21 use of lexical hedges, 17 use of tag question, 4 use of Rising Intonations on Declarative, 13 use of intensifiers, 7 use of super polite forms, and 1 use of emphatic stress. This study also analyzed the social context when the female characters utter their utterances that contain the use of women's language features. In this study, it was found that women in uttering the use of language always pay attention to the social context. Women considered who they were talking to, so they can position themselves.

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