

Language Functions Based on Gender Differences in *A Walk to Remember*

THESIS

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree of
English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



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2018**

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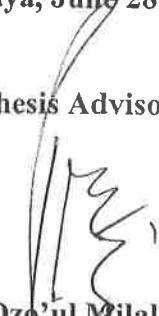
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**LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS BASED ON GENDER DIFFERENCES
IN A WALK TO REMEMBER**

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personal attitudes. According to Halliday as cited in Alfina, 2016: 4, language functions is refer to the purpose of language means investigating how language is used: trying to find out what purposes that language serves for, and how people are able to achieve these purposes through speaking and listening, reading and writing.

The study about language function is studied by Discourse Analysis. Discourse analysis refer to the study language in use: written text and spoken data, from the common to highly institutionalized forms of conversation (McCarthy, 1991 : 15). The examples of written discourse are articles, novel, short story, and so on. Meanwhile, speech, lecture, dialogue, debate, conversation, and so on are considered as spoken discourse. More particularly the study about language function in lecture is studied by conversation analyst as an approach to analysis of spoken discourse.

In addition, movie include the spoken discourse. Movies also known as films are a type of visual communication which uses moving pictures and sound to tell stories of inform. Movies can be fictional (made up), or true, or a mix of the two. There are some genres of the movie to be categorized, such as action, adventure, animated, buddy, comedy, documenter, drama, tragedy, film noir, family, horror, romantic-comedy, science fiction, thriller, western, suspense, and fantasy.

Movie is the media which has an interesting side from the others media, because in movie there are mixing between audio and visual. It is also unique

media, because movie usually include the sound of people talking or dialogue, there is a music which is called soundtrack, and sound effect for every activities that are happening in the movie. From watching a movie, peoples can get something new, for example the experience, information, knowledge, and moral value.

Related to language functions, many researchers have focused on investigating language functions in various subjects and theories. Most of the researchers using in Roman Jakobson's theory. There are some researchers who attempt in movie script; Irawan (2014) and Machmudha (2015). Irawan (2014) analyzed the language function in the *New Moon*, the data source of this study is the subtitle of the movie from Bella Swan utterances. In this study, the writer found 173 utterances containing language function and there is no poetic function used by Bella Swan in this movie. The study Machmudha (2015) focused on Alicia and dr. Rosen's utterances when having a verbal communication with John Nash who schizophrenia sufferer in *A Beautiful Mind* movie. Based on the writer's data, the language functions mostly used in the movie is referential function with occurs 45 times used to tells, inform or explain about something to make a good verbal communication with schizophrenia sufferer.

Research in the advertisement using Roman Jakobson's theory have been done by 'Aliyah (2015), Fitriyah (2017), and Andora (2017). The first is 'Aliyah (2015), she describes linguistic features and language functions of Toyota advertisement headlines. This research find the headlines use the linguistics

features; grammar, lexical semantic, and phonology. Her thesis also deliver particular messages with employ various combinations of language functions. The second is Fitriyah (2017), she takes 20 videos from YouTube as the data to analyze Maybelline advertisements and found 173 utterances. This thesis conclude that all utterances in the Maybelline advertisements use referential and conative functions, the adresser uses referential functions to describe about the product, conative functions to to convince the adressers to buy the Maybelline product, some of them use emotive functions to express adressers' feeling, phatic function to attract the adressers' attention, and use poetic functions with aesthetic utterances to make it easy to remember. The third is Andora (2017), his thesis try to find the language functions in Samsung S8 and S8+ Smart Phone Advertisement. The data source is taken from Samsung's official YouTube channel and Samsung Smartlife channel. Then the data are the utterances from two advertisement of Samsung S8 and S8+. For the conclusion, the researcher finds 41 utterances of language functions also all the utterance is using referential function.

Other previous studies in media social is have been done by some researchers. Khoir (2016) in Donald Trump Twitter, Chofiyya (2016) in Ani Yudhoyono's Instagram, and Khasanah (2017) in Jokowi vlog. The interesting study from Chofiyya (2016), she tries to reveal the meaning behind of each language function that used by Ani Yudhoyono's caption Instagram. The other research who tries to shows meaning behind language function is Sartika (2017)

in the language function used by Hillary Clinton in the presidential debates of United State of America 2016. The study from Nikmah (2017) tries to analyze in The Death of Salesman Drama. She used language functions theory from Roman Jakobson with context by Dell Hymes (1974). There is also Sulfa (2017), her study in the Holy Qur'an and also cross gender analysis. Because she continue her data to discover the language gender by Phropet Yusuf and Zulaikha. This present study is also interested in taking gender case that is analyzing the differences between male and female language of prophet Yusuf and Zulaikha in Surah Yusuf.

Dealing with this, the present study shows that language functions indeed had already analysed by some researchers with another theory. Thesis from Degaf (2010) succeed to discover language functions used by the caretakers of autistic children in Miracle Run movie, using theory from M. A. K. Halliday. The data are collected from the language used from the caretakers; they are mother, doctor, teacher, and therapist. The result of this study shows regulatory function is the most dominat. Then another research come from the journal by Yunita (2013) in "Up" movie script. Based on the finding of the analysis and language function of Halliday, it is found the most frequently used regulatory function which intended to manage the behavior of others, to manipulate the person in the environment, and each utterances carries its own message based on the language functions it has.

There are some researchers who attempt in Janet Holmes's theory; Alfina (2016) in the movie and Anggario (2016) in Twitter. According to Janet Holme's theory, there are eight types of language function; expressive function, directive function, referential function, metalinguistic function, poetic function, phatic function, heuristic function and commissive function. Although they have same main theory, Alfina (2016) combine the language function with the theory of context by Dell Hymes (1974) whereas Anggario (2016) mix the theory of language function with politeness strategy by Brown and Levinson (1974).

Recently, the areas of study about language function in movie or film have received many attentions by researchers in different movies and focus. Machmudha (2015) focused on the types of language functions applied by two main character by using Roman Jakobson's and its frequency and Irawan (2014) concern with one main character, and Degaf (2010) succeed to discover language functions using theory from M. A. K. Halliday in four character in the movie. Then another research of Halliday's theory come from the journal by Yunita (2013) Carl Fredricksen utterance in movie script. Alfina (2016) using Janet Holmes's theory, applied in one character and the context by Dell Hymes (1974). So, the new present study, the researcher want to analyze movie with the theory from Janet Holmes and combine with gender analysis, to discover the differences the male and female language.

In relation to the statement before, the researcher chooses *A Walk to Remember* movie that directed by Adam Shankman and written by Karen Janszen,

- a) Language Functions : Is refer to the purpose of language means investigating how language is used: trying to find out what purposes that language serves for, and how people are able to achieve these purposes through speaking and listening, reading and writing. It means that when people read or hear the utterances, they not only try to know the definition of word, but they also want to understand the meaning of the writer or the speaker conveys. (Halliday as cited in Alfina, 2016: 4)
- b) Gender : A system of meaning, a way of understanding of male and female (Eckert and Ginet, 2003).
- c) A Walk to Remember : Is an American romantic drama film directed by Adam Shankman and written by Karen Janszen, based on Nicholas Sparks' 1999 novel with the same title A Walk to Remember. This movie released at January 25, 2002.

In discourse analysis there are spoken and written discourse. Written and spoken is the way that is used by the human being to communicate each other. Written text is a text that is wrote by the writer. It is as a printed record. It is different with spoken text. Spoken text is as verbal record of communicative act.

2.2 Language Function

Language functions refer to the purposes in which the use of language to communicate (<http://eldstrategies.com/languagefunctions.html>). According to Halliday (1992) as cited in Alfina (2016: 4), language function is not only study about what language is used for, but also study about how language is used. It means that when people read or hear the utterances, they not only try to know the definition of word, but they also want to understand the meaning of the writer or the speaker conveys. Moreover, the use of language that serves the function is influenced by many factors. People use the utterances in a different language and different context. The meanings of the speaker utterances are depend on the interpretation of the hearer. In understanding the intended meaning of the speaker, the hearer must understand the situation that influences the utterances. The situation here means the context of the utterances that make acceptable by the hearer.

According to Brown and Yule (1983: 1) there are two major types functions of language in the form of analitical convenience:

functions of language because they derive from the basic components of any interaction. Those three functions are expressive (addressor), directive (addressee), and referential (message). Meanwhile, the categorization of the eight types of speech functions will describe in the following:

2.3.1 Expressive Function

According to Holmes (2013: 275), the expressive is a kind of language function refers to the language used to express what the speaker's feelings, like "I'm feeling great today" or "I'm very gloomy tonight". Furthermore, the term of expression focused on thoughts, attitude, needs, and opinions of the speaker in which delivered in different choice of words and intonation. People may express their thoughts by draw conclusions based on what they have experienced. People may express feelings to communicate their emotions.

2.3.2 Directive Function

The directive function is the use of language to direct control, influence and manage the behavior of participant, not only yet to do, to act or to speak certain idea, but also to behave in general according to some plan or system to the speakers likes. Holmes (2013: 277) clarifies that directive function refers to the language used as an attempt to get someone to do something, by command, request or warning, e.g. Clear the table. On the other hand, this function is created to giving orders or making requests

by using imperatives, interrogatives, and declaratives statements. Imperative sentences may express a strict demand such as saying (e.g. Clear the table) or it can seem less demanding by using the politeness strategy such as saying (e.g. Clear the table, please). Besides, it can be in the form of interrogative sentence by “Could you clear the table?” or declarative “I want you to clear the table”.

2.3.3 Referential Function

Referential function of language shows the condition of the speakers who want to share their knowledge or news toward the hearer. As cited by Holmes (2013: 275), referential functions refer to utterances attempt to provide information, e.g. At the third stroke it will be three o'clock precisely. As cited in Khasanah (2017: 13), referential function could be describes a situation, object, or mental state, for example “The restaurant is comfortable”. This function may use trough different forms of speech, it can be seen in the forms of declarative and interrogative statements, for example:

- Declarative statements (After this semester, I'm going to visit London).
- Interrogative statements (What is your name?).

2.3.4 Metalinguistic Function

Holmes (2013: 275) stated that metalinguistic function refers to the utterances comment on language itself. For example 'Hegemony' is not a common word. On the other hand, it is used to describe parts of language such as grammar or words that describe language itself. Another example like "I is a personal pronoun". Machmudha (2015: 15) give the addition, whenever the addresser and or the addressee need to check up whether they use the same code. Example: "I don't follow you." – "What do you mean?" asks the addressee. This function focuses attention on the code itself, to clarify it or renegotiate it. Metalinguistic function is also predominant in questions like "Sorry, what did you say?" where the code (message) is misunderstood and needs correction or clarification.

2.3.5 Poetic Function

Poetic function reveals of how the speakers produces the utterances by using any kind of word plays. Considered to Holmes (2013: 275), poetic function is the utterances of language that focus on aesthetic features of language. It is includes the use of linguistic features such as a poem, rhyming words, an-ear catching motto, alliteration or paronomasia and antithesis. For example, "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers".

2.3.6 Phatic Function

Phatic reveals the condition of how the speakers show their sociability toward the hearer. It also can be known as a function of language that commonly used in everyday interaction includes leave takings, greetings, compliments, gossip, etc. It is also performed by gesture, physical contact, and facial expression, such as waves, shaking hands or smile. For greeting a friend, a speaker can say (hi/hello). As for greeting a stranger, the speaker can use (hello), but more formal greetings between strangers are (good morning/afternoon/night). According to Holmes (2013: 275), phatic utterances express solidarity and empathy with others. For example, when two strangers are met and one of them say, “Hi, how are you, lovely day isn’t it!” the speaker is indicating a readiness to be friendly and to talk.

2.3.7 Heuristic Function

Holmes (2013: 276) argued in his book that Michael Halliday identified a function of language which is concerned with learning. This function was labeled by Halliday as heuristic and also glossed as the ‘tell me why’ function. The need of this function arose from the study of children language acquisition in which language is use to learn and discover. For example, “What is the function of tractor?”.

2.3.8 Commissive Function

Holmes (2013: 276) regarded that the commissive function refers to the language used to deal with promises threats, with marriage views, bets and also declarations of war. Commissive function reveals what the speaker intends to commit themselves to do something in the future. For examples are (1) I will clean my room, I promise. (2) You will get a punishment if you late again.

2.4 Language and Gender

Language and gender is the study about the relation between language in use and gender. Gender does not mean the distinction of sexes only – male and female, but it carries a wider meaning which affects the attitude or behavior, thought, language style, and the way people dressed up. It is the social elaboration of biological sex. A circle of society can affect the construction of one's gender from his or her biological sex. Eckert and Ginet (2003: 12) argued that biological differences between males and females decide gender by causing enduring distinctions in capabilities and dispositions. For instance, the higher levels of testosterone, are said to lead men to be more aggressive than women; and left-brain dominance is show to lead men to be more “rational” while their relative lack of brain lateralization should lead women to be more “emotional”.

Lakoff (2004: 78) then, claimed that women tend to use several features in talking or known as ‘women’s linguistic features’ such as the use of hedges, they use hedging devices to express uncertainty, and they use intensifying devices to

connection with the topic. Let's go to the first previous study, it was from the thesis written by Fitria Tahta Alfina (2016) under the title *Language Functions Used by The Main Character in the Pacifier Movie*. Her thesis aimed to found the language functions and the context of language functions that used by Shane's utterance using Hymes (1974). The result of this study, the researcher concluded there are only seven from eight types of language function categorized by Janet Holmes (2013) found in 139 Shane's utterance. They are expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, phatic, heuristic, and commissive. Then, the researcher stated that expressive function is mostly used in the Shane's utterance.

Moving to the second one, Nuki Anggario (2016) had conclude the research about language function by *An Analysis of Language Functions used by Buzzer Jokowi on Twitter*. The purpose of this paper to analyze language function and politeness strategy used by buzzer in cybeerspace Twitter during campaign period. Participants of this study are 17 buzzers supportinng presidential candidate Joko Widodo, who also appears in 60detikaja.com webpage. By the applying Holmes's (2001) theory, this study shows there are only five from eight functions appearing in this study that are referential, directive, expressive, phatic or social, and poetic function. Expressive function became the most appear function, there are 188 times in the tweet made by buzzer. The result revealed that expressive function and positive politeness became function and strategy that most often appears in this study and there is a connection between the expressive function with positive politeness and directive function with negative politeness.

As focusing on language and gender analysis, the last study came from Humairotus Sulfa (2017) in her thesis by the title *Language Functions Used by Prophet Yusuf And Zulaikha in Surah Yusuf of The Holy Qur'an; A Cross-Gender Analysis*. The purposed of this study was to found the language functions in the utterances in Surah Yusuf by using Roman Jakobson's theory (1980). This study carry out the kinds of language functions and also the difference between male and female language functions of prophet Yusuf and Zulaikha in Surah Yusuf. In the conclusion the writer found there are 26 verse that spoken by Prophet Yusuf and 6 verse that spoken by Zulaikha. It were found in the translation of Surah Yusuf by Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali and Muhammad Muhsin Khan. The language functions which mostly used by Prophet Yusuf are the referential function and for Zulaikha's utterance, mostly expressive function. While in the language gender, Prophet Yusuf mostly used speak forceful and gentler, then Zulaikha mostly speak with emotionally.

From all the previous studies, the new research would create a new finding which is different from the others. It is because the researcher combines the theory of language function from Janet Holmes with gender analysis, to discover the differences between male and female language functions. Furthermore, this research is use another object to be analyzed, that is script from romantic drama movie with the title *A Walk to Remember*.

Datum 37

Landon : You know the answer? Come on, man, I know you know.
 Okay. It's you, me, and the basket. We form the three corners of a triangle.
 Take a step towards the basket.
 Am I at the same angle to you and the basket as before?
 High School Student : Yeah.
 Landon : Are you?
 High School Student : Yeah.
 Landon : So, what did we just make?
 High School Student : A similar triangle?
 Landon : Yes. Okay, make me an isosceles. You got it, two sides the same.
Okay, enough of this. Let's play.

The dialog above presents two directive functions of language by Landon. In this case, Landon is teaches a High School Student. From the first directive function Landon gives command to him to answer the Landon's question by saying "Come on, man, I know you know", it is in the form of declarative sentence. After he knows about the answer, Landon asks him to finish the lesson and playing basket together. For the second directive function, Landon also uses declaration sentence like "Okay, enough of this. Let's play".

Datum 41

Mom : Honey, I couldn't believe it.
 What a transformation.
 Landon : Thanks, but please stop.
 Mom : Don't be home too late.
 Landon : Okay. Thanks.
 Mom : Okay, okay.

From the conversation above, between Landon and his mother, presents the directive function. By the utterance, "Thanks but please stop", he reveals his command to his mother. In this case, his mother hugs Landon after his performances of drama, because she feels proud to her son and Landon asks an action from his mother to stop hug him.

Datum 52

Landon : Baby, I'm sorry. Okay?
 They're animals, all right?
 You want me to take you home?
 Let's get out of here.
Are you sure you're okay?
 Jamie : I'm fine.
 Thank you for everything.
 Landon : You're welcome.

The dialog above presents phatic function. in this situation, Landon tries to save Jamie from his friends. Then Landon produced utterance "Are you sure you're okay?" because Landon wants to check Jamie's condition after his friends embarrassed her in the canteen.

Datum 67

Jamie : How can you see places like this.....and have moments like this, and not believe?
 Landon : You're lucky to be so sure.
 Jamie : It's like the wind. I can't see it, but I feel it.
 Landon : What do you feel?
 Jamie : I feel wonder and beauty.....joy, love. I mean, it's center of everything.

On the datum above, Landon shows phatic function. In this scene, Landon takes Jamie to a place on the beach. Jamie was very happy and enjoy the moment. Then Landon asked, "What do you feel?" to Jamie. Because Landon wanted to show the condition of being interested toward Jamie.

Datum 70

Mr. Sullivan : Jamie. Say good night to Mr. Carter.
 Landon, go home. The night's over.
 Landon : Good night.
 Jamie : Good night.
 Landon : Good night, sir.

However, this present study was extremely different with the previous study, because the researcher analyzes and describes the language functions based on theory from Holmes and gender theory by Lakoff. The findings portray that the total emergence of language functions found in the movie show different rate. This is influenced by different problem and situation which happens in Landon and Jamie's character. The total of Landon's utterance is 58 and Jamie's utterance is 49. As mentioned in the findings, there are 6 types of language function in male character and 6 types also for female character. Expressive function plays the most significant role in two characters, Landon and Jamie. It becomes so significant because in two characters expressive function appears in 23 times and 18 times, higher than the other. Thus in the lower level, there are two different function of language. For Landon as male character, he only uses commissive function in one time. Whereas in Jamie's side, she only produces poetic function in one time.

Continuing the result of language functions, the finding of this present study show different result. In this case, the analysis is carried out three aspects differences. As the first aspect, it is about description of the type differences used by two characters, this aspect presents about which is the type used by Landon and Jamie. There is an aspect of differences from the frequency to indicates which is the most type that used and the type of rarely used. The last aspect points out the way Landon and Jamie reveal every type of language function.

In this occasion, the researcher has connected the language function with politeness strategy, especially for bald on record and positive politeness strategy. As stated by Milal (2014: 75) in his book, Brown and Levinson propose four

strategies of politeness (1987), namely, bald on record, positive politeness strategy, negative politeness strategy, and off-record strategy. Based on his book, bald on record is the strategy by which communicative act is realized in the most directive way, such as “Take my hand”. Whereas, positive politeness strategy used by showing solidarity between interlocutors, for example “Hey, buddy, I’d appreciate it if you’d let me use your pen”.

Later on, the researcher presents the example for each politeness strategy. Bald on record usually used by someone has powerful and authority among the group of people. It is also used between intimate friends. From the findings, there are some directive function formed as bald on record strategy found in the movie. For instance, “Be back in an hour”, Landon shows this utterance when he talks with his close friend, Eric. On the other hand, one of the example from positive politeness strategy is “Come on, Jamie. Open the door, please!” Landon uses this utterance to satisfy the hearer, in order to make Jamie did what he asked.

By all of this, the researcher concluded that the language has a lots of variation, so an utterance maybe contains two or more variation of language. It can be seen from the example in the pharagraph above. When Landon and Jamie presents directive function, they also uses politeness strategy in the same time.

expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, phatic, and commissive. While in Jamie's language functions, she uses expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic, and phatic.

The next differences is from the frequency in using the language functions, it shows that expressive function become the most frequent occurred among the other function, both from Landon and Jamie. This function reaches 23 times or equal 40% for Landon and 18 times or equal 37% for Jamie. Then from the lowest level, Landon achieves 1 time or equal 2% in commissive and Jamie attains 1 time or equal 2% in poetic.

The last differences is about the way Landon and Jamie reveals the language functions. In using expressive function, Jamie shows her language more emotional, more expressive and using hyperbolic words. The next is directive function, in this function Jamie's utterance more polite, more expressive and indirect in making an order or command to someone. Then in referential function, Landon shows his information to the point while Jamie shows her referential by giving additional information. After that move to metalinguistic function, Landon uses metalinguistic for make a clear about Jamie's utterances while Jamie uses her metalinguistic for comments on Landon's utterance. For last, the differences of the way they use phatic function. In this case, Landon uses phatic to ask Jamie's condition than Jamie uses this function for greeting.

5.2 Suggestion

This research focusses on revealed the kinds of the type of language function in *A Walk to Remember* movie and the differences of male and female language functions, by using Holmes's theory and Lakoff's theory. As the final result, the researcher has proven the differences language functions from male and female in the movie. Therefore, for further investigation the researcher truly suggests that the other researchers analyze the language functions through different statement of the problems. Moreover, in the case discourse analysis, the other researcher can make a new combination such as language function with politeness strategy or another theory. Then, they can investigate more interesting data source related with discourse analysis for instance in advertisement, talk show, newspaper, novel, etc. Thus, by this suggestion the researcher really expects that this present study can be a good reference for linguistics learner and even inspire them to conduct further research.

