

MALE AND FEMALE'S GOSSIP IN *MEAN GIRLS* MOVIE (2004)

THESIS



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Declares that the thesis under the title *Male and Female's Gossip in Mean Girls Movie (2004)* is my original scientific work which has been conducted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana degree and submitted to English Department, Arts and Humanities Faculty of Sunan Ampel State Islamic University. Additionally, it does not incorporate any other text from the previous experts excepts the quotations and theories itself. If the thesis later is found as a plagiarism work, the writer is truthfully responsible with any kind of suitable rules and consequences.

Surabaya, June 24th 2019

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Gossip itself has been considered as the way for woman to share her feelings or emotion to others (Coates, 2004: 103). When woman are gossiping, they will express their feelings toward someone who are they addresses to. Through gossip, woman will reveal their real feelings, such as anger, sadness, disappointment and happiness.

Many researchers defined gossip as *chit-chat* or a *relaxed-talk* in a group of women and it is considered as the characteristic of women's interaction (Holmes, 2001; Ahmed, 2010; Coates, 2004). Gossip is one kind of conversation that women have when they meet their friends or relatives which has close relation with them. Women are always creative to make a conversation with their friends. In gossiping, women attempt to take turns and give a compliment to build a conversation (Ahmed, 2010: 1).

Most of people think that gossip is only for women, but some researchers stated that it is possible for men to do gossip with their friends (Ahmed, 2010; Coates, 2004). Johnson and Finlay (1997) argue that it is possible for men to participate in gossip (Coates, 2004: 104). They stated the differences between man and woman's gossip is the topic of their conversation itself (Coates, 2004: 104). Woman tends to discuss about their feelings, personal experience, and even others behavior or others life to build a conversation while they are gossiping (Coates, 2004: 103). Otherwise,

man tends to talk about something which they are interested with, such as football and online games (Coates, 2004: 104). Deborah Cameron (1997) also stated that 'sports' is the most common topic of men's conversation (Coates, 2004: 104).

Through women's conversation, there are many types of gossip and functions of gossip which could be found. Jones (1980) stated that there are four types of gossip which are used by women, including *house-talk*, *bitching*, *scandal* and *chatting* (Talbot, 2010: 76). Each type has different purposes. Otherwise, the functions of gossip were stated by Eric K Foster, including *enhance friendship*, *provide information*, *influence others*, *give entertainment* and *make social comparison* (Foster, 2004: 84-87). There are some researchers who had been interested to analyze this issue. TV series (Sari, 2015), Same-sex Conversation (Ahmed, 2010; Rosita, 2001), Society Opinion (Meinarno, Bagaskara & Rosalina, 2011) and Workplace (Kuo, Chang, Quinton, Lu and Lee, 2015).

However, previous researches in this field have concentrated on analyze gossip and investigated the usage of woman's speech features on gossip. Each of those researches has limited their focus. Sari (2015) prefers to only analyzed type and function of gossip which were used by female characters in TV series. Ahmed (2010) decided to analyze the function of gossip through the daily conversation between two

female students. Rosita (2001) focused her research to analyze the types of gossip and women's speech feature in daily conversation among female students. Meinarno, Bagaskara & Rosalina (2011) focused their research only to find out the role of gossip in teenager's everyday life. Kuo, Chang, Quinton, Lu and Lee (2015) prefers to analyzed the behavior of employees can affect the way they talk to each other.

There are no researchers who had analyzed types and functions of gossip which are used by male and female, also find out the differences usage of gossip between two genders. This present research aims at filling these gaps by analyzing gossip in *Mean Girls* movie which is tried to find the usage of types of gossip and the function of gossip by female and male characters which are appeared in *Mean Girls* movie. As some researchers stated that gossip does not restricted to women, it also seeks to find out the differences usage of gossip between male and female characters in *Mean Girls* movie.

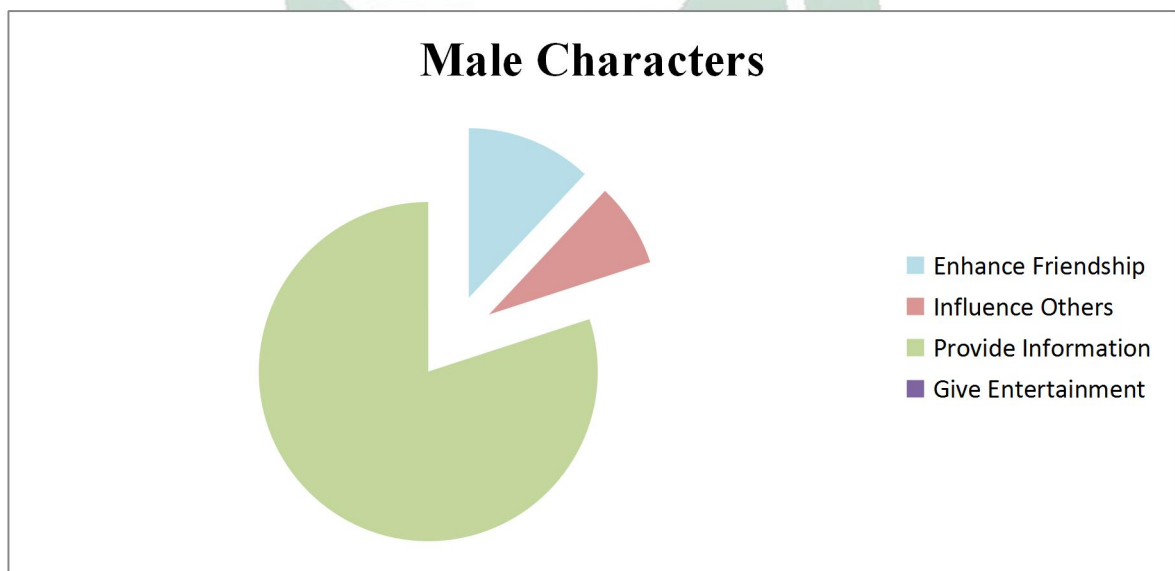
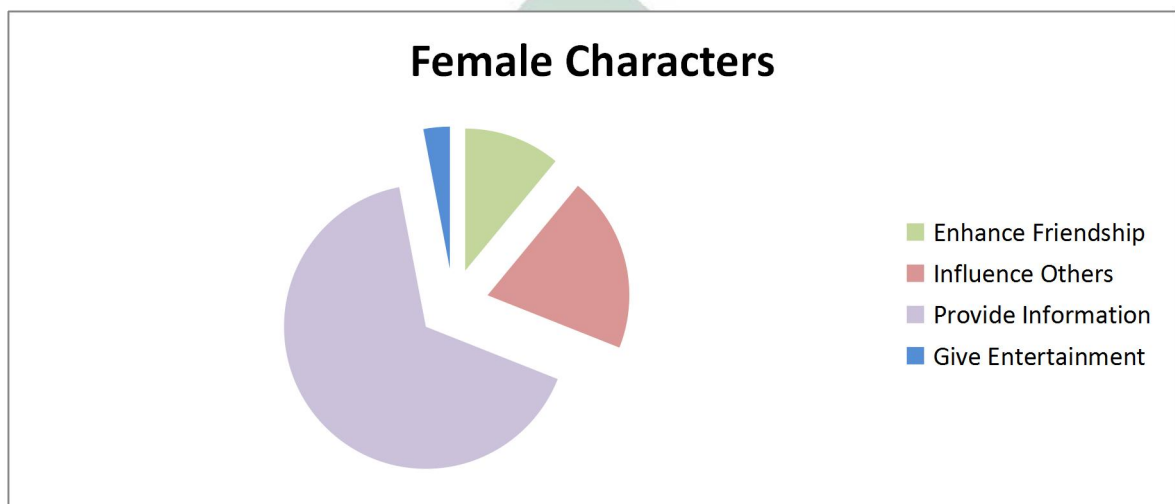
Mean Girls is an American movie told about teenager's everyday life and how a girl named Cady can survive in her new school with her new infamous friends. Cady is a home-schooling girl. She never go to school for her entire life. Suddenly, her parents decide to send her to high school. The journey of Cady's life begins here. She

Third, Rosita (2001) entitled *A Sociolinguistic Study on Speech Features of Females Student of Petra Christian University while Gossiping in Campus*. She analyzed the types of gossip and woman's speech features by female student of Petra Christian University while they are gossiping. Recording was used to conduct this research. The result of this research was she found that female students tend to used *lexical hedges or fillers* and *intensifiers* as their speech features while they are gossiping. Moreover, the types of gossip which were used by female students are *chatting* and *house-talk*.

Fourth, Meinarno, Bagaskara, & Rosalina (2011) entitled *Apakah Gosip Bisa Menjadi Kontrol Sosial?*. They analyzed about the role of gossip as a social control. Questionnaire and FGD (*Focus Group Discussion*) was used by the researchers. Moreover, they used GFQ (*Gossip Foster Questionnaire*) to arrange their questionnaire. This research focused to analyze the role of gossip on adolescents and used teenager opinion about gossip as their data. The result of this research showed the reader that 55.2% teenagers use gossip to influence other people.

The last researchers who had analyzed gossip are Kuo, Chang, Quinton, Lu, and Lee (2015). The title of their research is *Gossip in The Workplace and The Implications for HR Management: A Study of Gossip and its Relationship to Employee Cynicism*. This research aimed to analyze about how the relationship of employees can be affected by their behavior. Moreover, they wanted to find about whether the employees relationship can affect their cynicism to each other. The

The other pie chart shows the percentage of types gossip which is used by male characters. It shows through the pie chart that the highest percentage of type gossip is Scandal, 60%. Then, the second type of gossip which is used by male characters is House Talk, 28%. Moreover, the usage of Bitching is 12%, and none of male characters use Chatting as their types of gossip.



The usage of Give Entertainment as the function of gossip by male characters is not found in the movie. There are no male characters which use this function of gossip in their conversation. As it can be seen through the chart above, there are no male characters use Give Entertainment as the function of gossip. Hence the researcher assumes that it may be because man does not tend to talk about something which is unnecessary, they tend to talk directly about what they want to say.

4.2 Discussions

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher has finished analyzing gossip which was used by female and male characters in *Mean Girls* movie. The findings of this study involve the answer of two research problems which were stated before, including the types of gossip which are used by male and female characters in the movie and the functions of gossip which are used by male and female characters in the movie.

The first finding which is discussed through this study is the usage of types of gossip by female and male characters in *Mean Girls* movie. Jones's theory about types of gossip is used to analyze the conversation among the characters in the movie. Jones divided the types of gossip into four types, including *House Talk*, *Scandal*, *Chatting*, and *Bitching*.

As it has discussed through the findings, female characters use four types of gossip in their conversation. Types of gossip which is used by female characters in

Mean Girls movie were *House Talk*, *Scandal*, *Chatting*, and *Bitching*. Otherwise, male characters are only used three types of gossip in their conversation. The types of gossip which are used by male characters in *Mean Girls* movie are *House Talk*, *Scandal*, and *Bitching*. There are no male characters used *Chatting* as the type of their gossip.

The second finding which is explained in this study is the usage of functions of gossip by female and male characters in *Mean Girls* movie. There are four functions of gossip which had analyzed through the conversation among the characters in *Mean Girls* movie. The functions of gossip which are found in the conversation among the characters are Enhance Friendship, Influence Others, Give Entertainment, and Provide Information.

As it showed through the findings of this study, there are four functions of gossip which are used by female characters, including Enhance Friendship, Influence Others, Provide Information, and Give Entertainment. The function of gossip which is often used by female characters on their conversation is to Provide Information. It is because woman likes to share information to each other. As it can be seen through datum 20 until 22, the female characters show that they like to share information to their friends.

However, the functions of gossip which are used by male characters in *Mean Girls* movie are only three functions, including Enhance Friendship, Influence Others,

and Provide Information. The function of gossip which is often used by male characters is to Provide Information. This result shows that man likes to share information to other people like woman does. Moreover, there are no male characters uses Give Entertainment as the functions of their gossip.

Based on the findings above, the researcher wants to compare this present study with the previous studies. Sari (2015) analyzed the types of gossip, woman's speech features, and functions of gossip. Ahmed (2010) analyzed the functions of gossip. Rosita (2001) analyzed the types of gossip and woman's speech features. Eko A. Meinarno, SunuBagaskara, and MelyPutriKurniati Rosalina (2011) analyzed teenager's opinion about function of gossip. Kuo, Chang, Quinton, Lu, and Lee (2015) analyzed the effect of gossip towards employee.

Moreover, this present study gives new findings. It can be seen from the subject that analyzed on this present study. All previous studies chose woman as their subject of study. Otherwise, this present study chose man and woman as the subject of study. None of previous studies choose man as their subject of study. The result of this present study shows that gossip do not restricted to woman, it is possible for man to have a gossip on their conversation.

As a moeslem, we know that talk about other people behind their back is not good. It can hurt someone's feelings when you talk about him/her behind their back and Allah forbids us to hurt each other. In Islam, it is not allowed for us to say

Foster states through his journal that there are four functions of gossip, including Enhance Friendship, Influence Others, Give Entertainment, and Provide Information.

Moreover, the method which was used to analyze the data for this study was qualitative method. The researcher used qualitative method because it allows the researcher to interpret the data itself. Moreover, the researcher uses qualitative method to analyze the usage of types and functions of gossip by male and female characters in *Mean Girls* movie. Thus, the researcher is capable to explain more detail about the data which is presented on the previous chapter.

Based on the result of this study, the researcher finds the usage of types of gossip by female and male characters in the movie. There are four types of gossip which were used by female characters in the movie, including House Talk, Scandal, Bitching, and Chatting. The type of gossip which was often used by female characters is Scandal. The second type of gossip which was often uses by female characters is House Talk. Moreover, Bitching and Chatting are on the last types of gossip which were used by female characters in the movie. Otherwise, there are three types of gossip which were used by male characters in the movie, including House Talk, Scandal, and Bitching. The type of gossip which is often used by male characters is Scandal.

