

**WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY LARA JEAN
IN THE MOVIE *TO ALL THE BOYS I'VE LOVED BEFORE*
(2018)**

THESIS



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UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA
2020**

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Cindy Dwi Retiningrum

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WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY LARA JEAN IN THE
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Surabaya, February 26th, 2020

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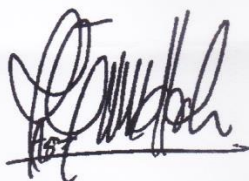
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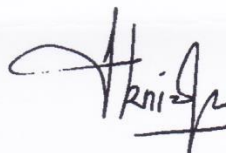
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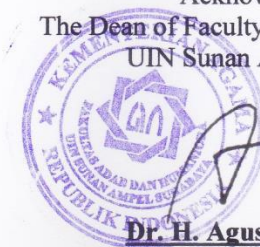
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the language, the norm of the society or the people of the society who use the language. Lakoff (cited in Putra & Prayudha, 2019, p. 1) provides a list of ten features of women's language. These ten types of women's language features are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonations on declarative, empty adjectives, precise color term, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoiding strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

The study of women 's language in a movie is not the first time. In 2016, Aflah conducted a study about women 's language and the function that Anna Karenina used as the main character at *Anna Karenina* movie. The result of her study showed that there are nine features used by Anna Karenina. She did not find the hypercorrect grammar used by Anna, and she also found six functions of women's language features. Aini (2016) analyzed women 's language between a male and female character in the *Mockingjay* movie. The result of her study is that she did not find all women's language features. Women's language feature used by Katniss as the main character in this movie only found six features. While the main male character is only found five features, and the last is Pamikat (2018) investigated women's language of Eilis Lacey in *The Brooklyn* movie script. The result of her study is that she only found eight women's language features. She did not find the precise color terms and avoidance of strong swear words. This research only focuses on female and male characters use women's language. They could not find all the women's language features proposed by Lakoff.

The previous study in this field has been concentrated on women's language features and functions. All of the previous studies that the researcher already

explain, researchers have not found all of the women's language features. Some previous studies found eight, nine, or even found six women's language features. Therefore the researcher wants to examine again to see other features.

Women's language can be observed in literary works like novel, poem, and drama. *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* is a novel written by Jenny Han. It has become a best seller and been adapted to the movie with the same title. The researcher uses *To All The Boys I've Loved Before* movie as the subject of the present study. The movie itself tells about a young woman named Lara Jean, who lives with her father and two sisters. Since childhood, Lara likes to confess her out feelings by writing a letter when she likes boys, but she never dares to send to each boy she ever loved and choose to store the letters in the box. A chaotic situation happened; her sister suddenly sent the five letters that stored in the box to each boy she ever loved without her knowing it. Lara was embarrassed, then three men whom she ever loved in the past came to approach her and ask about the letter.

To All The Boys I've Loved Before movie and Lakoff's theory were chosen because of three reasons. First, the movie has a variety of women characters with different personalities and attitudes for each of the characters. Since the movie about two young lovers, so it talked a lot about the love life story of the character. Second, the author made every character had their particular identity like age differences and experiences they were going through. They would have significant effects on how they speak and how to react to every situation they face. Third, the researcher only focuses on the main female character named Lara

other words, when someone limits their speech, she is saying that she is not sure what she is saying is expressed in her speech.

Lexical Hedges is one of the linguistic features that serve to reduce the power of a speech and weaken the effect of a statement. According to Talbot (cited in Wahyuni, 2015, p. 19), hedges are used to avoid something that is said with certainty, to prevent overly dogmatic estimates and beliefs of a person. Hedges are multifunctional, and context must be used as consideration. When analyzing hedges such as a sort of and I think, in a context, Holmes found that these linguistic features have complicated functions. According to Holmes (cited in Wahyuni, 2015, p. 19), hedges are used differently with different functions. Hedges means different things based on their pronunciation, their position in a speech, the type of speech act that they change, and who uses it to whom and in what context.

Besides, there are many different ways to reduce the pressure of speech illocution, and hedges are done using several linguistic features. Hedges are modal verbs such as could, might, may, would, should, lexical like perhaps, and pragmatic particles like sorta / sort of, I think, you know, well, kinda / kind of, like and i guess. It refers to the repetition of these phrases in a speech. The prosody features such as in up and down intonation and paralinguistic signals such as stops and doubts can also be used to weaken the power of a speech.

uses nine features from 10 features of women's language. Those are lexical hedges or fillers 28%, tag question 2%, rising intonation 22%, empty adjectives 5%, intensifiers 21%, hypercorrect grammar 13%, super polite forms 3%, avoidance of strong swear words 4% and emphatic stress 2%. This movie does not occur in precise color terms.

There are three related research from Safitri (2017), Mazidah (2013), and Rubbyanti (2017), which have been reviewed by the researcher that precise color terms did not found in their research object. Lara Jean's character does not show that she is a fashionable person. Her character shows that she is an ordinary school girl even she is a girl who is considered as a nerd, a homebody, not an easy-going person, and a type of girl who often feels insecure with herself as well as the clothes or things she wears. There are no scenes in the movie which shows Lara Jean referencing or describing colors. Thus, precise color terms are not found in the movie.

The researcher shows the most dominant feature used by Lara Jean. Lara Jean uses many lexical hedges or fillers, which are shown by the amount of data that is 28%. Lara Jean uses a lot of lexical hedges or fillers because Lara Jean often feels unsure of her statements. After all, she does not feel confident about herself. Lara also avoids making definite statements because she is afraid of being wrong with her words.

The last question is the function of women's language used by Lara Jean. Two functions appeared in the movie; those are weakening function (hedging devices) 72% and strengthening function (booster devices) 28% —all of the

functions found in the movie. The most dominant function used by Lara Jean is the weakening function. Lara Jean uses many weakening functions because Lara Jean wants to loosen the impact of the statement. Lara wants to reduce the impact of her words because she does not want her interlocutors to see Lara as a stubborn person and forcing the will, then to show that Lara Jean was uncertain with her statement. Lara shows uncertainty to anticipate that her statement is wrong, or Lara needs convincing statements from her interlocutor. She avoids definite statements for she is not confident with herself. In other words, she is a lacks of confidence. Women are usually hesitant in making choices, and so is Lara. She also quickly feels insecure when she does not get attention from the interlocutor. Lara wants to be appreciated by her interlocutor. If her interlocutor does not notice her, then Lara feels unnoticed and also that Lara can also think that her interlocutor is not interested in her words.

Based on the findings above, the researcher tends to compare the present study with the previous study. The first study is *Features and Functions of Women's Language in Anna's Character of Anna Karenina Movie* by Aflah (2016). She focused on Anna's character of the movie Anna Karenina, and she wanted to know about women's language features and the function. She used Lakoff's theory to conduct the research. She used six functions to analyzed women's language.

On the other hand, Aini (2016) conducted *Women's Language Used by The Main Characters of "Mockingjay" Movie*. She compared men's language and women's language used by the main characters in the movie. She related women's

