

**WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY LARA CROFT
IN *TOMB RAIDER* (2018) MOVIE**

THESIS



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Who makes the statement



Yenny Indah Nabilah

to pay attention to correct grammar and pronunciation.” While men are more likely to use harsh words, such as slang and profanity, Lakoff (cited in Aini, 2016) stated that “men and women have differences in the speech function.” She argues that in order to reflect women’s helplessness and weakness towards men, women learn a weak, trivial, and different style.

Holmes (cited in Andriyani, 2018) stated that “women are expected to be polite and should speak with standard forms because they are guardians of society.” Women have particular characteristics in language use in society. The theory of Women’s Language Features proposed by Lakoff entitled “*Language and Woman’s Place*.” In her book, Lakoff claims ten features of women’s language. Those features are precise color terms, avoiding strong swear words, empty adjectives, tag question, rising Intonation, lexical hedges or filler, Intensifier, emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar, and superpolite form.

Lakoff’s work in women’s language features leaves pros and cons because no data is related or that proves the problem before his work. Lakoff introduced feminist theory and linguistics, which could be equalized and unexpectedly turned out to be a mature language and gender discipline for four decades. The writer uses Lakoff’s approach (1975), although it is considered as an old theory (Sharma, 2004). Lakoff’s (1975) is still a reliable theory. Nordenstam (2003) stated about Lakoff’s book entitled *Language and Woman’s Place* was the first to be released about gender and language, ever since the study was established. Even though several recent studies that discussed women’s linguistic studies, used Lakoff’s (1975) as their leading theory.

The study of women's language features is an exciting topic to discuss. In recent years, there have been some previous studies that analyze women's language features in various fields, such as a speeches (Yuniarti, 2014; Solikha, 2016), talk show (Kartika and Rusnaningtias, 2017; Apridaningrum, 2018; Claudia, 2018), Blogspot (Pebrianti, 2013), miniseries (Rubbyanti, 2017) play script (Rahadiyanti and Jurianto, 2017), and movie (Rohmania, 2016; Ramadhani, 2017; Ma'rifah, 2018; and Rahmawati, 2019). From the various fields of women's language features study above, the researcher focuses on the movie in her writing.

The previous research that used movie as the subject of study was conducted by Ma'rifah (2018). She investigated the features of women's language, which are used by the main man character in Sky High movie. She analyzed the types of women's language features and the situation that caused the main man character to use the dominant features. She found eighty-six utterances that included women's language features, and she just found seven features of women's language uttered by the man main character in Sky High movie. The most dominant features used by the man main character is lexical hedges or filler, and most of the situations are refer to his lack of confidence, to mitigate the possible unfriendliness or unkindness of his statement, and to blunt the force of a rather painful assertion.

The other previous research was conducted by Rahmawati (2019). She analyzed women's language features in Furlough movie. In this study, she investigated the types and the function of women's language based on Lakoff

(1975) and Pearson (1985). The data of this research were the female character's utterance in Furlough movie. The findings show there are nine of ten types of women's language found in Furlough movie, and six functions of women's language showed in this movie. Besides, the dominant type of women language in this movie was Intensifier. Also, the dominant function of women's language was to express feelings or opinions, which meant that women in this movie have various expressions and thoughts.

Women's language in communication can be learned by watching a movie. The movie is the reflection of the real condition in society because in making a movie, the directors always draw the actual situation in a society (Mazidah, 2013). Through watching movies, people can easily understand the essence of the story and even the whole story. Another effect of watching movies is that people have the same character's imagination because film creates real characters that can be seen by the audience.

Furthermore, the movie has various genres based on setting, characters, plot, story, tone, styles, templates, rules, themes, etc. A genre is the category of any type of art or literature. For instance, categories of movie would-be comedy, action, horror, thriller, romance, fantasy, sci-fi, and so on. Moreover, there is some previous study that analyzes women's language features based on various genres of movies.

The study conducted by Mazidah (2013) and Ramadhani (2017) attempted to analyze women's language features in the drama movie, Oktapiani, Natsir, and Setyowati (2017), Sudewi and Sedeng (2018) in a comedy-romance movie,

Sanjaya (2018) and Subyantari (2018) in an animation movie. However, to the best knowledge, only a few have been conducted in an action/adventure movie, as done by Aini (2016) and Anjani and Setiawan (2019).

The first previous study was conducted by Aini (2016). She investigated the women's language features in science fiction-adventure movie entitled *Mockingjay*. In this study, the researcher analyzed the features of women's language based on Lakoff's theory used by the main characters in the movie and also the way of using them. She focused on the utterance of the female character and the male character in the movie. The data were taken from the conversations uttered by female and male characters of *Mockingjay* movie and movie script to get exact utterance. The findings show the female character used six features of women's language. Meanwhile, the male character used only five features. There are three features that were not used by them. Besides, the use of women's language features is related to the social condition in their society.

Different from Aini, who only focused on two main characters, Anjani and Setiawan (2019) focused on all the female character's utterances in an action-war movie entitled *Wonder Woman*. She analyzed the types of women's language features, the reason for using it, and the impact towards the interlocutors, which is used by female characters in *Wonder Woman* movie. This study used Lakoff's theory to analyze the data. She found that the female character used eight types for ten types of women's language features. In society, women tend to be the guardian or likely to be an excellent example for their surroundings. Women are

not always related to a weak, powerless creature. They also have to be independent one time and another.

Several previous studies mentioned above, in analyzing women's language features, the researcher focused on two main characters in a scientific-adventure movie and all of the female characters in the action-war movie. Still, none of them focused merely on one main character in an action/adventure movie. Thus, the present study used the main female character in the action-adventure movie entitled *Tomb Raider* (2018). It also shows a few researchers have focused on analyzing women's language features by using Lakoff's theory. Those studies focused only on the types of women's language features, disregarding the function of language in each feature. Hence, in this study, the researcher used theory by Lakoff and also connected with theory by Jakobson to analyze women's language features and language function in each feature used by the main female character in the movie.

The reason why the researcher studies about women's language features and language function are to enrich the understanding of the true intention of what is conveyed by women to avoid misunderstanding. Moreover, concerning the features, it can be stated that language function leads other people to understand more the woman's intention while they utter the particular features of women's language. In this study, the researcher is interested in investigating women's language features in *Tomb Raider* (2018) movie proposed by Lakoff (1975) theory and also analyzing the function of language of those features introduced by Jakobson (1960) theory.

Therefore, in this study, the writer used *Tomb Raider* 2018 movie as data to analyze. It is because this movie is the most outstanding and exciting action-adventure movie in this era, and there has not been researching women's language features conducted using this movie as the data to analyze. *Tomb Raider* is a 2018 movie directed by Roar Uthaug. Geneva Robertson Dworet and Alastair Siddons made the screenplay. *Tomb Raider's* movie is based on a story by Evan Daugherty Robertson Dworet. American and British co-production, mainly based, but loosely on the 2013 video game of the same name, with some sequel elements by Crystal Dynamics, and is a reboot of the *Tomb Raider* film series. *Tomb Raider* 2018 movie has grossed \$274 million worldwide. The film earned nominations at Teen Choice Awards category Choice Movie-Action and Choice Action Movie Actress for Alicia Vikander. It also received four nominations at Golden Trailer Awards.

Tomb Raider 2018 is a fresh start for the film series and a cinematic rebirth for Lara Croft, one of the most iconic figures in modern pop culture. This movie is a reboot of *Tomb Raider* (2001) movie which portrayed by Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft. *Tomb Raider* (2018) sees Lara Croft as a tough young woman who chooses to be a broke bike courier, rather than gaining her sizeable inheritance by accepting that her missing father is dead, and signing-off on his death certificate. Lara Croft in Vikander's version isn't a seasoned pro like Jolie's version, but instead a strong-willed 20-something with massive potential. *Tomb Raider* (2001) iconic figure of a plump and sexy woman who has expensive weapons. Whereas in 2018, Lara Croft characteristics are described as strong and tomboyish and look much more humane. The character of Lara Croft in *Tomb*

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Women's language is a language that indicates the characteristics of women, such as evade direct and strong statements and depend on correspond that deliver indecision and uncertainty.

Women's speech features are several features of speech which is used more often by women than men that indicate the characteristics of women's speech which are included lexical hedges, tag question, rising Intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words and empathic stress.

Tomb Raider (2018) is an action-adventure film directed by Roar Uthaug. Geneva Robertson Dworet and Alastair Siddons made the screenplay. *Tomb Raider (2018) movie* is based on a story by Evan Daugherty Robertson Dworet. American and British co-production, mainly based, but loosely on the 2013 video game of the same name, with some sequel elements by Crystal Dynamics, and is a reboot of the Tomb Raider film series.

languages is the different roles that they play in society. Xia (2013) stated that “men dominate almost all of the important positions in government.” Besides that, society expects different roles between women and men.

Moreover, Lakoff (1973) explained that women are expected to talk like a lady. On the other hand, men will not be scolded by their parents when they speak roughly. Then, Xia (2013) argued that women usually use high pitch tone to answer some questions. The use of a rising tone indeed shows that they are not as confident as men. This phenomenon reflects that women have little or no power in society. Meanwhile, men are more likely to use falling intonation to indicate that they have enough power in society. To conclude, the theory of language and gender can describe the differences between women and men in using language since both women and men have different roles in society.

2.2 Women’s language features

Lakoff (1973) stated that “society commonly maintains women in their places by making them talk differently from men since they were children.” Women will be criticized if they talk roughly like men. Lakoff (1973) stated further that ‘women will not gain any reward from society if she is unable to learn her lessons well.’ Therefore, she argued that this treatment of society could be an excuse to keep her in a lower position in the community. An American linguist named Robin Lakoff stated that “there are several linguistic features which can be classified as “women’s language.” She also argued that ‘women’s language’ actually reflects the subordinate status of women in society. Lakoff (1973) declared that the linguistic features used by women show up in all levels of

3.2.1 Research Data

The writer focused on the utterances of Lara Croft in *Tomb Raider 2018* movie as the data of the research. The data analyzed were in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contain the women's language feature on Lara Croft's utterance, which reflects on women's language features, the types, and the functions proposed by Lakoff (1975) and Jakobson (1960).

3.2.1 Data source

The data of the research are taken from the script of *Tomb Raider 2018* movie. The duration of this movie is one hour and fifty-eight minutes. It is directed by Roar Uthaug and published on March 6th, 2018. The writer downloaded the movie from <https://dunia21.me>, also the transcript that has already existed on Google search. The writer watched the movie several times to make sure that the transcript that the writer downloaded is suitable, and the data of the chosen utterances are included as women's linguistics features. While the writer was watching the movie, the writer also highlighted the words that occurred in women's linguistics features.

3.2.2 Instrument

The researcher of this study used observation because the researcher observed the Lara Croft's utterances in *Tomb Raider 2018* movie. The tools of the research used for observation are the researchers themselves to collect and analyze the data.

Data 21

- Lara : It'll be an adventure!
 Lu Ren : Death is not an adventure.
 Lara : **Don't you want to know what happened to them?**
 Lu Ren : I just don't care anymore, okay?

Based on the dialogue above between Lara and Lu Ren happened in Lu Ren boat. After Lara found the clock hands, she invited Lu Ren to do the adventure because she wants to find out where their father disappeared. She ask to Lu Ren, "*Don't you want to know what happened to them?*". Lara seems to suggest the stronger likelihood of a negative response from Lu Ren. The assumption is that Lu Ren is freer to refuse. So, those utterance used by Lara indicates superpolite form because it Lara make request politely to Lu Ren.

4.1.1.8 Hypercorrect Grammar

The next feature of women's Language is Hypercorrect grammar. Women commonly used standard grammatical form because they want to change their social status in society. Hypercorrect grammar also used to show the reputation of the speakers because she has to be polite when she talks to the addressee. Here the writer found some hypercorrect grammar used by Lara in this movie, can be seen as follow:

Data 22

- Lu Ren : They're clock hands.
 Lara : They're not clock hands. Definitely not clock hands.
 They're... **They are clock hands.**

Data 29

Lu Ren : They're clock hands.
 Lara : They're not clock hands. Definitely not clock hands.
 They're... **They are clock hands.**

The situation on the dialogue above between Lara Lu Ren happened in Lu Ren boat. Lara wanted to find the location of their father from a map that she brought. At first, Lara did not believe that it was a clock hands. Then, Lu Ren reminded Lara that they're clock hands. With that, she realized and said "*They are clock hands*". By telling those utteranc, it indicates that Lara uses the referential function. It is show that Lara wants to give information to Lu Ren. Lara explain her statement about a map that she brought and said that it was actually a clock hands to Lu Ren.

Data 30

Lara : How much did you lose last night?
 Lu Ren : What makes you think I lost?
 Lara : Well, **it looked like you were drowning your sorrows, not celebrating.**

The dialogue above between Lara and Lu Ren happened in a boat. Lara saw the game boards, playing cards, and a glass of beer, which disorganized on the table. Lara guessed that Lu Ren had lost gambling and was drunk last night. So she asked Lu Ren how much did he lose. Then, Lu Ren shocked how Lara could have thought that he lost. Lara said to him, "*Well, it looked like you were drowning your sorrows, not celebrating*". By telling those utterance, it indicates that Lara uses referensial function. She describe the situation on Lu Ren boat and explain her opinion because she saw a mess table over there.

The researcher found that Lara used nine of ten types of women's language features in her utterance. The results show the total number of features found are 100 features uttered by Lara. The researcher found that lexical hedges or fillers are the most common language features used by Lara. On the other hand, the least frequently used of women's language features is an empty adjective.

Based on the findings above, in this study, Lara used nine features of women's language, namely lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising Intonation, Intensifier, empty adjectives, superpolite form, hypercorrect grammar, avoidance of strong words, and emphatic stress. It is in line with the study done by Mazidah (2013), she analyzed the features of women's language used by female characters in the drama movie. They found nine features of women's language as well, namely lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, Intensifier, empty adjectives, superpolite form, avoidance of strong words, hypercorrect grammar, emphatic stress, and rising Intonation on declarative.

By using women's language features, lexical hedges or filler is the most frequently used by the character in Tomb Raider (2018) movie. It is because Lara wants to express her lack of confidence in her utterance. It indicates that she feels that her utterance might not be accurate. Agreeing with the study done by Rahadiyanti and Julianto (2017), this research focused on play script to analyze women's language features. They found that the use of lexical hedges or filler more often than any other features because women have difficulties in starting an utterance or even to continue their statement. Women used these features when they are not sure what they are saying.

Meanwhile, the findings of this research was not in line with the previous study done by Aini (2016). She found seven of ten features of women's language used by the female character in *Mockingjay* movie. They were rising intonation, lexical hedge, intensifier, superpolite form, tag question, emphatic stress, and precise discrimination. Moreover, she also found five features of women's language used by the male character. They were rising intonation, superpolite form, lexical hedge, intensifier, and tag question. She did not find the types which were the researcher found. They were empty adjective, avoidance strong swearwords, and hypercorrect grammar. However, the researcher did not find precise color terms that was found by Aini (2016) due to the different data source. The researcher used the main female utterance in action-adventure movie entitled *Tomb Raider* (2018). This movie told about an independent daughter of a missing adventurer. She must push herself to discover the island where her father disappeared. On the contrary, Aini (2016) used female and male utterance in science fiction-adventure movie entitled *Mockingjay*. This movie told about a rebellion carried out by Katniss to save her partner, Peeta. Continued on *Mockingjay* part 2, Katniss, Peeta and other characters preparing to win the war against the real enemies.

Thereupon, in this research, the researcher also connected with the function of language proposed by Jakobson's theory. The researcher found six language functions that were uttered by Lara in the movie. The results show that the total number of using language function is 44 times spoken by Lara. The language function that is mostly used by Lara is a referential function and emotive

function in her utterance. On the other hand, the researcher found language function that is leastly used by Lara is a poetic function. It is because the genre of Tomb Raider 2018 movie is action-adventure, so Lara showed a few poetic language in her utterance. Moreover, According to Holmes (1992, p. 258), Poetic Function uses poetic features such as metaphor, metonymy, alliteration, rhyme, ambiguity, repetition, simile, and antithesis mostly found in the poem.

Based on the findings above, the researcher in this study found six functions of language uttered by Lara in Tomb Raider (2018) movie. Those functions are emotive function, referential function, poetic function, conative function, phatic function, and metalingual function. It is in line with the study conducted by Oktapiani, Natsir, Setyowati (2017). They found three functions of language used by female characters in the comedy-romance movie. Those functions are expressive/emotive function, directive function, and metalingual function. Similar to the previous study conducted by Subyantari (2018), she identifies the function of the language used by the main female character in an animation movie. She found five functions, which are referential function, emotive function, conative function, phatic function, and metalingual function.

To make this study clearly, the researcher includes the contributions of this research about women's language features and the function of language. This research contributes to a better understanding of the message or the true intentions of what is conveyed by women to avoid misunderstanding. In a more specific context such as in the movie, the contribution of the research is that people can

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