

**THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN
WOMEN AND MEN LANGUAGE USED IN MIXED-SEX
INTERVIEWS**

THESIS



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THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN
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Surabaya, 15th of July 2021

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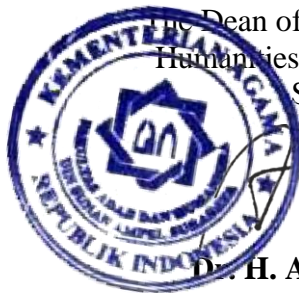
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significant contribution to develop people. How they collect, manage and send the information reflects themselves. So, people have to keep themselves in at least daily communication to deliver their speech to be understood. The utterances they exchange should be meaningful in spoken communication so that communication can be successful. People tend to share their ideas or views with communication because it is more synchronize and informal rather than written, and it is called conversation. Based on Wardhaugh (2006, p.292), a conversation is the simplest of all language activities, and it is constantly talking to one another about something. Building a conversation has a close relationship with society. Humans, language, and society cannot be separated.

Society is any group of people drawn together for a particular purpose or purposes (Wardhaugh, 2006, p.1). From that, language and society relate to each other. One of the reasons is that the linguistic structure of language and behavior may determine or influence social structure either (Wardhaugh, 2006, p.10). So that, the concepts from societies such as 'identity,' 'power,' 'class,' 'status,' 'solidarity,' 'accommodation,' 'politeness,' 'face,' 'gender,' relate with Language.

Gender is closely related to building language and society. In general, we have known the terms gender and sex. Gender and sex are different. Sex refers to a biological distinction, while 'gender' is the term to describe sex-based categories that are socially constructed (Coates, 2013, p.4). In producing a language, men and women may have it differently. Their ways of

thinking may affect the way they use language. For example, males are more concerned with power. They want to be leaders, while females are satisfied with their subordinate status. Males tend to speak directly and take the first thing about transferring information, but females say indirectly, implicitly, and moderately (Coates, 2013). Then, the characteristics of men's and women's languages are different.

Other researchers have conducted some studies about women's or men's language features in several subjects. Many studies on language features focused on movies and T.V. series (Aini, 2016; Arsyi, 2020; Jie Li, 2014; Juwita, Sunggingwati, & Valiantien, 2018; Naovaratthanakorn, 2017; Pascarina, 2014; Rahmawati, 2019). Four of them focused on women's language features (Aini, 2016; Arsyi, 2020; Naovaratthanakorn, 2017; Rahmawati, 2019) and they all are using Lakoff's theory. Even though each of them has a different result, the studies proved that women's language features had found in the main characters' utterances within the movies. One of the previous studies focused on the amount of talk and turn-talking in both genders (Jie Li, 2014). Other studies using Lakoff and Coates' theories to find women's and men's language features in movies (Juwita, Sunggingwati, & Valiantien, 2018). Some studies focused on internet language features using theory from Danet (Agustin, 2014; Badriah, 2015; Rokhmah, 2019).

Moreover, the previous studies about language features which focused on speech (Amanda, 2017; Solikha, 2016), short-story (Hapsari, 2014), youtube (Nabilah, 2019), T.V. shows (Putra & Prayudha, 2018), talk shows (Harjo &

Dewanti, 2017; Apridaningrum, 2018), and same-sex conversation (Jakobson, 2010). Most of them use data sources from the internet, then the previous studies respond with using case study such as lecturer or students as a subject for collecting the data source in this field (Rahayuningsih, 2016; Rini, 2017; Wahyuningsih, 2018). In most cases, these studies are theoretically based on Lakoff's (1975). However, little work about this field was done by using all-same-sex conversation or mixed-sex conversation. There were found same-sex conversations but focused on Women's language features (Jakobson, 2010). Another research has been limited only to find men's and women's language features using the Indonesian subject mixed-sex conversation (Harjo & Dewanti, 2017; Apridaningrum, 2018). None of them compare and contrast between men's and women's language features in mixed-sex talk. Apridaningrum (2018) used only one male interviewer and mixed-gender interviewees as the data source for finding men and women's language features in the interview.

Responding to that, besides finding the kinds and the function of men and women's features in the interviews, this study also tries to find the similarities and the differences of language features in two different interviews with the mixed-sexual of the interviewers and the interviewees as well. This study also tries to find the factors that may influence the differences in language used by both the interviewees and the interviewers themselves.

The researcher presents two interviews that have the same and related topic about one movie. One of them has a male host with four mixed-sex

carried out on language and Gender has done so until recently. Instead, Gender is believed as plural, with at any point in time a range of femininities and masculinities available to speakers (Coates, 2013, p.4). Gender is one of the social information often carried by non-segmental features. People see Gender as a thermometer to differentiate between people with mixed-sex in such an aspect, and one of them in the language (Phillip, 1980, p. 526).

Language gender differences are often just one aspect of society's more widespread linguistic differences reflecting social status or differing power. For example, suppose a community is very hierarchical, and men are more powerful than women within each hierarchy level. In that case, linguistic differences between women's and men's speech may be just one dimension of wider differences reflecting the entire social hierarchy (Holmes, 2012, p.162).

2.2 Language Features

Coates (2013, p.86) noted that men and women in conversational practice usually rely on different forms, but men and women may use the same language features. Women tend to be more active than men, but in some cases, men also use the same language feature to be as talk active as women. In this research, the researcher focuses on seven features of conversational practice based on the theory. According to that approach, Coates (2013) concentrate on it is including minimal responses, hedges, tag questions, questions, commands and directives, swearing and taboo languages, and compliments.

2.2.1 Minimal Responses

Minimal responses—often referred to as 'back-channels'—form like “*hey*”, “*right*” or “*mhmm*” (Coates, 2013, p. 87). Evidence on the use of

minimal responses reveals overwhelmingly that women use them rather than men. At appropriate times, i.e., at dialogue points that demonstrate the audience's support for the current speaker. Holmes (1995: 55) asks rhetorically if limited answers are 'a specialty for women.' She provides an example of a discussion in which two women speak about a good teacher. Based on Coates' book (2013), Fishman defines the skillful use of minimal responses by women in mixed contact as 'interactional site work.' She argues that there is a division of labor in the discussion that serves men and women equally in positions of power and powerlessness (Coates, 2013, p. 88). Below is the example of minimal responses in same-sex conversation:

- *) Criss: he gives an excellent example to mention for
Jane: -----
Criss: particular times and so on
Jane: *right right*

Criss: he didn't SHOW them but
Jane: -----

Criss: he just gave a lot of examples
Jane: gave a lot of examples

Criss: you know you- you must refer to
this
Jane: yeah *mhm*
mhm

Criss: and this and he indeed wrote 12 poems
Jane: *mhm mhm*

Criss: that brings up some of these concepts at the
very
Jane: *mhm*

Criss: lowest level
Jane: *yeah*

[adapted from (Holmes:1955) quotes from Coates, 2013,
p. 87]

From that example, it can be seen that Jane is using minimal responses towards Criss utterances when they do the conversational practice. We can conclude that minimal responses have a function to agree or support Criss's statements.

2.2.2 Hedges

Women's speech is also characterized as 'tempting .' This assertion is related to the fact that women are using more hedges. Hedges are linguistic forms such as 'I think, I am sure, you know, kind of and perhaps' reflecting the certainty or ambiguity of the speaker about the proposition under discussion. A recent addition to the hedge class is the word like, used by younger speakers in the English-speaking world to reduce the force of utterances. (Coates, 2013, p.88). Robin Lakoff has specifically related the use of hedges by women to insufficiency. She believed that women's speech contains more hedges (an argument based on no empirical evidence) and concluded that this is because women are 'socialized to believe that expressing themselves is not sweet, lady-like, or even feminine' (Lakoff, 1975, p. 54). Surprisingly few scholars have done empirical work intended to test the arguments of Lakoff. The few studies have shown that women use more hedges in some instances but indicate that we need to be sensitive to the various roles of hedges and challenge the (androcentric) conclusion that weakness is the more frequent use of hedges.

Holmes points out that compliments were used on a comparable basis by men and women. The patterns usually used by women are 'What (a) ADJ NP' such as 'what lovely earring!' while men tend to use a minimal pattern such as 'Great shoes!'. Based on few kinds of research, compliments given by female speakers tended not to be accepted, while compliments given by male speakers tended to be accepted, especially by females. It means that women and men are not treated as status-equals, with all other aspects being equal. When two participants are not status-equals, then the predicted pattern is that the person with higher status pays the compliments.

In contrast, the participant with a lower level accepts these compliments. Such an explanation would clarify by Holmes '(1988a) finding that subordinate status females were almost twice as likely to be complimented as lower status males. In other words, these women end up on the compliment-accepting side of the equation rather than the compliment-giving side since they are women. Their apparent 'high status' is less desirable than their male peers (Coates, 2013, p.101).

2.3 Factors that affect the differences in the usage of language by men and women

Based on Pearson (1991), some factors emphasize the differences between women's and men's language production and the origin differences between the sexes. Women may not be devalued for utilizing different language features than men, and men may not be appraised differently for employing the same elements. To make attributions about speakers, we need

to look at how perceptions interact with their behavior (Pearson, 1991, p.120). The factors that may affect are:

2.3.1. Dominance and Control

The use of female and male language features may be different, but they may also be the same. The effect of that statement is because of the control and dominance in its use. Pearson (1991) stated that it is essential to learn about the dominance and submission of our symbolic systems. Hierarchy is expressed in the form of superiority, inferiority, or equal position. Each individual takes on the role behaviors associated with being superior, minor, or equal in language features. Although women and men do not play the role of superiority or inferiority, this is related to the factors that influence it (Pearson, 1991, p.121). In her book, Pearson (1991) stated that Lakoff argues that the usage of men's and women's language, according to Lakoff, displays and perpetuates a superior-subordinate relationship. According to Lakoff, 'language traits' derive from the assumption that women are marginalized and from the severe concern of life. Lakoff postulated that differences in language features reflect and reinforce the varied and unequal roles of males and females, according to Pearson (1991, p.121). Spender, citing Pearson, argues eloquently that male control dominance affects even study reports. She points out that in language or sex studies, many questions have been constructed in terms of the insufficiency of women's language, with the result that many of the answers confirm this. Spender believes that, regardless of the research

words than men. According to Pearson (1991, p. 124), women have low natural self-esteem, promoting men to take a more prominent position, even producing such language elements. Pearson (1991) referenced Neer and Hudson; they established that behaviorally, sex differences are not consistently present in women's and men's communication role preferences, providing more evidence against biology as a reasonable explanation of language disparity (Pearson, 1991, p. 124).

2.3.4. Understanding and conforming to communication rules

Based on Pearson (1991, p. 125), Contemporary theorists look at rule-based explanations as an alternative to biological reasons for sex differences in communication behavior. The easiest way to understand communication is to think of it as a set of rules. Some communication guidelines are specified openly, while others are assumed. Pearson (1991, p. 125) argued that observing communication behavior identifies the implicit rules. To conduct following a communicative rule, a person must first understand the rules, that is, be able to mark between behavior or language that conforms to it and behavior or language that does not. They must also be ready to follow it. According to Pearson cited Natale, women are hypersensitive to other people's speech-language and behavior approval. They would examine their speech styles to imitate their partner's speech style.

Based on Yazid Basthomi (2010, p.2) states that “Qualitative research is inductive, using the data gathered to arrive at general conclusions rather than making hypotheses during the initial of the study. The findings rely on a detailed description of typical scenes that have been observed. It implies that qualitative research is often using description rather than hypotheses. The researcher found that qualitative research is an effective way of exploring the research and valuable for longitudinal research. Qualitative research also distinguishes natural phenomena from intellectual fabrications (Dornyei, 2007, p. 40).

3.2 Data Collection

3.2.1 Research Data

The researcher used kinds of data such as words, utterances, and sentences delivered by Xilla Valentine (male host), DC Film Girl (female host), and the guests (Lana Condor, Noah Centineo, Jordan, and Jenny Han) from two interviews. The data are the utterances from the transcript script of the conversation by two interviewers and four interviewees (three celebrities and one author) in the videos. Their entire conversation included words, utterances, and sentences in the interviews to find language features for answering the first and second questions. Then, after the result is found, the researcher compared the information from the first and second questions to answer the third question.

3.2.2 Data Source and Subjects of the Study

The source of the data of this research was from two interviews of a movie by YouTube. The interview talked about ‘To All the Boys 2 movies’ that were out in February 2020. Since the data were in the form of words, utterances, and sentences used by interviewers and interviewees, the subject of this research was all of them. The subject names are Xilla Valentine (the male host), DC Film Girl (the female host), Noah and Jordan (2 male lead actors), Lana (1 female lead actress), and Jenny Han (1 female author of the novel). The indicator for selecting these subjects of this research was that the researcher would seek depth of language features used by the mixed-sex conversation in the live session interviews before the pandemic, including female and male interviewees and interviewers.

The interviewers asked the interviewees (the actors, the actress, and the author) about the movie. The movie “To All the Boys 2”, based on the New York Times bestseller and best-selling author of the young adult novel with the same title. Because of the impressive influence on people and spent mass copies, people became interested in this movie and became trending. Each of them was delivering their opinion towards these movie interviews as the lead actors, actress, and the author. It took much attention from people worldwide is also the reason why the researcher chose these interviews—the duration of each interview about the movie was around 20 minutes each. There were two interviews. The first one was the interview with the title TO ALL THE BOYS 2 interviews - Lana Condor & Noah Centineo talk shipping + Jordan

In total, 263 data from the utterance contain men and women language features' in two of these mixed-sex talk interviews. From the first video of mixed-sex talk interviews, there are 82 data contain 121 features. While the second video of the mixed-sex talk interviews, 212 features were found out of 181 data in total. The researcher made the language features tables for pointing the frequency of men and women language features' used. After that, the researcher highlights the similarities and the differences of men and women language features' used in mixed-sex talk interviews. In the end, the researcher described the factors that contributed to the influence in language features used by men and women.

4.1.1 Language Features used by men and women in mixed-sex talk interviews

The researcher investigated language features used by men and women in these two videos of mixed-sex talk interviews. The researcher identified based on Coates' (2013) theory. There are seven features: minimal response, hedge, tag question, question, command, and directive, swear and taboo, and compliment. The researcher found 263 data in total, where one data can contain more than one feature. Therefore, the researcher found 333 features used by men and women in mixed-sex talk interviews. In this chapter, the researcher presented the findings of language features used by men and women in mixed-sex talk interviews as out follows:

entire crew tried to picture how the characters felt through her surroundings. The use of hedges such as “*kind of*” and “*you know*” implies that Lana was unsure about what she delivered when she explained how she got into the character, especially when it comes to the emotional one. She needs to be disassociated to get into the characters. While the other hedge, such as “*really*”, helped her to reinforce a particular condition. Here, she was talking about ‘being exactly sad’ in character. The emerge of the hedge “*like*” implied that she wanted to assertive that she felt nothing but the “character” that she carried on. The most hedges used in these interviews were “*like*” because almost all the subjects are young. So, they tend to use ‘like’ to soften the impact of their statement. The highest amount of the appearance hedge used by DC Film Girl as the women side. While the men side, Xilla used more hedges than Noah and Jordan as the other men subjects.

3. Tag Question

Tag question is a feature that associates with hesitancy. The strength of statements is weakened by using tag questions. There are two forms of tag questions. The first one is a formal tag question which included “probably, isn’t it?”. The other form is informal tags, the structure of non-formal tag question appears in the speech event (e.g.: “right?”, “okay?”, “yes?”, “really?”, “that was too hard, right?”). In this research, the form of tag question was informal because the interviews between the hosts and the actors, an actress, and the author talked about “To All the Boys 2” movie. Another reason was that these interviews include in the non-formal interview category. The finding was only

character that she made in the film, was much compelling. This question intended to seek her opinion on her inspiration while writing the script for this trilogy. Following the answer to that question, she started her ideas on her thought. Here, the researcher found that the function of questions from datum 11, 12, and 14 was almost similar. They gave detailed information to the hearer about everything that the viewers need to know about the movie “To All the Boys 2”. It related to the aim of this interview, where the interview aims to obtain information directly to explain one thing and under certain conditions. The required information in the interview is used to influence certain situations or people. Wherein this case, the discussion also contained as a promotion. It also affected people to watch the film.

5. Command and Directive

Command and Directive is a feature that attempts to persuade someone to do something. This feature has the purpose of motivating some actions in certain situations, whether negatively or positively. In the form of a directive, there are aggravated and mitigated. The aggravated directive is an explicit directive that usually shows different statuses, whereas the mitigated directive explicitly involves the speaker with their hearer. The mitigated directive was stated with the words “*let's*” or “*maybe*” to soften the demand. Sometimes mitigate directive is used as a future suggestion. In this research, the researcher found a total of 15 commands and directives used by men and women in these mixed-sex talk interviews. The number of commands and directives used by men was nine features.

compliment. In this research, the researcher did not find any swear taboo language used by three women in these mixed-sex talks.

The findings also proved that women tend to use more language features rather than men because women are more sensitive, assertive, proper, and polite in speaking. Meanwhile, men are bold, straightforward, and they prefer to talk directly on the point of the important subjects. This study is supported by Coates (2013) where she said that we constructed believe that women talk more than men, women are more emotional rather than men. In the past, the researcher attempted to demonstrate a link between gender and the use of specific linguistic features. The goal now is to demonstrate how speakers employ the linguistic features at their disposal to achieve gender (Coates, 2013). This leads to the answer where this present study aims to present how both men and women on these mixed-sex talk used linguistic features available to them to achieve gender.

Furthermore, the researcher applied Pearsons' (1991) theory to describe what factors might influence men's and women's language talk. The kind of factors fulfilled in each of the language features used by men and women in these mixed-sex talk interviews. The researcher concludes that the factors that influence the use of language features by men and women in this mix sex interview included dominance and control, masculinity and femininity, biological causes, understanding, and conforming to communication rules.

Based on the result above, the researcher wanted to discuss the present research with several previous studies. This research has similarities with some earlier studies about the theory chosen from Coates (2013). For example, the

present study conducted by Rif'atul Farizati Nabilah (2019). The distinct of both kinds of research are the data source. This research used interviews as the data source, while Nabilah's used YouTube vlog. The result of her research presented that the most frequent language feature used was hedge. In that research, only occurred five language features out of seven language features. Minimal response and tag questions did not find in her research. Similar to other research (Harjo & Dewanti, 2017), they used Coates (2013) as the theory with the theory added Gender theory by Echet and Mc. Connel Ginet (2003), and interview as the data source, found six language features out of seven, where none of them were swearing taboo language found.

Moreover, this research has the other sameness with precious study from the source of the data, which is an interview. Several researchers conducted the research, choosing movie as the data source in analyzing the language features (Aini, 2016; Arsyi, 2020; Juwita, Sunggingwati & Valiantien, 2018; Naovarattanakorn, 2017; Pascarina, 2014; Rahmawati, 2019). Some of the researchers are using Speech (Amanda, 2017; Solikha, 2016). The prominent distinct between this research and other previous research is that this research used a small group interview with mixed-sex subjects, while the other only used the same-talk interview (Apridaningrum, 2018). Another difference is that this research applied Coates' (2013) theory supported by the second theory from Pearson (1991), which discussed the factor contributing to the difference in men's and women's language usage. In comparison, many of the studies proposed Lakoff's (1973) theory to find out the language features. Previous

taboo language in this research. In these interviews, all of the interviewers and interviewees are public figures. The choice of their language may influence the public about their image. As we can see here the evidence, even though they all are celebrities, Noah as one of the men here tend to speak more flexibly rather than women in the whole interview where they speak politely, which lead Noah to the use of swearing taboo for giving more expressions toward his statement.

Some factors also play an important role in contributing to the differences in language usage by men and women. Rather than swearing to strengthen the emotion, women prefer to use other words such as 'oh my gosh.' Women do not use any swear and taboo language because they tend to carry the femininity while men used it to shows their masculinity. These also explained deeper about the carrying masculinity and femininity as the factor that influences the differences of the usage language by men and women, a chosen theory from Pearson (1991). The dissimilarity between the sexes of subjects also contributes to influencing the language features used in the whole mixed-sex interviews. The researcher finds that between man and man talk, rather than man and woman, they tend to feel more accessible than they could produce swear words. It proved that biological causes also contributed to the effect of language usage between men and women. Not only that, other factors that may contribute are dominance and control.

In the end, the researcher concludes that women may not devaluate for utilizing different language features than men, and men may not be appraised differently for employing the same features. It also depends on the context of the

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