

CHAPTER IV

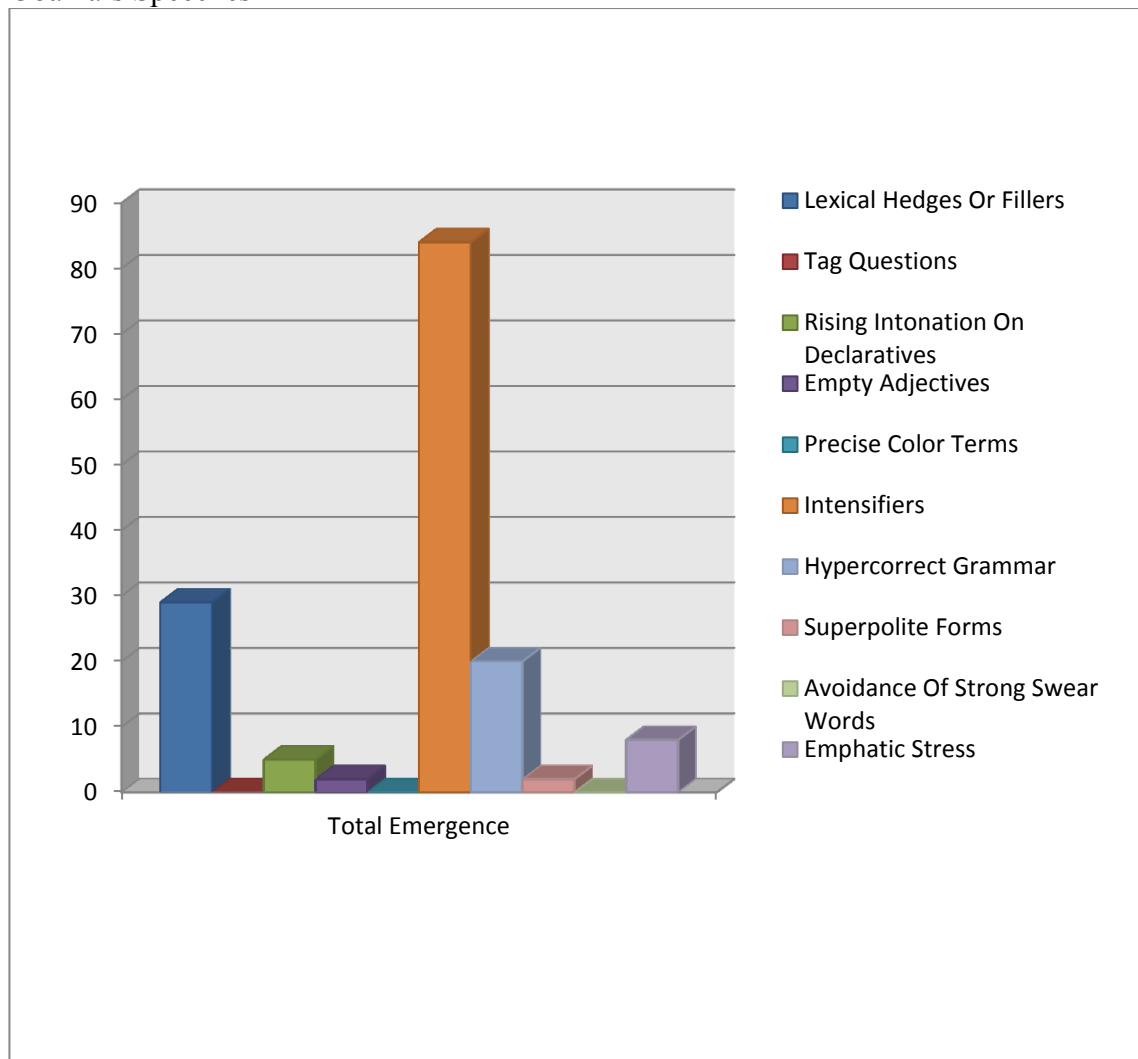
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and discussion of the investigation steps that has described before, which consist of three issues. First is to answer the the types of Michelle Obama's speech features on her speech section. Afterwards, the researcher would like to present the most frequently of types of Michelle Obama's speech features. Another is the purposes of using each of the features in Michelle Obama's speech.

4.1. Findings: Woman's Speech Features

In analyzing woman's speech features, the researcher categorizes ten features based on Lakoff theory. These ten features are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. After analyzing the data, the writer finds some of features in Michelle Obama's speeches but after counting the data, the emergence of every feature is different, it can be seen in this table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Chart of Total Emergence Woman's Speech Feature In Michelle Obama's Speeches



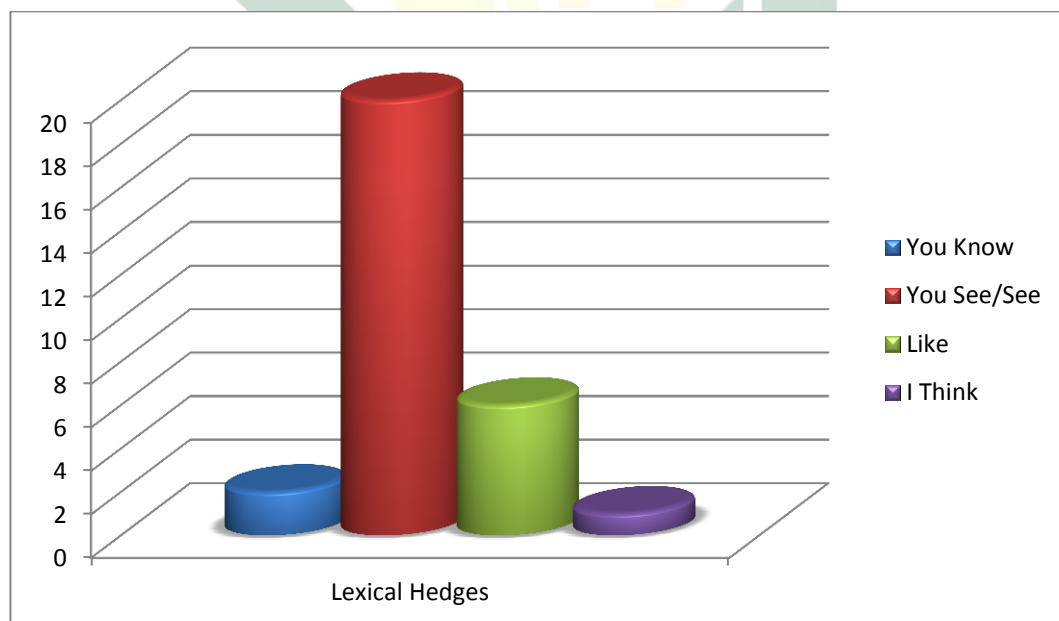
Based on total emergence of each features in woman's speech features, the emergence is different. The total emergence of lexical hedges is twenty nine, while total emergence of tag question is zero. Rising intonation appears in total five and empty adjective appears in total two. Next, there are eighty four occurring in intensifier, twenty occurring in hypercorrect grammar, and two in super polite form, but zero in avoiding of strong word. Then, the total emergence of empathic stress is eight and the last feature is precise color term with total

number zero. Finally, the total emergences of all features are one hundred and fifty.

4.1.1. Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Lexical hedges are form such as *well, you see/see, sorta/sort of, like, you know, kinda/kind of, like, I guess, I think, and it seems like* (Lakoff, 2004). The purposes of lexical hedges are to show a doubt or confidence of what has been said, to mitigate the possible unfriendliness or unkindness of the speaker's statement, and to blunt the force of a rather painful assertion. In this research, the researcher found four kinds of lexical hedges in Michelle's speech. Michelle's lexical hedges are *You Know, You See/See, Like, and I Think*. Besides, the total emergences are different.

Table 4.1.1 Chart Emergences Lexical Hedges or Filler in Michelle Obama's Speech



Based on this analyze, the researcher can conclude that there are four words that including lexical hedges, they are *you know*, *you see/see*, *like* and *I think*. The total emergence among them is different, *you know* is twice, *you see/see* is twenty times, *like* is six times and *I think* is once. The highest emergence is *you see/see*. The total all of lexical hedges in Michelle Obama's speeches are twenty nine times. The researcher also concludes that among four words lexical hedges have same purpose. It is to mitigate the statement to her audiences and to show a doubt or confidence of what has been said. The explanation of table 4.1.1 can be explained below.

4.1.1.1. You Know

The first word is *you know*, this is one of lexical hedges that found in the speech. Michelle Obama used *you know* when speech going. There are two emergences of *you know* in Michelle's speeches.

Excerpt 1:

And, **you know**, what struck me when I first met Barack was that, even though he had this funny name, and even though he had grown up all the way across the continent in Hawaii, his family was so much like mine.

Michelle talked about her feeling when she met Barack Obama. She felt struck, even though Barack and his family had different culture and behave but they understand each other moreover she said like her mine. Here, lexical hedges not only to show a doubt but also a confidence of what has been said. She started with *you know* to to show a confidence in her statement. It means that her

sentence can be valued to the audiences as the things which must be believed by them. Here, Michelle showed the fact in the reality about her relationship.

4.1.1.2. You See, See

The second lexical hedges that found by the researcher are *you see/see*. *You see* occurs in this conversation thirteen times and *See* occurs seven times. Total occurring between them is twenty times.

Excerpt 2:

You see, Barack and I were both raised by families who didn't have much in the way of money or material possessions but who had given us something far more valuable – their unconditional love, their unflinching sacrifice, and the chance to go places they had never imagined for themselves. (APPLAUSE)

Michelle told about their life, Barack and her, in the past time. Both of them grew up in families who did not have some money or material, but had given them something far more valuable, such as unconditional love, unflinching sacrifice and others. Here, same as before in *you know*, Michelle used *you see* for mitigating a confidence in her statement. It also means that her sentence can be valued to the audiences as the things which must be believed by them about their reality but in mitigating.

Excerpt 3:

In my own life, in my own small way, I have tried to give back to this country that has given me so much. **See**, that's why I left a job at a big law firm for a career in public service, working to empower young people to volunteer in their communities, because I believe that each of us -- no matter what our age or our background or our walk of life -- each of us has something to contribute to the life of this nation.

Here, Michelle also told about her real story in the past time which is she ever left a job at a big law. She talked about her own life that she will always give something to contribute to the life of the nation. She used *see* for mitigating a confidence in her statement. In this case, the meaning of *see* same as *you see* so that it has same purpose.

4.1.1.3. Like

The third word of lexical hedges that found by the researcher is *like*. Different with before, emergence of *like* is six times.

Excerpt 4:

He was so proud to be sending his kids to college...and he made sure we never missed a registration deadline because his check was late.

You see, for my dad, that's what it meant to be a man. (APPLAUSE).

Like so many of us, that was the measure of his success in life – being able to earn a decent living that allowed him to support his family.

And as I got to know Barack, I realized that even though he'd grown up all the way across the country, he'd been brought up just like me.

Michelle talked about her father. He always kept spirit to measure of his success in life, to earn a decent living to support his family to be successful person. And she knew about Barack also which had same story in his family with her. Michelle used *like* to show a doubt of what has been said. It means that maybe her father same as others people or maybe not. So, she felt doubt toward her own statement.

4.1.1.4. I Think

The forth word that including lexical hedges is *I think*, it occurs once in Michelle's speech.

Excerpt 5:

And as I tuck that little girl in -- as I tuck that little girl in and her little sister into bed at night, you see, **I think** about how, one day, they'll have families of their own and how, one day, they -- and your sons and daughters -- will tell their own children about what we did together in this election. (APPLAUSE)

Michelle talked about the experiences from the election. She used *I think* to expect which is one day her little sister or all of the sons and daughters will tell the experiences to their family in the future. Michelle said *I think*, it shows that she expected based on her opinion and she was not confidence enough with her statement. It can conclude that *I think* of hedges for giving support with own argument.

As conclusion, Michelle used four forms of lexical hedges. The emergence total is different but the purposes are same. Yet, in a form *I think* have purpose to show unconfidence.

4.1.2. Tag Questions

Tag question is a kind of polite statement that does not force the agreement or belief on the addressee. The purposes of tag question are to express uncertainty and to soften the directives or criticism (Holmes, 1992). Here the researcher did not find the feature of tag question in Michelle Obama's speech.

4.1.3. Rising Intonation on Declaratives

Rising intonation is found in a form of declarative sentence used to answer question but typically has a rising intonation similar to yes-no question intonation. The purposes are to indicate that there is unwillingness to be very assertive in carrying an opinion and to show that the speaker leaves the decision open to the addressee in a non-forceful way (Lakoff, 2004).

Based on the Michelle Obama's speeches, the researcher found five statements of rising intonation. Besides, the researcher concludes that five statements of rising intonation to show decision. The explanations will be explained below:

Excerpt 1:

Because all of us desperately want to keep our kids healthy. But often, we just don't know how. Especially, kids don't come with an instruction manual. **And while we all get plenty of advice to make sure our kids eat well and stay active what does that really mean?** How do we actually do that? Where do we find the time, where do we find the money?

Michelle talked about her ambition to keep many kids healthy but the parents did not know the good way because most of kids do not know with an instruction manual. She uttered the question to the addressee in using rising intonation. The reason is since the way how she uttered the question is different with the prior statements. In this utterance she heightened the voice in order to give a stressing towards her speech. It means that what is appeared by her is

something important to be heard. In short, the use of rising intonation is for showing the prominent message that she want to perform.

Excerpt 2:

And if our parents and grandparents could toil and struggle for us...if they could raise beams of steel to the sky, send a man to the moon, and connect the world with the touch of a button...**then surely we can keep on sacrificing and building for our own kids and grandkids, right?**

Same as before, Michelle talked about her ambition. Yet, she believed that if their parents and grandmothers could keep toil and struggle then surely they can keep on sacrificing and building for their kids and grandkids. She surely asked to the addressee or her audiences that it will be happened in the nation. Once, the rising intonation in this statement had same purpose with the prior excerpt above.

4.1.4. Empty Adjectives

Empty adjective is the special adjectives used by the women in order to show their gender as the different person in terms of using the language. Empty adjective is used to indicate the speaker's approbation or admiration for something (Lakoff, 2004:25). Some of the forms of empty adjective are as follows:

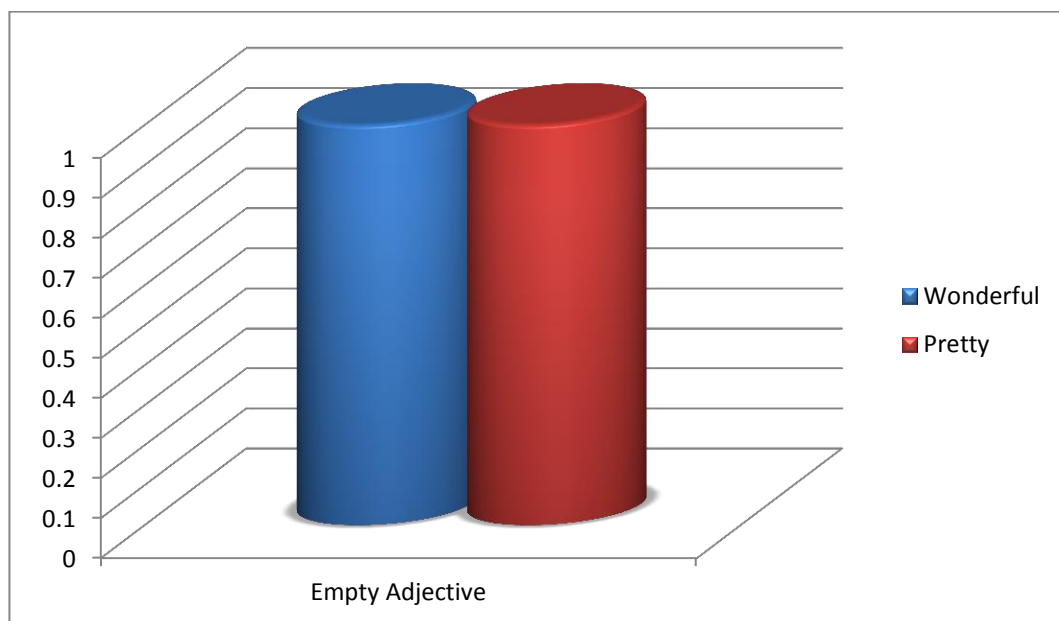
Neutral	Women Only
Great	Adorable
Terrific	Pretty
Cool	Sweet
Neat	Lovely

Wonderful

Divine

In this case, the researcher just found two kinds of empty adjective in Michelle's speeches, *wonderful* and *pretty*, and those have different emergence total.

Table 4.1.4 Chart Emergences Empty Adjective in Michelle Obama's Speech



As shown from the chart, the word *wonderful* and *pretty* appear only once in Michelle Obama's speeches. Besides, in this analyze, the researcher concludes between two words have same purpose that is for admiration something. It will be explained below.

4.1.4.1. Wonderful

Wonderful is including empty adjective; it is one of woman's speech features. During the speech, *wonderful* only appears once in Michelle Obama's speech.

Excerpt 1:

Thanks also to Georgia's **wonderful** First Lady, Mrs. Sandra Deal and to all the elected officials here for joining us today. Thank you so much. And of course, I want to thank all the musicians, singers, and everyone else who graced us with their talent earlier this afternoon, let's give them all another round of applause. Thank you so much. (APPLAUSE)

In that occasion, Michelle held Launch Anniversary of "Let's Move!" and she said many thanks to all of people who came and joined at that event. One of the people who got big thanks from Michelle is Georgia's First Lady. Michelle called Georgia's First Lady with added by *wonderful* to admiration toward her. Michelle tried to show her closeness towards the people who listen her speech. By using *wonderful* in the statement of the speech is one way from the speaker in getting the closeness towards the listener as the target of the speech.

4.1.4.2. Pretty

The word *pretty* is also including empty adjective that had been found by the researcher. It just appears once during the speech of Michelle Obama was going.

Excerpt 2:

Back then, we ate meals around the table as a family and that was **pretty** much the only time you ate, is mealtime. I didn't know a single child in my

neighborhood who was allowed to eat whatever they wanted whenever they wanted. If you wanted a snack, you'd have to ask permission and whatever you got was limited.

Michelle told about at that time most of children easily to ate something different with the past time. She confused why her neighborhood always allowed their children to eat whatever they wanted and whenever they wanted. Besides, there is only little time to eat together around the table as a family. Michelle was very regret because in her opinion the real mealtime is the time for creating quality in ate. By using *pretty* in her statement it means that she wanted to attract the audience's intention. She hoped what was said by her would be received by them. Not only received, but also it created the actions for the movement.

In empty adjective, Michelle just appeared two forms, they are *Wonderful* and *Pretty*. Both occurred in once and have same purpose. The purpose is for admiration something.

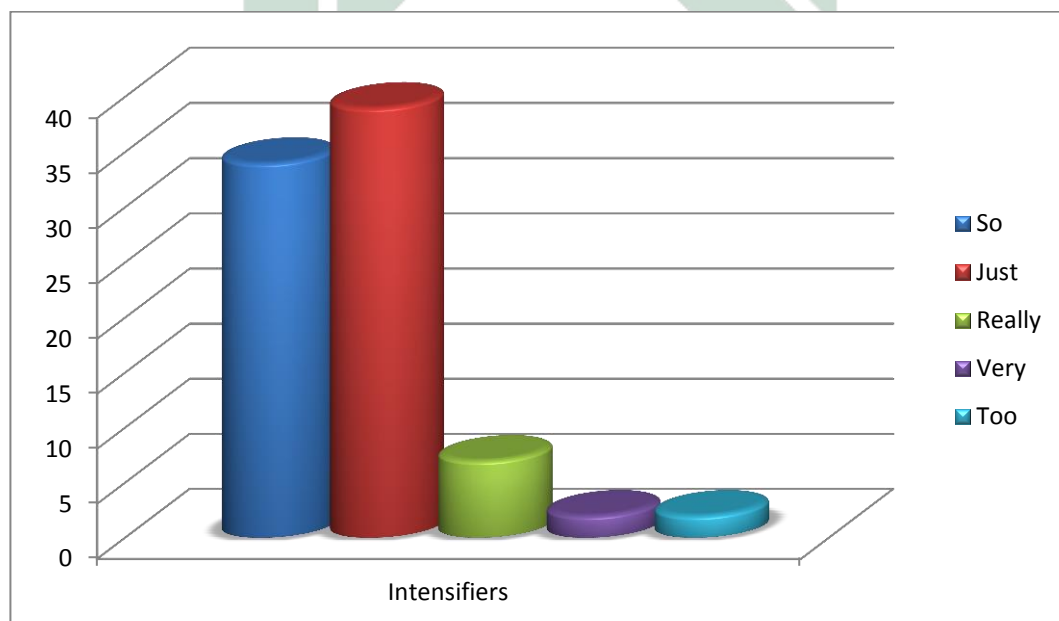
4.1.5. Precise Color Terms

Woman have an ability to mention clearer discriminations of color terms than men do, such as *beige, ecru, aquamarine, lavender, or mauve* (Lakoff, 2004). Unfortunately, the researcher did not find the precise color terms in woman's speech features of Michelle Obama through her speeches.

4.1.6. Intensifiers

There are some forms of intensifiers are including in woman's speech features such as *so, just, very, such, or quite*. Besides, there are also some purpose of intensifiers like to be a way of backing out of committing oneself strongly to an opinion, to persuade their addressee to take them seriously and to strengthen the meaning (Lakoff, 2004). In this occasion, the intensifiers that used by Michelle are *so, just, really, very, and too*. And some of those have different emergence total.

Table 4.1.6 Chart Emergences Intensifiers in Michelle Obama's Speech



Based on the chart above, it can be seen there are some intensifiers words that research has been found, they are *so, just, really, very, and too*. Yet, the emergences of each of intensifiers words are different. The emergence total of *so* is thirty four times, *just* is thirty nine times. Then, there are seven times occurring

in *really*, twice in *very* and *too*. So that total emergence of intensifiers is eighty four times in speeches of Michelle Obama.

Besides, from this analyze, the researcher concludes there is same purpose for appearing intensifiers in these speeches. It is for persuade their addressee to take them seriously and strengthen the meaning. The explanation will be explained below.

4.1.6.1. So

The first intensifier that found by the researcher is *so*. The emergence of *so* is thirty four times.

Excerpt 1:

He's the same man who drove me and our new baby daughter home from the hospital 10 years ago this summer, inching along at a snail's pace, peering at us anxiously at -- through the rearview mirror, feeling the whole weight of her future in his hands, determined to give her everything he'd struggled **so** hard for himself, determined to give her something he never had, the affirming embrace of a father's love. (APPLAUSE)

Michelle talked about her story with Barack when she was pregnancy phase. She told how many big struggles facing her and Barack at the time. In such a way that she said through the difficult experiences proven an affection of the father. She used *so* for showing the strong emotions or making the strong assertions of the speaker. It means that Michelle drawn her emotion how big struggle for Barack.

4.1.6.2. Just

The second word is *just*. Different with before, the word *just* appears thirty nine times.

Excerpt 2:

Now, we're not just here today to celebrate the first anniversary of a campaign to solve the problem of childhood obesity in a generation. We're here to celebrate a new conversation in this country about the health and well-being of our children. It's a conversation about what our kids eat and how they move. It's about how they feel and how they feel about themselves. And it's about what that means, not **just** for their physical and emotional health, but for their success in school and in life.

In her speech, Michelle talked to to celebrate the first anniversary of a campaign to solve the problem of childhood obesity in a generation. It was about what their kids eat and how they move. It was also about how they feel and how they feel about themselves. She also explained that not only for their physical and emotional health, but for their success in school and in life. By using *just* will persuade the addressee to take them seriously and to strengthen the meaning that not only that but also there is another.

4.1.6.3. Really

Really is the third word of intensifier that has been found. It occurs seven times in Michelle's speeches.

Excerpt 3:

And as parents, Barack and I also know that sometimes, maybe even a lot of the time, it's **really** hard for parents to know what's going on in our kids' lives.

Michelle said about her and Barack admission that sometime will be difficult as parents to know what's going on in their kids' lives. By using *really*, Michelle shown it seriously and strengthen the meaning that it will be hard.

4.1.6.4. Very

The forth word that including intensifier is *very*. The emergence of intensifier *very* is twice in speeches of Michelle Obama.

Excerpt 4:

And everywhere I've gone, in the people I've met, and the stories I've heard, I have seen the **very** best of the American spirit.

Again, Michelle told about her experiences at the previous time. Everywhere she has gone, in the people she has met, and the stories she has heard, she has seen the very best of the American spirit. By using *very*, she was strengthening the meaning. She explained that there was a big spirit in the America.

4.1.6.5. Too

The last word including intensifier during Michelle Obama's speeches is *too*. Same as *very*, *too* is also appears twice in speeches of Michelle Obama.

Excerpt 5:

And the consequences go far beyond our kids' health. For example, believe it or not, right now, today, nearly 27 percent of 17-24 year-olds are **too** overweight to serve in our military. I recently visited Fort Jackson down in South Carolina, it's the largest facility in the country for training Army recruits.

Michelle gave the example of the obesity. She said nearly 27 percent of 17-24 year-olds are too overweight to serve in the American military. It was proven in Fort Jackson down in South Carolina, one of the largest facilities in the country for training Army recruits. She used *too* to persuade their addressee to take it seriously and to strengthen the meaning. It means that she shown seriously and need a movement.

As a conclusion, Michelle's uses of intensifier are *so*, *just*, *really*, *very*, and *too*. Those intensifiers have different emergence total but have same purpose.

4.1.7. Hypercorrect Grammar

Women tend to use more grammatical standard form than men do, while men use more vernacular form than women do (Holmes, 1992). The purposes of woman using hypercorrect grammar are to rise social status in the society so that women use more standard speech as way of claiming such status and to see women as behavior model as an expectation from the society.

In this analyze, the researcher found twenty times of hypercorrect grammar occurring in Michelle Obama's speeches. From those, the researcher concludes that Michelle has same purpose in occur some forms of hypercorrect grammar. It is for rising woman social status in the society as behavior model. The explanations will be explained below:

Excerpt 1:

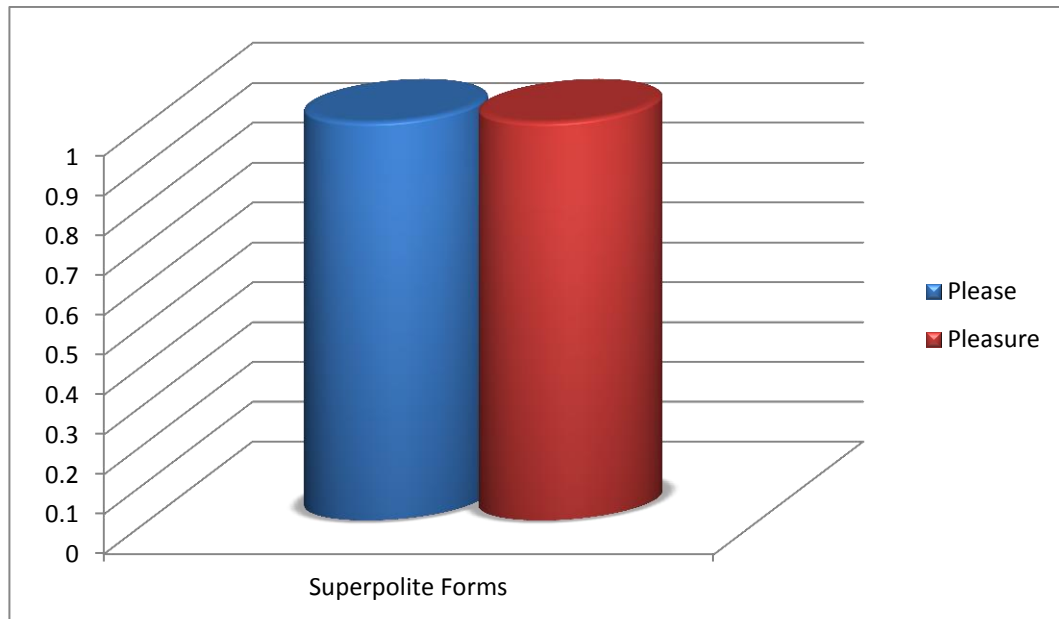
He was raised by grandparents who were working-class folks just like my parents and by a single mother who struggled to pay the bills just like we did.

And like my family, they scrimped and saved so that he could have opportunities that they never had for themselves.

Michelle talked about the child of Barack which is live with his grandmother and had same story that difficult to earn the life and to make a living. Here, she shown her story with using hypercorrect grammar to show the way of first lady uttered each sentences was suitable with the cultural background of her as the woman who are obligated to speak grammatically based in order to not judge as a rough speaker. In this event how she used the language is really concerned by the other people because her position as one of the influenced person in America.

4.1.8. Superpolite Forms

Super polite form is some forms to show the politeness, such as *Would You, Please, and Pleasure*. The purposes for using super polite form are to behave and communicate politely, to leave the decision to receive the request depend on the addressee without an attempt to impose what they want or appear in their mind (Lakoff, 2004). Michelle's uses of superpolite form are *Please* and *Pleasure*. In this case, the emergence totals are same.

Table 4.1.8 Chart Emergences Superpolite Forms in Michelle Obama's Speech

As shown from the table above, the word *please* and *pleasure* appear only once in Michelle Obama's speeches. Besides, in this analyze, the researcher concludes between them have same purpose that is to leave the decision, to attract the audience's attentions towards her speech and make soften the request. It will be explained below.

4.1.8.1. Please

One of the super polite forms is *please*. It occurs only once in speeches of Michelle Obama.

Excerpt 1:

Good morning. Thank you. (APPLAUSE) Everyone, **please**. Good morning, and welcome to the White House.

This is the introduction in one of the speeches of Michelle. She accosted the audiences nicely and said welcome to the audiences into White House. By

using *please*, Michelle shown the way of politeness in order to attract the audience's attentions towards her speech and make soften the request. It would be more polite to ask all of the audiences make a little break in their applause and she could continue her speech.

4.1.8.2. Pleasure

Pleasure is another of super polite forms that has been found. It also occurs only once in speeches of Michelle Obama.

Excerpt 2:

So with that, it is my **pleasure** to introduce this guy here -- (LAUGHTER) -- my husband and our President, President Barack Obama. (APPLAUSE)

In that condition was the first speech came from Michelle and continuing by Barack. So that, Michelle had to deliver Barack before she was going on. She used *pleasure* to leave the decision. It showed the speaker's respect to the audience it examined that the speaker while respect to the president also to the audience as the target of the speech.

From all of the explanation above, it can conclude that Michelle used *Please* and *Pleasure* in intensifier. It have same emergence total and purpose.

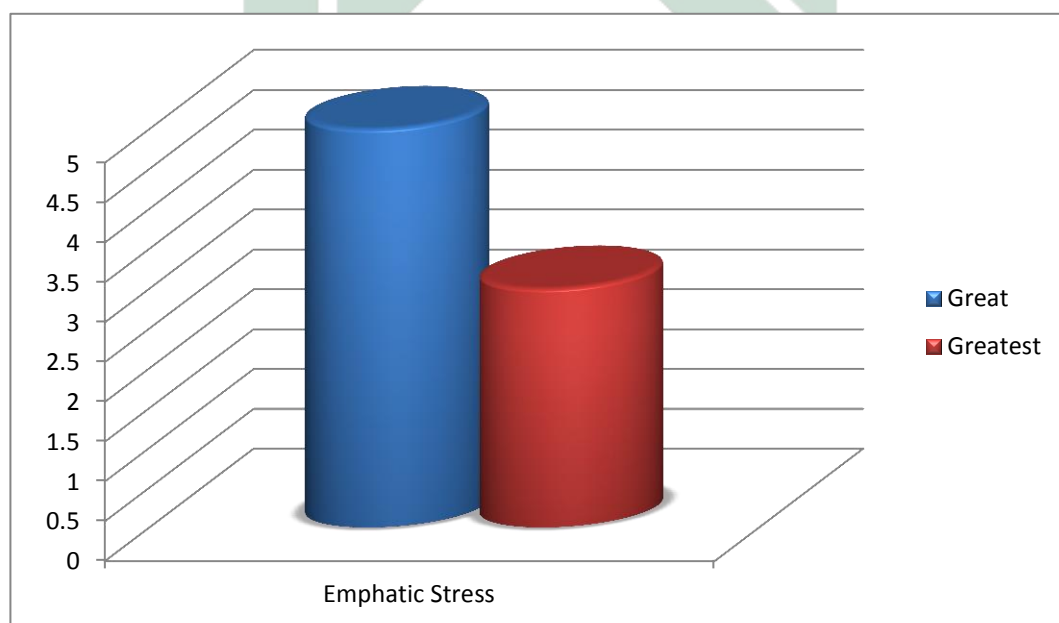
4.1.9. Avoidance Of Strong Swear Words

In avoidance of strong swear words, women usually use softer forms such us '*Oh, Dear!*' or '*Darn!*' while the men use stronger ones such as '*Dammit!*' or '*Shit!*', (Rafi', 2014). In this speech of Michelle Obama, the researcher did not find avoidance of strong swear words.

4.1.10. Emphatic Stress

The last feature is empathic stress, some of the forms such as *great*, *so*, *really*, *very*, or *quite*. The purposes for using empathic stress are to expressing something with our own self-expression, to react since what is said by the speaker and to ensure that the addressee can understand what the speaker wants to say. In this occasion, Michelle only appeared two forms of empathic stress, *Great* and *Greatest*. The emergence total of those are different while the purposes are same.

Table 4.1.10 Chart Emergences Emphatic Stress in Michelle Obama's Speech



As shown this table, *great* is the most frequent empathic stress used by Michelle, with the total number five. While, *greatest* appears just three times. All total of empathic stress used in speeches by Michelle Obama are eight.

In this analyze, the appearing of empathic stress in Michelle Obama's speeches are for the same purpose that is to emphasize certain words and to express something with her own self-expression.

Excerpt 1:

Because today, I know from experience that if I truly want to leave a better world for my daughters, and all our sons and daughters...if we want to give all our children a foundation for their dreams and opportunities worthy of their promise...if we want to give them that sense of limitless possibility – that belief that here in America, there is always something better out there if you're willing to work for it...then we must work like never before. (APPLAUSE) ..and we must once again come together and stand together for the man we can trust to keep moving this **great** country forward...my husband, our President, President Barack Obama. (APPLAUSE)

Michelle talked about her backing for her husband as a President. She invited all of people to leave a better world for all their sons and daughters. She invited all people to work like never before, to come together and stand together for the President to achieve all dreams for their children as a generation in that country. By using *great*, Michelle wanted to emphasize certain words. It shows that she was expressing something with her own self-expression, here is her nation.

Excerpt 2:

Every day, the people I meet inspire me...every day, they make me proud...every day they remind me how blessed we are to live in the **greatest** nation on earth. (APPLAUSE)

Same as before, this excerpt also talk about Michelle's nation. She always meet the people that inspire her, they make her proud, and they always remind her

how blessed they are to live in that nation. Actually, the positions of great and greatest have same purpose. By using *greatest*, it will show the expression of the speaker who expressing with her own self-expression.

As conclusion, Michelle's uses of empty adjective are *Great* and *Greatest*. Both have different emergence total but have same purpose.

4.2. Discussion

Based on the explanation in findings, it can be seen that the most frequently women's features are used by Michelle Obama is intensifier, with the total number eighty four. Besides, some features that did not find in speeches of Michelle Obama are tag question, avoidance of strong word, and empathic stress. While, the other six features they are lexical hedges, super polite form, empty adjective, rising intonation, empathic stress and hypercorrect grammar also applied in Michelle's speech.

The use of seven features from ten features which are proposed by Lakoff (2004) in this present research has their own function of each. The function of each is depending on the purpose of the speaker to deliver her speech. Therefore this present research is really showing the result on how the American First Lady acquired the women's speech features in speaking.

This research can be called the continuance of pervious researchers; it develops study about women's features. As we know, Fadhila Nur Kartika analyzed about woman linguistics feature used by Oprah Winfrey in same-sex and

cross-sex communication using Lakoff theory. She found six woman's language features in the conversation. Second, Isni Al Rafi' analyzed women's speech features used by the main characters in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" movie. She found nine types of women's speech features used by the main characters of this movie.

Then, Didin Fitria Andhira analysed A Study of Woman's Speech Features of a Main Character in Iron Lady Movie Used by Phyllida Lloyd. she found nine types of woman's speech features that used by the main character. The fourth, Wahyu Dwi Yuiniarti analyzed a study of Hillary Clinton's Speech Features on International Speeches In 2013. She found seven features in the speeches.

Based on explanation above, it can be concluded that women's features can be found in the entire object, such as conversation, movie, and speech. Besides, it is too difficult to find all women's features completely in an object. It shows that precise color term is not used by the actresses in all these movies, not only in these movies, but also in speeches and conversation. Therefore, wherever the women speak up such as in the talk show, in article or media social, it can be seen they use women's features.