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Women's Language Features of Dalia Mogahed at Tedtalks in View of Islamic Speaking Ethics

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Abstract

This paper investigates women's language features and their functions in the speech by Dalia Mogahed, a Muslim woman, at TEDTalks based on Lakoff's and Pearson's theories. The researchers deal with Dalia's utterances focusing on the women's language functions in view of speaking ethics in Islam. This study aims (1) to analyze the functions of women's language features, and (2) to examine their relationship with the Islamic speaking ethics used by Dalia Mogahed. The researchers use a qualitative approach in conducting this study. The findings demonstrate that Dalia applies some women's language features and functions. Her speech contains women's language features, i.e. lexical hedges, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. They are used for the functions of starting a discussion, expressing feelings, and softening utterances in compliance with Islamic speaking ethics. Consistent with the speaker's characteristics and constrained by the situational contexts, the speech by Delia is sublime, straightforward and uncomplicated, honest and truthful, effective, gentle, and polite. In conclusion, language use is constrained by various contexts including genders, communicative purposes, and personal characteristics.

Keywords: Dalia Mogahed; Islamic speaking ethics; language functions; language and gender; women's language features.

Humans are social creatures who need to communicate with their social environment using language as a means of communication. The use of language varies significantly in societies. Holmes (2012) explains how people use language in various social contexts and identifies the social functions of the language in conveying social meaning. Each person can build social identity through language.

There are common stereotypes about gender differences in society. The relationship between gender and language has long been a significant concern of experts, researchers, and the public in various fields, one of which is sociolinguistics (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013). That statement raises a straightforward dichotomy: women and men are different in using language. Although it is a complex phenomenon, women tend to have weaker and more subtle characteristics than

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men. Therefore, the use of language by men and women needs further research since each of them has different characteristics depending on each individual.

Coates (2013) states that since the seventeenth century, differences between the languages of woman and man speakers have been noted in anthropological literature. The gender of the speakers determines the choice of language forms. The forms are distinct in lexical, syntactic, morphological, and phonological features. Consequently, anthropologists are concerned about the types of language variation between men and women. Lakoff pioneered her observation of language and women's place in 1975. She suggests the features of women's language tend to indicate the suppression of women.

Women's language features have been extensively studied in recent years. Several previous studies have relevance to the present research topic. The first study is done by Claudia (2018). The result shows that even though Ellen is a masculine woman, she applies women's language features in her utterances. The second study belongs to Apridaningrum (2018). Her study shows that Sarah Sechan uses all women's language features except color terms because none of the episodes were color-themed. Hence, it can be said that the theme of the event can trigger someone in using certain language features. Other previous studies which focus on women's language features were conducted by Sanjaya, Budiarsa, and Sudana (2018), Wati (2016), Murti (2018), Oktapiani and Setyowati (2017), Amanda (2017), Diraisyah (2014), Nanda Dwi (2019), Utari (2019), and Pebrianti (2013). Unfortunately, the arguments and the data presented have not been sufficiently explored to reveal women's language features and their functions.

Most of the previous researchers took data from talk shows and movies. Only a few of them gained data from conference speeches. So far, the researchers have not found any studies on women's language features that take data from conference speeches where the speaker is a Muslim woman who discusses the context of Islam. To fill up this research gap, the researchers want to examine what language features are used by a female Muslim speaker in a famous conference, called TED. The speaker whose utterances are analyzed is Dalia Mogahed, a Muslim woman who has an essential role in America.

Most of the previous studies only examined the types and the dominant features of women's language. Only a few have discussed the functions of the women's language features, and none has linked the women's language features and functions with the speaking ethics in Islam. This is the niche that the present study is aimed to fill. Therefore, in this study the researchers focus on identifying the types and functions of women's language features and relate them with the speaking ethics in Islam. The researchers intend to unfold the women's language features employed by a Muslim woman, Dalia Mogahed, who lives in the United States of America where Islam is a minority religion and she lives among the minority group members who practice a lifestyle which might be different from the majority of the community there.

Such a divergence is indicated by the emergence of Islamophobia, a socio-political context when the data were collected. Islamophobia is an unreasonable dislike or fear and prejudice against Muslims. When the data were collected, in the United States, the anti-Muslim sentiment was becoming increasingly global. It made American Muslims get bad and unfair treatment in their life. Islamophobia has even affected the health of the American Muslim community (Samari, 2016). Thus, these issues were discussed and demonstrated by Dalia Mogahed at the TED conference to bring justice to the Muslims who have been mistreated in America.

It is expected that the findings in this study can provide new information regarding relation of the use of women's language features with the speaking ethics in the Islamic view, and increase understanding of women's

language features within the Islamic context. In sum, this study attempts to answer the research questions: (1) What are the women's language features employed by Dalia Mogahed as the conference speaker at TEDTalks? (2) How are the functions of those features related to the speaking ethics in Islam?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Language and Gender

Language and gender are topics of sociolinguistics. They refer more to the characteristics of the language and sex, such as masculinity and femininity in different societies and cultures, although femininity and masculinity are not always based on gender differences (Littoseliti, 2006, p.11).

Language and gender are not only about group differences between women and men in the speech that lead to the development of isolation but also about the social and psychological context of gender differences using the language itself (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013, p.40). The relationship between language and gender conceptualization has an apparent dichotomy between males and females. Schilling (2011) argues that in reality, language and gender are much more complex, and the division between female and male languages is not that simple. Hence, Eckert and McConnel-Ginet (1995) assert that a detailed linguistic and social investigation of the particular community of practitioners in language and gender research is necessary (cited in Coates 2013).

At first, the study of language and gender was intended to show the correlation of gender with certain linguistic features of each gender. But now, the goal has been upgraded, which aims to show how speakers use available linguistic resources to highlight gender between women and men for speakers (Lamas 2007; cited in Schilling 2011). Thus, language and gender research has made progress towards better language understanding and better gender understanding.

Women's Language

Robin Lakoff pioneered Language and Woman's Place (LWP) in 1975, which caused a lot of contention when it emerged. She maintains that women's language has distinct features which women use in expressing their language to distinguish different genders. While Cameron (1996) states that men and women speak differently. He notes that women's language is lacking and women are perceived as deficient (Litosseliti, 2006). However, women's language is the way women express their language specifically.

There are stereotypes about the differences in language between women and men, where men tend to show their masculinity and women show their femininity. Not all masculinity and femininity can be measured by gender. Men and women have their reasons and goals for implementing these features. Hence, there are several different language features applied to each identity.

Women's Language Features

Lakoff initiated the study of women's language features, which she divides into ten types with certain characteristics. The following are the types:

The first is *lexical hedges or fillers*. Lakoff (in Coates 2013) claims that women tend to use hedges more often than men. She also ensures that hedges indicate a lack of confidence in conveying her statements. Examples of hedges are when the speaker adds statements such as "I think", "I guess", "I suppose", "I mean", "kind of", "like", "you see", "you know", and "sort of", etc. Zimmerman and West (1975; cited in Rosanti & Jaelani 2015) proposed the idea of hedges such as "hmm", "um", "yeah", and "uh-huh." These hedges result in overlapping conversations. Consequently, hedges are considered to facilitate turn, politeness, and reduce face threats. On the other hand, they are also

deemed to be intentional vagueness and indecision.

The second is *tag questions*. Lakoff (in Coates 2013) claims that there is no empirical evidence to suggest that women use tag questions more than men. She also classifies tag questions as tentatively associated linguistic forms. On the other hand, tags are used to orient the user as a confirmation request to the interlocutor on the speaker's proposition. So, the tag question is more oriented to the addressee and effectively expresses the speaker's attitude. Examples of the use of tag questions are when the speaker adds statements like "don't we?", "don't you?", "Isn't it?", and in an informal way such as "right?" and "Ok?".

The third is *rising actions or declaratives*. Rising action or declarative is used to put the position to provide confirmation and show elements (Lakoff, 1975, p.17). She also argues that intonation and declarative are some of the women's speech characters that often appear. It shows the character and roles of women who are taken seriously and have a fundamental responsibility in delivering or trusting their interlocutor. On the other hand, the use of intonation and declarative can show the tendency of women who often feel less confident and emphasize politeness towards their interlocutors. Thus, the speaker confirms the information even though the speaker may already know the information. The following is an example of a conversation that uses rising intonation and declarative:

(a) When will dinner be ready?
(b) Oh … around six o'clock

The fourth is *empty adjectives*, kinds of adjectives that involve an emotional reaction rather than the specific information of the neutral word. The use of 'empty' adjectives shows admiration and approval. The vocabulary of these adjectives gives the impression that it is limited and tends to be used by women. Examples of neutral adjectives are *good, cool,* and *neat*. While Lakoff (1975) mentions the words that mark 'empty'

adjectives are *charming, lovely, divine, adorable, sweet,* etc.

The fifth is *precise color terms*. Lakoff found differences between women and men in item choice and lexical frequency. One of them is color naming. Lakoff assumes that discrimination of color is not relevant to men but to women. The reason is that women are more likely to name more specific colors. The particular colors are *lavender, mauve, aquamarine, beige, ecru,* etc. On the other hand, men find this discussion an 'unworldly' amused topic since it is irrelevant to reality (Lakoff, 1975, p. 52).

The sixth is *intensifiers*. "Intensifiers are adverbs that exaggerate the strength of an expression" (Lakoff, 1975, p. 58). The use of the intensifier is a highly frequented feature that women use. This indicates the use of intensifiers includes *so, very, just, such, totally, quite.* Women tend to use intensifiers to persuade the listener or receiver and give approval to the speaker. Men also use intensifiers, but not as often as women do. Lakoff also remarks that substituting the intensifier for absolute superlatives seems the best way to emphasize a more profound opinion. Thus, the emphasis on adverbs is one of the characteristics of women in conveying their utterances.

The seventh is *hypercorrect grammar*. The use of hypercorrect grammar interprets women using standard English forms where the grammar is following grammar books (Lakoff, 1975, p. 38). Meanwhile, Holmes (in Apridaningrum 2018) explains that women use more standard forms of English than men. Women have reasons to keep their values as their needs because women are considered subordinate to the group. However, the use of hypercorrect grammar can also be based on politeness or standard form.

The eighth is *super polite forms*. As Lakoff said, women are supposed to speak more politely than men do in general. The statements included in the 'superpolite' forms are "would you mind ...", "If you don't mind",

"please", or "passed away" instead of "died", and so on. This case is also associated with the stereotype that women should behave carefully and politely. The use of super polite forms could argue that women use this feature in their language because they tend to ask indirectly and euphemistically to avoid impolite emphasis.

The ninth is *avoidance of strong swear words*. Eckert (2003) states that swear words are a type of exclamation that is considered to have a strong expression and signify an expression of extreme anger. Lakoff (1975) also claims that swear words are not suitable for women or children. Ergo, it's often associated with men. Therefore, women usually use more subtle ways like "Oh Dear", "Godness", and "Oh My God!" instead of "shit" which looks rougher.

The last is *emphatic stress*. Women tend to emphasize empathy when they make statements to reinforce assertions. Lakoff (1975) provides examples of uses that fall into the type of emphatic stress, such as the word "brilliant" which aims to show admiration which is emphasized in the sentence "it was a BRILLIANT performance". If in written form, the use of empathic stress can be marked with bold, capital letters, italics, coloring, etc.

Women's Language Functions

Women's language use has its function. In her theory, Pearson (in Sabela 2020) suggests five functions of women's language. *First*, women's language can be functioned to start a discussion. Women usually start their utterances in any context with I think, well, you know, etc. They are included in lexical hedges or fillers. However, its use depends on its context. The *second* function is to express feelings. In general, women find it easier to express or talk about their feelings. Women usually use the emphatic feature to suppress their utterances. The *third* is to get responses. Women rarely speak or express themselves directly. They tend to use the tag question feature to get a response from interlocutors.

The *fourth* is to express uncertainty. Women's talk often indicates uncertainty. Eckert (2003) argues that women often express doubt or uncertainty in their speech. The *last*, women use language to soften an utterance. In general, women are stereotyped and perceived as more polite than men. The features that can be used to soften or make speech sound more polite are the super polite forms and hypercorrect grammar features.

Speaking Ethics in Islam

Every religion teaches good ethics in every action, one of which is speaking ethics. In Islam, there are six basic ethical principles of speaking based on Tafsir Al-Misbah by M. Quraish Shihab. The *first* is the use of sublime language in communication. The *second* is to speak in a straightforward and uncomplicated manner. The *third* is to speak honestly and truthfully. The *fourth* is to use effective sentences. *Fifth*, Islam recommends speaking gently. Talking politely to any interlocutors is obligatory in Islam. The *sixth* is to speak effectively and concisely. Guarding speech by avoiding obscene words is also taught in Islam (Hanafi, 2021). Rasulullah SAW has given an example to his people about how to speak well and encourage his people to apply it. Rasulullah SAW is also famous for his gentleness and politeness in speaking. The command to speak truthfully is also stated in the Quran surah Al-Ahzab, verse 70 as follows:

يَا اَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ اَمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا
(Yaa ayyuhal ladziina aamanut taqullooha wa quuluu qoulan sadiidaa.)

Meaning:
   "O, believers! Be mindful of Allah, and say what is right (Al-Ahzab, verse 70)."

METHOD

This study used a qualitative approach. Lather (in Creswell 2013) suggests that to build an empirically based theory, there is a need for an interrelationship between data and theory. Qualitative research does not require

statistical procedures in its analysis but rather understands and interprets the meaning of data or events of human behavior and interaction in certain situations based on relevant theory. This study revealed women's language features based on Lakoff's theory (1975) and women's language functions based on Pearson's (1985). By analyzing women's language features obtained from video conferences on YouTube, the findings were related to the Islamic perspective. The relationship was described qualitatively.

In this present study, the researchers used a qualitative method to investigate the women's language features and functions in a speech. This method was commonly used in other studies of pragmatic. According to Wray and Bloomer (2006), a qualitative approach focuses on describing, analyzing, and exploring a type of strategy used by a speaker. Since this pragmatic study examines the meaning or specific intentions of a speaker in a particular context, this method is appropriate to be used in this research. In addition, Bogdan and Biklen in Sugiyono (2015) affirm that one of the characteristics of qualitative research is descriptive in which the data used are in the form of words. Therefore, this qualitative method is applied to analyze the utterances of Dalia Mogahed.

The subject of the study was Dalia Mogahed, a Muslim woman who was giving a speech related to Islam. The video is entitled "What it's like to be a Muslim in America." Dalia Mogahed is an American researcher and consultant who is originally from Egypt. She served as Director of Research at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), a Muslim research organization based in Washington DC and Dearborn. She became the first hijab-wearing woman to work in the White House during the Barack Obama administration. So, the speaker is an intelligent Muslim woman who is capable and courageous in expressing and confessing the bad experiences she has had as a Muslim in America, intending to wish justice for Muslims worldwide.

The first step taken was for the researchers to watch the video. Then, the researchers checked and matched the video with the transcript. The researchers also downloaded the transcript of a TEDTalks video on YouTube. Before analyzing the data, the researchers made a table as the observation sheets. Then, the researchers recapped and classified the women's language features used by the subject into the table that has been classified based on their type.

To examine women's language features and functions, the researchers decided to analyze the speech delivered by Dalia Mogahed at TED Talks in March 2016 as a data source. The researchers used the transcript of the speech that was taken from the TED Talks website. The data analyzed are Dalia's utterances in her speech. The speech of Dalia was chosen because she expressed her thoughts and also shared her experiences as a Muslim in America through the speech. By using a qualitative approach, the researchers analyzed, described, and interpreted the utterances that are considered women's language features and functions performed in the speech.

In qualitative research, the role of the research is to collect, identify and analyze data. In the current research, the researchers collected data from the transcript of Dalia's speech video. Firstly, the researchers searched for and watched the video of the speech from a Youtube link: https://www.ted.com/talks/dalia_mogahed_ what_it_s_like_to_be_muslim_in_america?lan guage=en. Then, the researchers looked for the transcript of the speech and downloaded it from the website, namely TED websites. After that, by watching the video, one of the researchers checked whether the speech in the video and the transcript matched.

After the data were collected, the researchers subsequently identified the utterances considered to contain women's language features and their functions. After that, the researchers classified the utterances according to the kinds of women's language

features and their functions in the table. Then, the researchers analyzed the Islamic messages and values that may occur in the use of women's language features and their functions in speech. The last, the researchers conclude the results of the data analyzed.

RESULTS

Women's Language Features Apparent in Dalia Mogahed's Speech

The data analysis shows that as many as seventy-seven women's language features were applied by Dalia Mogahed in her TEDTalks conference speech. She employed seven out of ten of the women's language features. Those are lexical hedges or fillers, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Precise color terms, tag questions, and 'superpolite' forms were not found in Dalia Mogahed's conference speech at TEDTalks because the topics discussed in her speech did not involve issues related to color and demand. More detailed data appear in Figure 1 as follows.
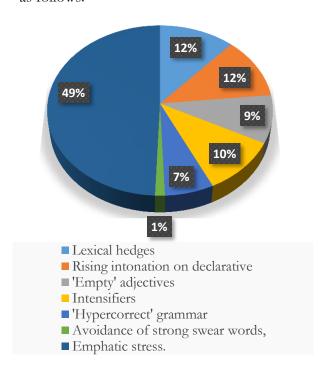

- ■ Lexical hedges
- ■ Rising intonation on declarative
- ■ 'Empty' adjectives
- ■ Intensifiers
- ■ 'Hypercorrect' grammar
- ■ Avoidance of strong swear words,
- ■ Emphatic stress.

Figure 1. Women's Language Features Applied by Dalia Mogahed

Figure 1 shows empathic stress as the biggest amount of the use of the women's language features (49%) followed by lexical hedges and rising intonation on declarative with the same amount, which is, 12%. Intensifiers and empty adjectives occupy the next position with similar percentages of 10% and 9% respectively. Avoidance of strong swear words appears in the least use of the swear words which is only 1%. As mentioned previously, tag questions, precise color terms, and super polite forms were not found in the data. The next part discusses the features in more detail.

Lexical Hedges

According to Lakoff (1975), women tend not to speak directly. They use lexical hedges by adding phrases that indicate the speaker's opinion, such as "I think", "I guess", "Well", and "Hmm" to not look too masculine by saying straightforwardly. Dalia Mogahed used lexical hedges nine times in her speech used. The example is as follows:

[1] *I think* we need to do everything we can to stop a group like ISIS (08:29-08:34)

The data above is a statement from Dalia Mogahed, who represents herself as a Muslim, mother, and human being, to invite the audience to stop the ISIS group. In that utterance, she used the hedge "I think" to express her personal opinion and sincerely request the audience to stop the kind of ISIS group.

Rising Intonation on Declarative

Lakoff (1975) argues that women tend to use final rising intonation like questions on declarative. In this study, rising intonation on declarative appeared nine times in Dalia's speech. For instance,

[2] What do you think when you look at me? *A woman of faith?* An expert? (00:13-00:16)

The data above is a statement from Dalia Mogahed describing herself by raising the

intonation of a modifying phrase as if she asked the audience for confirmation about herself.

Empty Adjectives

Women tend to express their emotional feelings—either good like admiration and approval or bad like hatred and refusal. The expression uses an empty adjective, characterized by a vocabulary that is not neutral and tends to indicate femininity. Dalia Mogahed used empty adjectives seven times in her speech. For example:

[3] And his sister would tell me that he was the *sweet*est, most *generous* human being she knew[(12:24-12:28)]

It is Dalia's statement when she told about Dhea, one of the Muslims who became a victim of murder in America. Dalia used the words "sweet" and "*generous*" instead of "*good*" or other neutral adjectives. Thus, Dalia showed a kind of admiration in a feminine way using empty adjectives.

Intensifiers

Women tend to emphasize adverbs more often than men. According to Lakoff (1975), the use of intensifiers for absolute superlatives is a way of emphasizing more profound opinions. Hence, in this study, the researchers found that Dalia used intensifiers in her speech seven times.

[4] And I was *really* surprised and asked him[(09:32-09:34)]

The data above was Dalia's statement when she told about a woman who was targeted for exploitation to join ISIS. Thus, Dalia used an intensifier *"really"* to emphasize her deep feeling of shock.

Hypercorrect Grammar

The use of hypercorrect grammar indicates that women are likely to use formal forms of sentences. It also shows women's language politeness as does the superpolite feature. In this study, the use of hypercorrect grammar appeared five times.

[5] I *would say*, don't let this stage distract you,[(15:30-15:33)]

Dalia said this when the MC told her to deliver a message as a final statement. She began her message by saying, "I would say" instead of "I'd say." It shows that Dalia used hypercorrect grammar with formal language forms to show her politeness.

Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

Women tend to maintain their politeness by avoiding the use of strong swear words. Hence, instead of saying "shit," which looks rougher, women usually use more subtle ways like "Oh My God" and "Goddess." In this study, the researchers found that Dalia avoided the use of strong swear words only once.

[6] "... we should bomb Mecca." *Oh my God*[(04:10-04:12)]

The data above was Dalia's utterance when she listened to news about insults to the Islamic religion and calls to bomb Mecca. Dalia said, "Oh My God" instead of "Shit". In this context, Dalia expressed her furious feelings by avoiding strong swear words.

Emphatic Stress

Women tend to reinforce assertions by emphasizing their statement that needs to be focused on. In her speech, Dalia used this feature more than the other features. She used emphatic stress 38 times.

[7] So Islamophobia *isn't just* the natural response to Muslim terrorism[(11:26-11:30)]

By saying "*isn't just,*" Dalia emphasized her utterance that Islamophobia is not just the natural response to Muslim terrorism.

Functions of Women's Language Features in View of the Speaking Ethics in Islam

Here, the researchers develop the relationship of women's language functions with the speaking ethics in Islam. The data showed that Dalia used her speech to get

three women's language functions, namely starting a discussion, expressing feelings, and softening utterances. The absence of expressing uncertainty is because, in her speech, Dalia was decisive and assertive and did not show any expressions of uncertainty or doubt to the audience. The function to get a response is also inexistent because Dalia delivered a monologue speech and did not use tag questions in her speech.

Starting *a Discussion*

In her speech, Dalia used women's language features to start a discussion. First, she opened her speech by using the rising intonation in declarative sentences by asking the audience their first impression when they first saw her on stage. She also used lexical hedges in starting the discussion. She maintained her politeness to respect her audience in her speech as well.

Regarding the speaking ethics in Islam, Dalia used excellent language when communicating with the audience, precisely in starting her speech. She produced her language politely even though she told bad experiences encountered by Muslims in the U.S.

Expressing Feelings

In her speech, Dalia discussed how Muslims are treated badly in America, especially due to Islamophobia. She used all the seven women's language features to express her feelings of sadness and anger at the discrimination and mistreatment that Muslims in America faced.

Relevant to the speaking ethics in Islam that speech must be truthful, Dalia recounted the facts that had happened. She mentioned all evidence honestly and correctly, effectively, and straightforwardly. She avoided strong swear words because it is against Islamic ethics, even though she expressed her sadness and anger in her speech. At the same time, she wanted justice for all Muslims in America and gave an understanding to the audience that Islam is not a bad religion.

Softening Utterances

Since the data were taken from a conference speech, it was formal. In her speech, Dalia used hypercorrect grammar and avoided strong swear words to soften her utterances. Thus, the utterances sounded soft and polite because Muslims must speak softly and politely to whoever we talk to.

In sum, Dalia delivered her conference speech implementing the functions of women's language features to start a discussion, express her feelings, and soften her utterances in compliance with the speaking ethics in Islam.

DISCUSSION

This study confirms the premise that the functions of women's language features are related to the speaking ethics in Islam as applied by a Muslim woman in her speech. The speech contains a kind of expression of sadness and anger as a protest over the discrimination, injustice, and persecution faced by Muslims in America. This study reveals that Dalia Mogahed, a Muslim woman, uses women's language features and their functions in her conference speech in line with the speaking ethics in Islam. This is consistent with Claudia (2018) and Apridaningrum (2018) in that women tend to use women's language features as was claimed by Lakoff (1975).

As represented in Figure 1, the similarity of this study with the previous studies is there is no feature named *precise color term*. This study and the previous studies including Claudia (2018) and Apridaningrum (2018) did not find this feature since their topics did not discuss about something related color. While the difference is the features found by the researchers and the previous reasearchers from their data, since each data have different context.

The findings also agree with Hanifah (2019) who also identified functions of the women's language features. The divergence lies only in the function of expressing

uncertainty in that the current study does not find such a function due to the speaker's characteristics and specific context of the speech. Similar to Hanifah (2019) who revealed previously the functions and features employed by the female characters in a movie, this present study unfolds Dalia's speech that projects decisive, assertive, confident, and convincing tones in her conference speech. Hence, Dalia's speech does not show any uncertainty and indecisiveness. This goes in line with Pearson (1985) who states that women's language features must have different functions depending on the contexts.

In addition, as the speech analyzed in this research is delivered by a Muslim woman to convince the audience against injustice and discriminative treatment of Muslims in America, it is revealed that the utterance is compliant with the principles of Islamic speaking ethics, which is, saying what is right based on The Qur'an, Al-Ahzab Chapter, verse 70 (Hanafi, 2021).

CONCLUSION

From Dalia Mogahed's conference speech at TEDTalks, it is concluded that Dalia only employed women's language features, such as lexical hedges or fillers, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, avoidance of strong swear words and emphatic stress. The most dominant use is hypercorrect grammar. She does not use tag questions, super polite forms, and precise color terms since the topics discussed in her speech do not involve such matters. With those features, she utilizes language functions, viz. starting a discussion, expressing feelings, and softening utterances. In her speech, moreover, she implements those women's language functions in compliant with the principles of speaking ethics in Islam in that the speaker uses wonderful language, straightforward and uncomplicated, honest and truthful, effective, gentle, and polite.

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