

FEMALE'S LANGUAGE STYLISTIC IN THE MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at finding out the types of female language feature by Joy's character and describing the language function to convey the message in conversation context in the movie entitled Joy. This study applied descriptive qualitative approach. There were 36 data analyzed in this study. In analyzing data, the theory by Robin Lakoff (1975) to find the types of female language features and the theory by Jody Pearson (1985) is used in describing the language function of language features. The result shows that 9 types out of 10 types of female language features are found which are lexical hedges, tag question, rising intonation, empty adjectives, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance swear word, emphatic stress. All kinds of language function are found in Joy's utterance that are the function to express uncertainty, to get response, to soften an utterance, to start a discussion and to express feeling or opinions. It can be concluded that in using language Joy uses features that have some functions to convey the message into the interlocutor.

Keywords: Female Language Features; Language Functions; Movie

I. Introduction

As a result of the requirement for communication and the necessity of language as a means of conveying thoughts, feelings, or ideas, interaction is an integral element of human existence. According to Siahaan (2008:1), language is present in how people think, express their views, and bargain with one another. Language is a tool that individuals use to connect with one another and build relationships, claims Wardaugh (1986:29). People are interested in sharing their ideas or messages since they may choose alternative words when speaking to one another.

Because they have a personal stake in how language is used, the male and female characters each have their own place in society. They discuss the same subject, but their approaches to interpreting their views through language differ. Labotka (2009) asserts that women are systematically educated to use linguistic elements that are connected to a lack of power. Sociolinguistics is the study of linguistic characteristics and how language interacts with society. Sociolinguistics, according to Wardaugh (2006:13), is the study of language and society with a focus on communication in order to gain a better knowledge of the structure of language

and how languages work in communication. It goes without saying that having a clear aim in mind when speaking is essential for the engagement process to function smoothly and the objectives to be effectively communicated.

A functional approach to language, according to Halliday (1973:7), entails first examining how language is used, attempting to determine the function that language performs for us, and figuring out how individuals may accomplish this function through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. It also means more than this, though. It entails attempting to define language's essence in terms of its functions, examining how usage has affected language and whether it has, as well as how language's structure has been influenced by these functions. This study use movie entitled Joy (2015) as the data because this movie is based on true story that tells about Joy Mangano as a successful businessperson with her stuff the self-wringing mop who struggles and survives on her problems in build a business. Therefore, this movie in accordance with this study, which raised to identify the female's language features and its function that reflecting in the character of Joy as the main character. This study gives different perspective with the previous study which not only identifies female's language features which reflecting in the movie entitled Joy (2015) but also describe its function in the way female character use language to revealing their place in society. Based on the previous background, the problems of this study can be arranged as follow: 1) What the types of language features are performed by the main character in the Joy movie? 2) What are the language function to convey the message in the conversation context?.

II. Methods

The movie Joy, which came out in 2015, is used as the data source. The information employed in this study is expressed through the language used by Joy, a female character who uses her words to elicit responses from her audience. A descriptive qualitative research approach is used in this study. According to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:7), qualitative research generates narrative or textual accounts of the understudied occurrences. The procedures required to collect data are as follows 1) observation to find out the movie, 2) reading the synopsis to find a rough description of the movie, 3) Watching the movie exhaustively, 4) Documentation to make a transcript, which contain utterances by female character, 5) selecting data. After the data classified into data sheet and then the data analyzed using the theory by Lakoff (1975) and analyzing the language function using the theory by Pearson (1985). The theory applied is Female's Language Features by Lakoff (1975) and Language Function by Pearson (1985).

III. Findings and Discussion

Female's Language Features

Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Lakoff (1975) claimed that they can be classified into two groups. First, linguistic strategies can be employed to temper or lessen the impact of statements. Second, the characteristics might increase or exacerbate the strength of a force. According to Lakoff (1975), women utilize hedging strategies to convey doubt and to get their addressee to take them seriously. The fillers, which include, well, well, you see, you know that demonstrate the women considering their next words, While the hedges depict the hesitation that women experience when faced with a question or a statement by the interlocutor. Example: well, um, kind of, sort of, you know, you see, kind of, so, I think, I guess, I wonder.

Tag Questions

According to Lakoff (1975:5) the speaker uses the tag questions when they are starting a claim while lacks confidence in the fact of that claim. The syntactic form of using the question tag is between a directive sentence and a yes-no statement. Example: isn't it? and wasn't it?

Rising Intonations

According to Lakoff (1975:17), rising intonation is used in declarative phrases to signal that the speaker is simultaneously confirming that they have the necessary knowledge. Rising intonation on declaratives, according to Lakoff (1975), conveys hesitancy. Example: A: "When will dinner be ready? B: Oh... around six o'clock?"

Empty Adjectives

In contrast to the common reaction of employing neutral adjectives for speakers, Lakoff (1975:13) claimed that the use of empty adjectives causes personal emotional reactions. There are some excellent adjective types that are frequently utilized in female discourse. -cute, wonderful, charming, cool, nice, tidy, and divine. Example: great- adorable, terrific- charming, cool- sweet, neat- lovely, and divine

Precise Color Terms

According to Lakoff (1975:8), women distinguish colors much more precisely than males do. Words like beige, ecru, aquamarine, lavender, and other similar terms are commonplace in women's active vocabularies. Women are condemned to making non-critical judgments as a sop because they are not expected to make decisions on essential issues, such as what kind of job to hold, and choosing whether to name a color is one of these sops. For instance, lavender, aquamarine, beige, and ecru

Intensifiers

Lakoff (1975:29) Women were afraid of being ignored. Therefore, women than men use the intensifiers more frequently. Intensifiers used by women to show that they are seriously in their statement. Example: Lakoff cited in wahyuni (2015:29) very, really, utterly.

Hypercorrect Grammar

Lakoff (1975) asserted that decency can develop even in the absence of a relationship between the speaker and the receiver using hypercorrect syntax. According to Lakoff (1975), some aspects of hypercorrect grammar include avoiding coarse language, apologizing more frequently, and using extremely polite form, which includes using standard form and pronunciation. Example: Don't try to hide your opinions. Goodness me, I'd much rather you were honest and straightforward about them - instead of continuously and damagingly leaking them to the press. Well?

Super Polite Forms

Lakoff (1975:55) stated that women are not disrespectful people because women are experts in euphemism, which means more positive, repository of wisdom or knowing the right thing when talking to others. Example: will you open... please close... won't you open ... will you close.

Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

Lakoff (1975:10) swearwords are usually used stronger for men and weaker for women. Examples of avoidance of strong swear words used to express more intensive feelings are Oh, dear, fudge, and my goodness, while men tend to use shit words to express their feelings. Example: oh dear..., oh fudge..., goodness

Emphatic Stress

According to Lakoff (1975) claimed women to use emphatic stress when speaking to emphasize the most important words in the statement so that they are taken seriously by the listener. emphatic stress is used by women to amplify their statements. Example: Oh, we have a great deal, Brilliant, Excellent

Language Function

The theory by Pearson (1985:187) as stated Rubbyanti (2017) which classify the function of women's language into five parts.

To express uncertainty

According to Pearson (1985), referenced by Rubbyanti (2017:47), women frequently communicate hesitation in speech. Women are inherently seized by this ambiguity. Women frequently pause before speaking; therefore uncertainty is employed for a specific reason. Example: “Really? I thought you were his girlfriend.”

To get response

According to Pearson (1985:188), women are more inclined to use more words when asking others to perform tasks for them than their male counterparts. Women express their feelings to the other person directly in the hopes that they would be understood. Example: “Here is so hot, isn’t it? I thought I saw a window earlier.” (Rubbyanti:2017)

To soften an utterance

Rubbyanti cites Pearson (1985) (2017). Women have the lowest status in society compared to men. In order to sound more polite when conversing, ladies frequently utilize extremely formal language, hypercorrect grammar, and softer vocal tones. Example: “I don’t intend to spoil your happiness, but your father needs you now, I beg you.” (Rubbyanti, 2017).

To start a discussion

Rubbyanti cites Pearson (1985) (2017). To initiate a conversation, women require the fundamental phrases that apply to all situations. It indicates that women frequently use words like “you know,” “kind of,” “well,” “you see,” “maybe,” “maybe,” “I suppose,” etc. Example: “As you know, I’m already his wife now, so I would be a queen to him.” (Rubbyanti, 2017)

To express feelings or opinions

Pearson (1985) as cited Rubyyanti (2017) Women are easier to express feelings towards others because women are friendly and affectionate. Women's feeling is used to improve their relationships with others. It shows women express feelings in conversation with ease. In expressing this, they use emphatic stress to emphasize speech to expect other people to do the same or to feel what women feel. Example: “Oh my goodness! I think I just saw a ghost.” (Rubbyanti, 2017).

In this part the language features and function classified in the table and analyzed using Female’s Language Features by Lakoff (1975) and Language Function by Pearson (1985).

Table 1. Language Features and Function Classification

No	Language Features	Qty	Language Function				
			EU	GR	SU	SD	EF/O
1	Lexical Hedges/Filler	8	5	-	-	3	-
2	Tag Question	1	-	1	-	-	-
3	Rising Intonation	5	4	1	-	-	-
4	Empty Adjectives	2	-	-	-	-	2
5	Precise Color Term	0	-	-	-	-	-
6	Intensifiers	6	-	-	-	-	6
7	Hypercorrect Grammar	3	-	-	3	-	-
8	Super Polite Form	4	-	-	4	-	-
9	Avoidance Swear Word	4	-	-	4	-	-
10	Emphatic Stress	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total = 36							

Female's Language Features

Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Joy: *I thought* Bartholomew was dead?

An example of a lexical hedge linguistic characteristic is Joy's utterance. Lakoff (1975) asserts that women utilize hedging techniques to convey uncertainty and to urge their audience to take them seriously. The phrase *I thought* in the data use to response to her mother to express uncertainty and then Joy use device I thought to persuade their addressee to take them seriously about Joy who did not know is Bartholomew was dead?

In the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, *I* is pronoun used as the subject of a verb to refer to the person speaking and *thought* is past simple of think that is verb. Based on Merriam-Webster Dictionary the verb *thought* is something as an opinion Joy uses past tense according to the situation from the context of Joy's utterance that she thinks Bartholomew has died in the past. Therefore, the sentence is simple past tense. Joy's mother is watching television then her mother tells Joy that something is surprising about the soap opera. Then Joy looked at the television and response to her mother doubtfully. Joy employs hedges According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "uncertainty may range from a falling short of certainty to an almost total absence of conviction or knowledge, especially concerning an end or conclusion," so I assumed she was expressing uncertainty. Joy feels uninformed, particularly regarding Bartholomew. It can be concluded that the Joy's utterance in data 1 contain female language features that are classified into lexical hedges because it stated uncertainty and the addressee take her statement seriously. Meanwhile, from its grammatical status, I thought is simple past tense because Joy used it to talk about events that have been completed.

Tag Questions

Joy: I'd like to change just one thing, *would you mind?*

In the Joy's utterance, there is a tag *would you mind?* As categorized in female language features as tag question. The tag question in Joy's utterance has a positive statement to negative tag structure. The question tag in Joy's utterance contains an auxiliary verb (modal) *would* so the tag used must also match the previous sentence which uses modal *would* in the sentence *I'd like to change just one thing*. Before Joy appeared on television Joy was dressed by a make-up artist but she felt uncomfortable with her clothes, so she asked Neil's permission to change. When asking Neil permission to change clothes, Joy used the tag question *would you mind?* after the declarative statement, *I'd like to change just one thing*. Based on the explanation above, the tag question is used to ask permission to change clothes because Joy feels uncomfortable with these clothes. Therefore, Joy asked Neil's permission to change in hopes Neil would allow her.

Rising Intonations

Joy: *What?*

The utterance Joy uses when she is shocked uses *what?* In order to emphasize a point and get the listener's attention, Joy lifts her intonation, which is indicative of rising intonation. According to Lakoff (1975:17) the use of rising intonation in declaratives sentence for seeking confirmation and the speaker has the requisite information at the same time. When Sharon came with Joy's father suddenly said that she wanted to return her father because Joy's father was no longer useful. Therefore, Joy is shocked to hear the statement from Sharon because Joy is surprised that her father was returned and wants to live back at Joy's house after divorcing her mother. The purpose of rising intonation is to give the hearer information on certain ideas. The utterance that Joy applies rising intonation to get the clear answer why Sharon gives him back.

Empty Adjectives

Joy: Have a *great* date

In Joy's utterance on the word *great* including adjective, which explains noun, date according to The Little Brown Handbook 11th Edition that an adjective modifies a noun or pronoun by providing descriptive or specific detail. Therefore, when Joy's father said goodbye to Joy, Joy responds *have a great date*. This utterance contains an empty adjective that is one of the features of the female language. Lakoff (1975:13) stated that the use of empty adjectives leads to personal emotional reactions compared to the general reaction of using neutral adjectives for speakers. In this case, this utterance was use by Joy to congratulate her father on dating, so Joy expressed her emotional reactions with the adjective *great*.

Intensifiers

Joy: That's a **very** strange question

In the Joy's utterance, the word **very** is intensifier that include in female language features. Lakoff (1975) stated that intensifiers used by women to show that they are serious in their statement. Based on the Cambridge Dictionary the word **very** is adverb of degree used to add emphasis to an adjective. Then in Joy's utterance the word **very** emphasizes the adjective strange. Trudy gave Joy several conditions before she spent much money to invest in Joy's company. In the utterance, Joy responded to Trudy's last question by saying that's a **very** strange question. Joy said the word to show the power of statement and to show something serious about Trudy's question. Therefore, Joy uses the word **very** to look serious about Trudy's question.

Hypercorrect Grammar

Joy: "...*I've never met or talked to this Derek Markham, but I've talked to you many times on the phone*"

In Joy's utterance categorized as hypercorrect grammar. In the sentence *I've never met or talked to this Derek Markham, but I've talked to you many times on the phone* is use correct grammatical. According to Lakoff (1975) stated that parts of hypercorrect grammar involve avoidance of harsh language; more frequent apologizing and the use of super polite form which included the use of standard form and pronunciation. The utterance is hypercorrect grammar because involve avoidance of harsh language when Joy talked with her enemy that has been stolen her ideas. The example of harsh language like shit or damn but in this case, Joy did not use harsh language when she talks with her enemy. It means Joy shows her politeness even though talk with her enemy. Joy talk to someone named Gerhardt, who is the person who has stolen the design from Joy's mop. In addition, the utterance includes in standard form of the sentence that is present perfect tense.

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary present perfect tense use to expresses an action or state begun in the past and completed at the time of speaking. The women as a form of super polite in speech often use hypercorrect grammar. Based on the explanation above, Joy uses the correct sentence to emphasize her sentence and looks more polite even though she is talking to someone who has stolen her homemade mop design. Joy used hypercorrect grammar following the English grammatical standard that contains the present perfect tense in the conditions of past events.

Super Polite Forms

Joy: This is why *I would like to ask you for your investment, Trudy.*

In Joy's utterance *I would like to ask you for your investment, Trudy* is in the form of super polite as part of female language feature. This utterance is a simple future tense because

there is the word *would* which indicates an activity will occur. The word *would* include the modal auxiliary verb. According to Betty (2003) modal *would* include the auxiliary that is located after the verb. Joy chooses to use the word *I would like* instead of *I wanna* when asking Trudy to invest in her mop factory because the word *would* based on Cambridge Dictionary is use to polite request.

According to Lakoff (1975:55) stated that women are not disrespectful people because women are experts in euphemism which means more positive, repository of wisdom or knowing the right thing when talking to others. In this case, Joy seems to respect her potential investors by using polite language. Joy utterances are contained with the feature of the female language in the form of super polite. Therefore, Joy points out that she is wise and knows the correct language to speak to his potential investors.

Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

Joy: *Oh my God* , I thought I fixed this thing

From the data, Joy's utterance categorized as avoidance swear word in female language features. According to Lakoff (1975) avoidance of strong swear words to use to express women's intense feelings while the men express their feelings using "shit" word. So, in this case, Joy shows her emotional expression by not saying harsh words but using the utterance *oh my God*. Based on Cambridge Dictionary, the phrase *oh my God* is used to emphasize how surprised, angry and shocked. Joy was shocked because she found something broken in front of her house and then said *oh my God* spontaneously. Joy used *oh my God* to express that she is surprised to see a pole that seems to have been repaired before.

It can be concluded; Joy's utterance tries to avoid the strong swear word because she is weaker than men are so she expresses her emotion with oh my God through a sentence that corresponds to the strength of the particle.

Emphatic Stress

Joy: "... , that's just *amazing* you really don't have to touch it. Look at that you know what would make this *perfect* if you could remove the mop head put it in the washing machine.

From the data above, Joy's utterance in the word *amazing* and *perfect* categorized as emphatic stress. According to Lakoff (1975) claimed women to use emphatic stress when speaking to emphasize the most important words in the statement so that they are taken seriously by the listener. The word *amazing* and *perfect* is adjective. Based on Merriam Webster Dictionary the word *amazing* is an expression used when indicating something slightly better than "pleasant" so that it may provoke skepticism in others, statement by. According to Oxford Learner Dictionary the word *perfect* is an expression used when something complete without flaws or weaknesses. Therefore, using the word *amazing* in the middle of what Joy is saying

expresses that it is very important when praising the mop. According to Lakoff (1975) stated that when a woman uses emphatic stress in her speech it means that she is serious about her statement, Joy used the word amazing to praise the mop so that the compliment would attract attention to other customers who saw Joy using the mop so that Joy hoped they could buy it.

Language Function

To express uncertainty

Joy: (look at the TV) ***I thought*** Bartholomew was dead?

From the data above, Joy's utterance, which is indicated by the language features lexical hedges in the phrases ***I thought***, has a function to express uncertainty. It can be seen in the context of Joy's conversation when she responds to her mother's question with the word ***I thought***. Because she is less certain about Bartholomew, who he believed to be dead, in her statements. It also demonstrates her reluctance to give her mother an opinion about Bartholomew. According to Pearson (1985), referenced by Rubbyanti (2017: 47), women frequently indicate hesitation in speech. Women naturally have this apprehension. Joy therefore used lexical hedges, which are linguistic elements that indicate to communicate ambiguity, to express this uncertainty.

To get response

Joy: I'd like to change just one thing, ***would you mind?***

The Joy's utterance indicated the tag questions in Joy's utterance when asking permission to change something because something was not according to Joy's wishes then she said I'd like to change just one thing. Joy uses the tag language feature of the question would you mind? to request an approval response from the interlocutor. From the data above, Joy uses language features tag questions to get a response from Neil. Based on this conversation, Joy got a response from Neil who agrees on something he wanted to replace. In light of Pearson's (1985: 188) claim that women are more likely to use more words when asking others to perform tasks for them than their male counterparts, the purpose of the language features tag question is to elicit a response. Women express their emotions directly to the other person in the hopes that they would be understood by the other person.

To soften an utterance

Joy: well, where do I go? Sir, ***please?***

In this data, Joy's utterances indicate a female language feature super polite form has functions to soften the utterance. According to Pearson (1985) as cited by Rubyyanti (2017) in society, women are at the lowest level of men. The woman looks polite when she uses such features as when asking without demanding. In the conversation, Joy looked angry and expressed

her frustration to the police because they confiscated Joy's belongings, but Joy tried to soften her utterance because, on the other hand, she was also wrong. After all, she was selling or promoting her goods at a public place without a permit. Joy asked the police not to confiscate his belonging with the word please that serves to soften her utterance to the police.

To start a discussion

Joy: **Well**, I've never met or talked to this Derek Markham.....“Seems like you're shaking us down”

In the data above, Joy uses utterances indicated by female language features lexical hedges. It can be seen in the words **well** and seems like. Joy used the Lexical hedges for the start discussion. The first word **well** is used to initiate a conversation about never meeting Derek. Starts a discussion means starting the conversation with a new topic. So, in this case, Joy uses well to divert the conversation from Gerhardt. Then the second word **well** was used to initiate another statement in his discussion with Gerhardt about Joy's sister named Peggy. Finally, the word **seems like** is used to start a discussion by transferring a statement. According to Pearson (1985) as cited by Rubyyanti (2017) stated that women need the basic words applicable in any conversation to start a discussion. It means women use lexical hedges such as you know, sort of, well, you see, maybe, perhaps, I think, etc.

To express feelings or opinions

Joy: Have a **great** date

In the data above, Joy congratulated her father on going on a date by saying have a **great** date. Joy's speech indicates one type of language feature it is empty adjectives which has functions to express her feelings about her father. Joy felt happy because her father went on a date then Joy expressed it by saying the word great. According to Pearson (1985) stated that women are easier to express feelings towards others because women are friendly and affectionate. Women's feeling is used to improve their relationships with others. Women also want to enhance their relationships with others through their feelings

IV. Conclusion

The language elements on the utterances of the main character Joy have been found in 36 dialogues using the data from the Joy movie. Nine of the ten categories of female language features were identified, including 8 types of lexical hedges/filler, 1 type of question tag, 5 types of rising intonation, 2 types of empty adjectives, 6 types of intensifiers, 3 types of hypercorrect grammar, 4 types of super polite forms, 4 types of swear word avoidance, and 3 types of emphatic stress. One type of language feature has zero occurrences, as can be shown. Because there isn't a conversation topic with a theme relating to the color phrase, that term is absent from

Joy's statement. According to Pearson's (1985) theory, there are five functions found in the second problem's function of language that is present when Joy communicates in the context of a conversation: 9 functions to express uncertainty, 2 functions to elicit a response, 11 functions to soften an utterance, 3 functions to open a discussion, and 11 functions to express feeling or opinion. Based on the foregoing conclusion, Joy tries to persuade her family in the movie, but her claims are dubious. Then, despite numerous issues with her family and her investor, Joy handled her business. On the way to building a business with many problems, Joy tries to remember her nature as a woman that looks polite so that she is used correct grammatical, avoids harsh language and speaks politely. Therefore, Joy uses the language features with some functions to convey the message when speaks with interlocutor.

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