

WOMEN LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY BELLA SWAN IN *TWILIGHT* MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify the types and functions of women language features used by Bella Swan in *Twilight* movie. The design of the study is descriptive qualitative. The data were taken from the utterances of Bella Swan, then analyzed using Lakoff's theory. The study results discovered eight types of women language features from Bella Swan's utterances: lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. The most frequent women language features used by Bella Swan was lexical hedges or fillers. The researcher identified 14 functions of women language features used by Bella Swan. The dominant functions of women language features were to indicate uncertainty and lack of confidence, wrap up the idea, denote hesitancy and make the sentence less assertive, and express slight surprise and agreement.

Keywords: *women language features, functions of women language features, Twilight movie*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis dan fungsi fitur bahasa perempuan yang digunakan oleh Bella Swan dalam film *Twilight*. Rancangan penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Data diambil dari ucapan Bella Swan, kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teori Lakoff. Hasil penelitian menemukan delapan jenis fitur bahasa perempuan dari tuturan Bella Swan: *lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite form, avoidance of strong swear words, dan emphatic stress*. Fitur bahasa perempuan yang paling sering digunakan oleh Bella Swan adalah *lexical hedges*. Peneliti mengidentifikasi 14 fungsi fitur bahasa perempuan yang digunakan oleh Bella Swan. Fungsi dominan fitur bahasa perempuan adalah untuk menunjukkan ketidakpastian dan kurangnya kepercayaan diri, menyimpulkan ide, menunjukkan keragu-raguan dan membuat kalimat kurang tegas, dan mengungkapkan sedikit keterkejutan dan persetujuan.

Keywords: *fitur bahasa perempuan, fungsi fitur bahasa perempuan, film Twilight*

INTRODUCTION

Hickey (2014) described language as an interpersonal communication system and social phenomenon. The manner in which a person speaks reflects their identity, such as their class, gender, race, etc. Consequently, the speech structures used by men and women differ. Holmes, (2013) argued that women are more polite linguistically than males since men are perceived as more dominant. Women are more self-aware and sensitive about how their speech reveals their social class background or social standing in the community. Rahmawati et al., (2019) argued that language and communication issues are more significant for women than males because women speak more frequently than men. The topic of discussion may also be irrelevant to the discourse.

Women use distinct linguistic features for various purposes. In her study, Pebrianti (2013) discovered that Indonesian female bloggers predominantly used women's language elements in their postings because they tend to convey uneasiness and lack of confidence in dialogue by trying to keep the topic on track. In addition, Rahmawati et al., (2019) noted that the aim of women's use of language in communication is to discuss emotions and interpersonal connections. According to Oktapiani et al., (2017), the functions of women's language features include expressing the speaker's emotions, attempting to persuade someone to act, and commenting on the language itself. Regarding the generalizations mentioned above about women, this study aims to examine the linguistic features of women provided by Robin Lakoff (1975). There are eleven language characteristics

utilized by women that demonstrate their powerlessness, regardless of whether they are or not. They are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite form, avoidance of harsh curse words, emphatic stress, empty adjectives, and specific color terms. The example of those language features can be seen as follows:

1. Lexical hedges or fillers, e.g. *you see, I think, uh, or um.*
2. Tag question, e.g. *isn't it?, right?*
3. Rising intonation, e.g. *seriously?, again?*
4. Intensifier, e.g. *really, very, so.*
5. Hypercorrect grammar, e.g. using *going* instead of *goin*, *got to* instead of *gotta*.
6. Superpolite form, e.g. *would you mind helping me...?*
7. Avoidance of strong swear word, e.g. *fugde, oh my goodness.*
8. Emphatic stress, e.g. *it was a BRILLIANT idea.*
9. Empty adjective, e.g. *lovely, divine.*
10. Precise color term, e.g. *vermilion, alabaster*

Additionally, there are some studies that are similar to this study. Pebrianti (2013) authored a study of the linguistic characteristics of women employed by Indonesian female bloggers on Blogspot (Pebrianti, 2013). This study revealed no rising intonation in declarative and that intensifiers were the most often employed feature. The previous studies investigated films and social media. (2020) did a subsequent study on women's language features used by female judges and female contestants in Australian The Next Top Model Session 10 from episodes 1 to 10. The study

identified the lexical hedges and intensifiers that female judges and contestants employed most frequently. These linguistic characteristics depended on the situation, which was impacted by the power, solidarity, and dominant and unequal standing of the female judges and candidates.

As previous researchers did research on social media and reality television, the current study focuses on women's linguistic characteristics in cinema, specifically in the dialogue of Bella Swan, the main female character in the film *Twilight*. Today, in this digital era, a film is one of the significant works of literature that utilizes women's language characteristics (Sanjaya et al., 2018). The researcher analyzed Bella Swan's language in *Twilight* film since this film is popular among teenagers (Muhu et al., 2020) and because Bella Swan represents a highly intellectual and perceptive lady but is physically uncoordinated.

Based on the context described above, the following research questions are formulated:

1. What are the women language features employed by Bella Swan in *Twilight* movie?
2. What is the function of women language features used by Bella Swan in *Twilight* movie?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The descriptive qualitative method was utilized as the research design for data analysis. This method aims to better comprehend a problem statement and strengthen the findings' validity (Key, 1997). This study's data came from Bella Swan's statements in the *Twilight* film. Following a series of processes, data on

the primary character's utterances were obtained through documentation. The first stage was viewing the film to comprehend its substance. The second individual was reading the printed movie script to grasp the utterance. The third was highlighting phrases containing the women's language characteristics.

There were multiple steps involved in data analysis. Observing the utterances of Bella Swan in the film *Twilight* was the initial stage, followed by defining the type and purpose of women language features using Lakoff's theory (1975). Before forming conclusions based on the findings, the third stage was to analyze and classify the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This table classifies the women language features found in Bella's utterances.

Table 1. The classification of women language features of Bella Swan's utterances

Features	Total	Functions
Lexical Hedges or Fillers	105	To indicate uncertainty and lack of confidence, but supply extra reassurance.
		To wrap up the idea
		To denote hesitancy and makes the sentence less assertive.
		To express slight

superpolite forms. In the movie, Bella Swan also shows her strong emotion but still tries to be polite by using the avoidance of swear words. The use of emphatic stress also served several functions: to convince the listener about her feeling/saying, underline the importance of information, and highlight that she is serious about her words.

Discussion

This research is focused on analysing the utterances of Bella Swan in Twilight movie in the matter of women language features. The characteristics of Bella Swan in Twilight movie part 1 are reclusive, caring, polite, insecure, and kind-hearted. Her utterances in this movie reflects her characteristic traits so much.

Based on the research result, Bella used 8 out of 10 women language features. In this section, further explanation will be discussed.

1. Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Lakoff (1975) asserts that hedging devices clearly indicate a lack of confidence. She asserted that women utilize hedging devices to convey uncertainty and intensifying methods to convince their audience to take them seriously. According to the definition of lexical hedges or fillers, the researcher identified 105 utterances of women's language that included lexical hedges or fillers. A few examples of statements are lexical hedges or fillers with women's language characteristics.

1) Lexical hedges example in the movie at 00:01:41

"And this will be a good thing. I think".

In this utterance, there is women language feature, namely lexical hedge. In

the movie, Bella narrated that she would be staying with her dad, and she assumed it was a good thing. The word "I think" indicates that Bella was uncertain and lacked confidence in her statement, but she supplied extra reassurance.

2) Lexical hedges example in the movie at 00:33:58

"So, what's the story about the Cullens?"

In this utterance, there is also a lexical hedge which serves a different purpose. In the movie, Bella was told the old myth of the two families, without the source person saying what they were. The word "so" indicated that she was trying to wrap up the idea.

3) Lexical hedges example in the movie at 00:07:25

"Yeah. Maybe, that's why they kicked me out."

In this utterance, the lexical hedge is the word "maybe". In the movie, Bella was asked whether her previous residence was supposed to have dark skin. In her response, this word, 'maybe,' denotes hesitancy and makes the sentence less assertive.

4) Fillers example in movie at 00:03:28

"Oh right. One bathroom."

In this utterance, there is women language feature, namely fillers. In the movie, Bella was recently relocated back to her previous residence. She forgot that it only has one bathroom. Her father reminded her, and It made her a little bit surprised. The expression "Oh, right" is a meaningless remark, yet, it was used to express slight surprise and agreement.

5) Lexical hedges example in the movie at 00:05:32

"Do you want a ride to school or something?"

In this utterance, there is women language feature, namely lexical hedge. In the movie, Bella offered to take someone somewhere as she tried her new car. The notion "or something" was employed to show uncertainty while also softening her speech so it did not come off as overly direct.

6) Fillers example in movie at 00:19:08

"Uh... My mom remarried and um..."

In this utterance, there is women language features, namely fillers. In the movie, Bella was asked why she moved, thus she tried to explain it. The word "uh..." and "um..." are meaningless expressions. It was uttered to show hesitancy and give her more time to think of what to say without pausing in silence.

2. Tag Question

The tag question consists of a definite statement and a yes-or-no question. Lakoff (1975) thinks that asking a question best exemplifies the nervousness and uncertainty of women. According to the specification of tag question feature, the researcher identified one utterance containing tag question feature. There are a few instances of statements with women's language characteristics and the tag question feature.

7) Tag question example in the movie at 01:19:53

"That's gotta be a home run, right?"

In this utterance, there is women language features, namely tag question. Bella was asked to be a referee in a vampire baseball in the movie. She saw the batter hit the ball across the field. Thus, she said her thought to someone else. The word "right?" was uttered to seek agreement on what she was saying.

3. Rising intonation

Rising intonation is employed in declarative sentences when the speaker seeks confirmation yet may be the only person with the necessary information. Using the notion of rising intonation on a declarative feature, the researcher identified one instance of rising intonation on declarative in women's language.

8) Rising intonation example in the movie at 00:38:15

"I'll meet you guys at the restaurant?"

In this utterance, there is women language feature namely rising intonation on declarative. In the movie, Bella was about to split up with her friends and she proposes the idea to meet up at the restaurant. The sentence "I'll meet you guys at the restaurant?" was uttered to look for confirmation on what she was saying.

4. Intensifiers

The researcher identified 14 instances of women's language that included intensifiers. A few examples of statements include women's language characteristics and identifying them as intensifiers.

9) Intensifiers example in the movie at 00:23:00

"He got to me so fast. He was nowhere near me."

In this utterance, there is women language feature; intensifiers. In the movie, Bella was about to get crushed by a car, but then someone saved him in a blink of an eye. The word "so" in "so fast" was uttered to emphasize or strengthen the intended meaning.

5. Hypercorrect grammar

The researcher identified six examples of hypercorrect grammar in the speech of women. There are a few examples of statements with women's language characteristics and hypercorrect grammar.

10) Hypercorrect grammar example in the movie at 01:13:52

"So, How's all the baseball stuff going?"

In this utterance, there is women language feature, namely hypercorrect grammar. In the movie, Bella was talking to her mom on phone call. She asked her about the baseball league. Bella softened her statement and made it more polite by using the word "going" instead of "goin." She knows that she was talking to her mom, so she is being polite.

6. Superpolite forms

In the same way that a polite order does not explicitly demand obedience, a request recommends that something be done as a favor to the speaker. Women are more inclined than men to employ polite words. One example of statement found in the movie as follows

11) Superpolite forms example in the movie at 01:44:14

"Do you mind getting dad?"

In this utterance, there is women language feature namely superpolite forms. Bella was just waking up in the hospital with her mom beside her in the movie. She asked her mom to call her dad so she could tell her apology. The function of the sentence "do you mind getting dad?" was to soften her utterance and make it more polite. She knows that she

was talking to her mom, so she is being polite.

7. Avoidance of swear words

The study identified one example of women's language that avoids using swear words.

12) Avoidance of swear words example in the movie at 00:05:06

"Oh my gosh."

There is one women language feature in this utterance, namely avoidance of swear word. Bella was really surprised in the movie and cannot believe that she got a car as a gift. Bella used the word "oh my gosh" instead of "damn", "oh shit" or "fuck" to show her emotion without being impolite/rude

8. Emphatic stress

A classic example of emphatic Stress is when the speaker emphasizes a particular word in a sentence, typically emphasizing, comparing, or clarifying. Three utterances of women's language included avoidance-related emphatic stress traits. There are eleven instances of statements containing women's language characteristics and identifying as emphatic stress characteristics.

13) Emphatic stress example in movie at 01:24:49

"Okay I've got it! I've got it! I'm all right!"

In this utterance, there is women language feature, namely emphatic stress. In the movie, Bella was rushed by someone to get out of that place. The function of the sentence "Okay I've got it! I've got it! I'm all right!" was to convince the listener about how she feels/says, that she knows what he meant and knows what to do without being rushed.

14)Emphatic stress example in movie at 01:25:41

"It's my dad!"

In this utterance, another emphatic stress on women language features was found. In the movie, someone suggested Bella to leave her father because her safety is in danger. Bella responded emphatically, "it's my dad!" to underline the importance of the information, that 'he' is her father and she cannot leave him alone.

15)Emphatic stress example in the movie at 01:34:28

"Don't touch her!"

In this utterance, another women language feature namely emphatic stress was found. In the movie, someone threatened Bella with her mom as a hostage. Bella thus said "don't touch her!" with emphatic stress to highlight that she is serious about her words.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the purpose of this study was to analyze the women language features utilized by Bella Swan in the film *Twilight*. Only eight of the ten women language qualities proposed by Lakoff (1975) are utilized by Bella in the film. These are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite form, avoidance of harsh profanity, and emphases on emphasis. 105 instances of lexical hedges or fillers were the most prevalent feature.

There are several functions of feature utterances, including to indicate uncertainty and lack of confidence, but provide additional reassurance, to wrap up the idea, to denote hesitancy and make the sentence less assertive, to express

slight surprise and agreement, to indicate uncertainty while softening speech so it doesn't come across as overly direct, to denote hesitancy and give more time to think about what to say, to seek agreement, to seek confirmation, and to emphasize. This study aims to contribute to education, namely language teaching and learning. The researcher expects that students will gain a greater knowledge of female language in relation to gender, power, and position in society as a result of this study.

The future research recommendation from the researcher is that this research can be used as a reference to those who studies especially on women language features. The topic of the future research can also be widened to an analysis about man language features and comparison of both genders. Hopefully, this suggestion will help expand the study into the larger sample.

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