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## Gender and Language in Benteng Pannyua English Club

Masita<sup>1</sup>, Rabiatul Adawiah<sup>2</sup>, Devi Triani<sup>3</sup>

UIN Alauddin<sup>1</sup>, Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri Majene<sup>2,3</sup>

[masitashum@gmail.com](mailto:masitashum@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>, [rabiatuladawiah@stainmajene](mailto:rabiatuladawiah@stainmajene)<sup>2</sup>, [defitrianipolman@gmail.com](mailto:defitrianipolman@gmail.com)<sup>3</sup>

### Abstract

Man and women are created with much different, especially using language in communication. They have different features in using language although they use same language. It is influenced by differences in gender, characteristic, and thought. In reality many people still do not understand that man and woman have differences in speech. This motivates researchers to find out how the language used differently between man and woman. This research used qualitative design as methodology. This study was conducted in BPEC (Banteng Pannyua English Club), located in Rotterdam fort, South Sulawesi. The participants involved 8 women and 8 men with an intermediate level of English. This study also collected by using Lakoff's theories related to linguistics features of language based on the gender issue. The researcher found 50 data from the analysis. The result of this study showed man and women have six different types of speech feature in communication. They are Tag Question, Rising Intonation, Lexical Hedge, Intensifier, Emphatic Stress, and Super Polite Form. From this data it can be concluded that man and women have different features in using language.

**Keywords** : Male, Female, Speech, Communication, Language.

### 1. Introduction

God creates man and woman with different gender which mean having different roles and characters in their social life including language use. Many studies about language and gender emphasize reciting the effect of gender in the use of language. Most researchers revealed the different characters between men and women in using language portrayed in real life or literary works (Spiker, 2012). One of them is the difference in ability in communication, such as the general features in using language. In sociolinguistic, the discussion about the different speech between man and woman is still interesting to discuss although, the works that make some kind of theory about the condition have sprung.

Some specific terms and ways of speech from man and woman have been found differently. Men and women do not all use different words. The difference is just in using the reference of linguistics. The relation between language and gender which usually hear right now, woman and man speech is used as a symbol generally about the behavior of man and woman speech. In the different social context, an individual will speak in different ways (Karlsson, 2017).

Moreover, Linguists claimed that females are more linguistically polite than males, and females emphasize different speech functions. It is found that males and females often use different linguistic forms and address terms in speaking English even in the

same speech community. The use of the standard might be seen as yet another reflection of women's powerlessness in the public sphere (Holmes, 2013).

Many factors can influence the different styles of communication like what Coates et al in Karlsson (2007) says: the factors that influence affect the differences such as social factors, the situation of context, physiological factors, psychological factors and type of discourse. Women tend to have unique features in their language compared to men. Recently, many sociolinguistics found that men and women have different ways of speaking. They have different features although they speak the same language. Women as a social group have their language characteristics whether in spoken or written language. It can be in the form of vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, etc(Karlsson 2007).

Labotka (2003) said that women are systematically taught to speak with specific language features, and those language features are associated with a lack of power. Language shows the social condition of being man and woman rather than their gender identity. Lakoff (1975) stated that men and women are different in the speech function. She maintains that woman is forced to learn a weak, trivial and differential style as a reflection of their powerlessness and man's power of them. The researcher considers following these theories because they can cover man's and woman's language phenomena with the way women speak in their society completely and specifically. Moreover, this theory is also used to investigate men and women in the community (Holmes & Meyerhoff, 2003) .

This research aims at investigating how the language used differently between men and women in BPEC at Fort Rotterdam and related to the types of features by Lakoff theories. One way to see the differences between man and woman speech is to join in the community which supports the researcher to do research based on what she has mentioned above and the researcher thinks that BPEC at Fort Rotterdam is a great medium to research because it is suitable with the participants of the research, where all people come there to improve their ability in speaking English and sharing about their ideas.

The researcher is interested in analyzing the speech features because many people do not understand that men and women have differences in speech. They appear different by their physical and gesture clearly but in speech, they have differences that some people do not release so that the researcher wants to share and show to others that men and women have many differences in the speech by doing this analysis in a discussion. This research is provided to answer the following questions: 1) What are the types of speech features found in "BPEC at Fort Rotterdam"? and 2) How do the men and women use speech features in "BPEC at Fort Rotterdam"?

Theoretically, the research is expected to contribute to a Sociolinguistics lecturer as a source and empirical data in teaching about men and women's language. They can use this study as an example of how language is used in the community. Practically, It is hoped that this research becomes a reference for linguistics students to learn more about men's and women's language. This study also gives a contribution and foundation to the next researchers who are interested in man and woman's language in various contexts.

Related researches have been conducted. Firstly, Wiprayanti (2013) in her research about women's language used by male and female in film, music, and lyric used theory by Coates and analyzed the film by descriptive quantitative. In her analysis, she found nine women's speech that used the first female character and women but, the kinds of women's speech most used by men, not women. It caused by some factors such as

social status, subordinate groups, prestige and stigma, social network, and the acquisition of sex differential language.

Next, Santi, (2013), in her research about Comparison of Sexist Language used in the Twilight Saga Eclipse Movie. She used Lakoff's theory about the features of women's speech. She found that the character used all features except, precise color in the conversation. Another side, the features of men's speech, used Holmes's theory that the men used standard and curse words. While in the analysis of features linguistic of men and women based on Coates theory found that men and women used verbosity, tag question, questions, command, and directive, swear word or taboo language. Finally, the analysis found that women are politer than men. Features of men's speech used by women are not a standard language, while the feature of woman speech used by men is lexical hedges, intensifier, super polite form, and hypercorrect grammar(Santi 2013)<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. Method

This research used qualitative design as the methodology. Data were collected through observation and note-taking. It was supported by sound recording which was transcribed later. This study was conducted in BPEC (*Benteng Panyyua English Club*), located in Rotterdam fort, South Sulawesi. This English Club was attended by various participants every week. So, the researchers studied different participants each meeting around 4 weeks. The participants involved 8 women and 8 men with an intermediate level of English. Last, the collected data were analyzed using Lakoff's theories related to linguistics features of language based on the gender issue.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Findings

In this section, the researcher explains the difference between Male and Females in BPEC at Rotterdam fort in Using Speech Expression. The researcher found 50 data from the analysis.

In the following analysis, the data are given the symbol as coding to each man and woman in BPEC. It contains two characters male and female characters. The female character is five women and the male character is five men. The first table is related to the first research question then, the second table is associated with the second research question. To categorize the data of the second table the researcher gives code such as Precise Discrimination as PD, Strong Expletives as SE, Empty Adjectives as EA, Tag Question as TQ, Rising Intonation as RI, Lexical Hedges as LH, Intensifier as I, Emphatic Stress as ES, Hypercorrect Grammar as HG, and Super Polite Form as SPF. Here is the table:

**Table 1. Gender Speech Features**

<b>Types of speech features</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Precise Discrimination	–	–
Strong Expletives	–	–
Empty Adjectives	–	–
Tag Question	6	5
Rising Intonation	3	7
Lexical hedges or filler	6	5
Intensifier and Superlative Boosting	2	4

Device		
Emphatic stress	–	1
Hypercorrect Grammar	–	–
Super Polite Form	4	7
Total	21	29

### 3.2. Discussion

This part discussed the result of the data analysis speech. However, based on the data that have been analyzed, the researcher did not find all types of women's speech features. There were six speech features used in BPEC. These data were analyzed by Lakoff's theory (1975). There are ten types of speech features but the researcher just found six of them. They are Tag Question, Rising Intonation, Lexical Hedge, Intensifier, Emphatic Stress, and Super Polite Form.

This result is quite similar to the research of Wiprayanti (2013) where she found that there are nine kinds of women's speech in the film but, the kinds of women's speech are mostly used by men not women. It is caused by some factors such as social status, subordinate groups, prestige and stigma, social network, and the acquisition of sex differential language.

Lakoff (1975) said that a woman than a man mostly uses tag questions because a woman usually talks more than a man. But, the researcher found that men used more than the woman. It can be seen in the table above those men used six times meanwhile women used five times in the discussion. It is caused by some factors such as topic, limiting time, and informal forum.

Tag question is one of the speech features which reflect uncertainly related to something unknown by the speaker which encourages them to ask. Tag question is a grammatical structure in which a declarative statement or an imperative is turned into a question by adding an interrogative fragment. Besides, tag question is also a polite statement by softening the sentence in that it does not force agreement or belief on the addressee. The examples of that function can be seen in D5, D10, D12, D18, D19, D21, D24, D25, D30, D38, and D39. All of the data are tag questions because the utterances above indicate that males and females want to make the audience agree with their opinion.

In this case, some utterances that use tag question by rising their intonation to get more attention from their audiences such in D24, D25 and use lexical hedges to show that the speaker was not certain with their statement so that to avoid making a definite statement and mitigate the bad reaction from the listeners like in D39. Meanwhile, other utterance uses intensifier like in D30 to strengthen the speaker's statement by emphasizing the meaning of the statement so that it raised the listener's attention and took seriously the speaker statement. The example of tag question in the utterance "Playing traditional game tents to cause injure. *doesn't it?*" indicates that he wants to make the audience agree with his opinion while rising his intonation to get attention from the audiences that playing traditional game tents to cause injury.

Lakoff (1975) said that rising intonation is used by a woman more than a man. They sometimes rise their intonation by politely sound than men. In this research, the researcher also found the same thing with Lakoff (1975) that women used more than men by politely sound. It can be seen in the table above that man used three times meanwhile woman used seven times.

The function of using rising intonation is to make sure or to seek agreement from the listeners. The speaker raised his intonation similar to the question meanwhile the form of the sentence is declarative. So that sentence has question intonation. The aim of using rising intonation is to get confirmation from the listeners about a certain idea which the speakers state. The speaker raised his intonation to give stressing so that it can evoke the audience's attention that the audience will consider that the question is an important thing to be concerned about. The examples of that function can be seen in D6, D8, D11, D23, D24, D25, D28, D29, D36, and D41. All of the data are raising intonation because the utterances above indicate that males and females want to get attention more from the audiences.

There some utterances use tag question to ask agreement from the listener such as in D24, D25 and also other using a super polite form as respecting each other like in D29, meanwhile in D28 using super polite form by intensifying his utterance such as in D28 to strengthen speaker's statement by emphasizing the meaning of the statement so that it raised the listener's attention and they took seriously the speaker statement. As the example in the utterance "Did the punishment of the children have already had rehabilitation first? and why we have to do the rehabilitation first?". The utterance indicates speech features as rising intonation because declarative sentence are used by using a question. The aim of using rising intonation is to get confirmation from the audience about the certain idea which is stated by the speaker. The speaker raises her intonation while uttered the sentences to give the stressing so that it can evoke the audience's attention so that the audience will consider that the question is something important to be concerned about. In this case, the female using rising intonation to confirm whether her assumption is valid or not, she asks some questions since she is not sure that her audience accepts her assumption. By asking confirmation through the use of rising intonation, it can avoid bad reactions from the audience since it will mitigate the feeling of uncertainly.

Lakoff (1975) said that lexical hedges are used by a woman more than a man. They use hedges to mitigate the possible unfriendliness or unkindness of their statement. In this research, the researcher also found the same thing with Lakoff (1975) that women used more than men. It can be seen in the table above that man used three meanwhile woman used seven times.

A lexical hedge is the third feature used by men and women in BPEC at fort Rotterdam. This research found that hedge had some function, pause device to avoid making a definite statement so that it can lessen the impact of the statement. The use of hedge terms such as *I know* has the function to show that the speaker was not sure with their statement to avoid making a definite statement and mitigates the bad reaction from the listeners. It also shows the expression of doubt which indicates sensitivity to others' feelings and also has a function to get attention to make someone believe about what is said. So, the examples of that function can be seen in D2, D3, D13, D15, D16, D17, D26, D33, D35, D39, and D40. All of the data are lexical hedges because the utterances above indicate that males and females reflect a lack of confidence to audiences about their utterances.

One of the data found using lexical hedges by tag question to get agreement from her audiences like in D39 and other using lexical hedges by super polite form as respecting each other such as in D26 and D40. Example of the utterance: "*I think* if the children have rehabilitation and education they will be very useful for them. Who knows what will happen in the future?. The speaker tends to use hedges to avoid making a

definite statement since the speaker does not sure about his statement. The word “*I think*” indicates that the speaker uncertain about the statement.

Lakoff (1975) said that intensifier is used by a woman more than a man. They used intensifiers to avoid making a strong statement of their utterances. This research has provided Lakoff's theory (1975). The researcher also found that women used more than men. It can be seen in the table above where a man used twice meanwhile woman used four times.

The intensifier is the fourth feature found in this research. There was some intensifiers term uses by men and women in BPEC at fort Rotterdam such us just, really, and so. In this case, there were some functions of intensifiers. The main function of intensifiers was to intensify the statement, yet it could be more specific. An intensifier could be used to strengthen the speaker's statement by emphasizing the meaning of the statement so that it raised the listener's attention and they took the speaker's statement seriously. The function exists when the intensifiers' term comes in the middle of the sentence and some adjectives that follow the term. An intensifier is used to strengthen or emphasizing the utterance. The examples of that function can be seen in D7, D9, D28, D30, D32, D34. All of the data are intensifier because the utterances above indicate that males and females want to emphasize certain opinions.

There are some variations in an utterance like in D28 where the utterance uses intensifier by raising her intonation to get attention for audiences and in D30 using tag question to get agreement from their listener about her statement D32 using the emphatic street to show her salute. Example in the utterance "They *just* want to play the game by their judged". The sentence that is uttered reflects as an intensifier. It was proven from the existence of work "*just*" in the sentence. Intensifiers are used to emphasize certain opinions. To emphasize the opinion, some people use the device to strengthen the meaning of her utterance. The word "*just*" has a function to intensify the utterance.

The word "*just*" shows speech features as an intensifier. She uses intensifiers because she thinks that otherwise she will not be heard. The use of intensifier is used to make the addressee knows the strong feeling of the speaker. The utterance indicates that females persuade and strengthen the audiences by intensifying the utterance, she wants to convince them to hear her seriously about what she said, so she hopes they will agree her thought.

Lakoff (1975) said that emphatic stress is used by a woman more than a man. They usually use that to emphasize their utterance or strengthen the meaning of their utterances. This research has provided Lakoff's theory (1975). It can be seen in the table above where the research did not find a man using this type, meanwhile, the researcher just found that woman used it once.

Women tend to use emphatic stress of words which are used to emphasize the utterance or strengthen the meaning of an utterance. For example, it was a brilliant show. The word brilliant is one of the examples of emphatic stress.

According to Lakkof (1975), women use hedging devices to express uncertainly and use intensifying devices to persuade their addressee to take them seriously. Women boost the force of their utterance because they think that they will not be heard or paid attention. Both hedges and boosters reflect women's lack of confidence.

The examples of that function can be seen in D32, where this type is only found once in the discussion. The data is emphatic stress because the utterances above indicate that female shows her salute of the opinion uttered by the last speaker.

Example in utterance: "It is a *very* good idea". In utterance reflects speech features as emphatic stress. It is a kind of emphatic stress form as her salute to the speaker because she has shared her good idea. The utterance above indicates that the female feels happy because she gets more opinion from her.

Lakoff (1975) said that the super polite form is used by a woman more than a man. They usually use that to thank and request something politely. Lakoff's theory (1975) has been provided by this research. It can be seen in the table above where the research found that man used four times meanwhile woman used seven times.

The men and women showed their aspect of politeness by using politeness terms such as thanking, and polite request. The first is that thanking is used to show their respect to the other people involved in their speech, and it showed that they consider their behavior and always attempted to behave like each other. There is also an indirect request showed in the utterance that can be classified as super polite form such as, will you?. Based on this explanation, super polite form was applied in speech features to show their identity that women tended to speak politely to create an impression that women were concerned more about their behavior rather than men. The examples of that function can be seen in D1, D4, D14, D20, D22, D26, D27, D29, D31, D37, D40. All of the data are in super polite form because the utterances above indicate that males and females show their respect for each other speaker.

There some utterances here use more than one types, such as in D26 where she uses super polite form by lexical hedges to show the expression of doubt which indicates sensitivity to the others feeling and also has a function to get attention to make someone believe about what is said and in D29 utters by super polite form and rising intonation to get more attention from audiences. Meanwhile, in D40 she uses super polite form by lexical hedges to show the expression of doubt which indicates sensitivity to the others' feeling and also has a function to get attention to make someone believe about what is said. Example in utterance: "*Thank* you miss Adiba". In utterance reflects speech features as super polite form. It is kind of a super polite form concerning the speaker because she has shared her idea. The utterance above indicates that the male feels happy because she gets more opinion from her. The reason for using the super polite form is related to his respect for the speaker because she has shared her opinion about the underage criminal.

According to Lakoff (1975), all types of speech features are used by women more than men, but the researcher has analyzed two types found men used more than women: tag question and lexical hedges. They were influenced by certain factors such as the topic being more interesting for men than women, so that the men spoke more than women, they enjoyed the talk about that and were a flashback to their childhood each other. The researcher thinks this research giving the best experience that the researcher can learn and find the kinds of speech features by Lakoff theory (1975) and direct experience, especially in the discussion. But the certain factors can influence why the researcher did not find all types of speech features because this is a discussion forum that is limited by time, influenced by topic and this is choosing session where the moderator will choose whom more exciting in the topic. So that, the researcher puts only one sentence in each datum because this is a discussion forum and it will different with film, novel, or other conversation where people will speak freely without certain topic and limited time.

#### **4. Conclusion**

This article contained studies on how the language used differently between men and women in BPEC at Fort Rotterdam and related to Lakoff theory features. After conducting research, researchers may conclude that women and men have the

differences in using speech expression. The researchers found 50 data from analysis. Based on the data, researcher did not find all types of women's speech features. Based on Lakoff's theory, there are ten types of speech features but the researcher only find six of them. They are tag question, rising intonation, lexical hedge, intensifier, emphatic stress, and super polite form. Likewise with man, the researcher only found five of them. They are tag question, rising intonation, lexical hedges, intensifier, and super polite form.

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