

Research article

The Analysis of Man and Woman Main Character's in Movie "Music and Lyric" Based on Women's Language Features Theories

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Abstract.

Language is not limited in one aspect but reach out almost all the aspects and features that are intended to bring out the meaning of the language itself. Therefore, this study was analyzed woman and man main characters' language in movie "Music and Lyric" by using women's language features by Lak off (1975) while also counted number of features that spoken by woman and man main characters and compare them to find out the phenomena that happened in this movie. In addition, this study also analyzed the factors of that phenomena. The data were taken and collected from woman and man main characters' conversation in movie "Music and lyric" in order to find out the women's language features that spoken by them. The women's language features that proposed by Lak off that used to analyze the man and woman main characters in that movie are lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance strong swear words and also emphatic stress. While the factor that caused the phenomena happened was analyzed by using Coates Theories (1986) such as: Social status, subordinate groups, prestige and stigma, social network and the acquisition of sex differential language.

Keywords: man, woman, sex, language features, women's language features

1. INTRODUCTION

Human is the most perfect God's creatures. They are created differently which both of men and women have their own characteristics which also appear in their language used. The differences are not always realized but sometimes they lead to a great misunderstanding between men and women. The differences between men and women's language are in the area of pronunciation and morphology to vocabulary with some attention to syntactic construction. Coates (1986) states in different social context an individual will speak in different way. This is call syntax variation. In addition, Romaine (2003) mentions when the variation on the speech between individuals was viewed against the background of the community as the whole, it was not random, but rather

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condition by social factors such as social class, age, sex, and style in predictable ways. Moreover, the linguists claimed that female are more linguistically polite than male and both male and female emphasize different speech function (Holmes, 1992). It is found that male and female often use different linguistic form and address term in speaking even in the same speech community. There are also said that women tend to use standard form to prestigious form while men tend to use vernacular form which does not have social status and not as the correct form.

Linguistic in gender category has several differences which is socially undesirable consequences. There are many ways in which woman's and man's differing understanding of how conversation interaction works can lead to miscommunication. Miscommunication between adult speakers in mixed communication assumes that women and men talk differently and have different rules for conversation because they belong to different subcultures (Coates, 1986). The use of the standard were might be seen as yet another reflection of women in the public sphere. This interpretation accorded well with one of the assumption made by early gender scholars such as Lakoff (1975), who saw women's language as the "language of powerless" a reflection of their subordinate place in relation to men. However, O'barr and Atkins (1980) finding that some of the features thought to be part of "women language" were also used by males when in the subordinate position. O'barr and Atkins's statement is supported by Coates theory (1986) about factors causing women to use standard forms. She stated that there are factors that cause women to use more standard forms than men. They are the social status, subordinate group, prestige and stigma, convert prestige, status and solidarity, social network, the accusation of sex differential language. From among those researchers, Lakoff (1975) proposed theories on the existence of women's language. Her book 'language and Women's place' has served as a basis for much research on the subject. She mentioned that ten features for women's language. These are; lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjective, prestige color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

Gender language is very interesting to be studied as it is related to the variation of gender, which is the main parameter in the language used. Studied about men and women language features in the old and cultural movies have given result particularly as the linguists purposed. However modernization may give different influence between men and women language features since it increased the women state in social domain. This study analyzed men and women language and their function while compared them

quantitatively by using Lakoff theories about ten women's language features in the movie "Music and Lyric."

2. METHOD

This study used 'Music and Lyric' movie as the data source. The researcher in this research using the method of descriptive to analyze the data according to Moleong (1995) states that descriptive qualitative research is defined as the qualitative research, a type of research which does not include any calculation or enumerating, where descriptive qualitative research seeks to provide this picture or the sentence using data in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The data was taken from the conversation used in the dialogues in the movie "Music and Lyric" and also the original script of the movie which had been published in the internet. This movie was chosen as the data source in this study because it contained many conversations between woman and man main characters either in formal or informal situation. This movie was a modern movie which there was not great social distance appear man main character and woman main character. There were some steps taken in collecting the data. The movie and the original script were downloaded from the internet. Then listen the conversation of woman and man main characters in the movie while also making the conversation if it used women's language features. The women's language features that used by the man and woman main characters were analyzed using theory by Lakoff (1975). Then the reason of man and woman main characters using the women's language features were analyzed by using theories proposed by Coates (1986).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of Women's Language Features used by Man and Woman main Character

1. Lexical Hedges or Fillers

According to Lakoff (1975) lexical hedges or fillers devices explicitly signal lack of confidence. It is used to devices to express uncertainty.

1. Woman as Main Character

Miss Fisher: Well, not everybody, Illiteracy is a growing epidemic in this country. From the conversation above it showed that Miss Fisher was not certain about what she said when Mr. Fletcher asked her whether she has done any writing.

1. Man, as main Character

Mr. Fletcher: But then, after, you know, Month of brooding... I would find a lyricist. It's also happened to Mr. Fletcher in conversation above in for strengthen his assertion.

1. Tag Question

Tag question is a syntactic advice which may express uncertainty. The aim of tag question in a conversation is for give the addressee leeway, not forcing him to go along with the speaker

1. Woman as Main Character

Miss-Fisher you didn't actually like that orgasm set to the Gandhi soundtrack, did you? The conversation above was appeared between Miss Fisher and Mr. Fletcher when they saw Cora sang 'the way back to love' with her version. Miss Fisher actually did not the version because it destroyed the soul of the song. She used question tag put her opinion in polite way.

1. Man, as Main Character Mr. Fletcher: Now, that's a nice melody, isn't it?

The conversation above appeared when Mr. Fletcher showed the melody that made by Miss Fisher. He used tag question because he did not sure that she would agree his statement or not.

1. Rising Intonation on Declarative

According to lakoff (!975) rising intonation on declaratives are used when the speaker is seeking for confirmation, though at the same time the speaker may be the only one who has the requisite information.

1. Woman as Main Character

Miss Fisher: So, why did Pop break up? I mean, Rhonda told me that you guys were friends growing up? Miss Fisher asked Mr. Fletcher why Pop broke up since she knows that Alex Fletcher and Colin were close friend that growing up together. Therefore, for making confirmation, she asked Mr. Fletcher with using rising intonation on declaratives.

- Man, as Main Character

Mr. Fletcher: You stole some poor woman's dress?

Miss Fisher asked Alex about what worst part of the last night battle between Sloan Cotes and him. Because He didn't sure but He tried to answer Miss Fisher question that

the worst part was you stole some poor woman's dress. And He used rising intonation on declarative for seeking confirmation.

1. Empty Adjective

The use of 'empty adjective is to show the speaker's approbation or admiration to something.

1. Woman Main Character

Miss Fisher: A very nice picture, though. That's funny. Interestingly enough, I Mean, well, it is a bookstore. Those Miss Fisher utterance appeared when she and Mr. Fletcher went out to have breakfast. But suddenly she saw something that she guessed was Sloan, her ex-boyfriend. However, it was just a book store with Sloan's new book in the shop window. She used the 'empty' adjective because she felt the idea refer to essentially frivolous, trivial or something that can make the speaker amuse

1. Man, as Main Character

Mr. Fletcher: That would be lovely. I have a few tunes.

Cora who was one of Alex's fans wanted him to make a new song for her. So they could sing the song together in Cora's new album. Alex was so excited and happy therefore he showed his admiration with empty word 'lovely'.

1. Precise Color Term

Precise color terms relate with women's specific interest to that when women used the precise color term, they may purpose to show women are good in their own field. However, from the whole conversation between Miss Fisher and Mr. Fletcher there was no precise color term features found.

1. Intensifier

Intensive adverb or boosting devices can be used to strengthen assertion. It is also used to hedge on one's feeling and to show strong emotions.

1. Woman as Main Character

Miss Fisher: I know. I made too big a deal out of it. It's just that I hate infections. When Miss Fisher was doing her part time job at Mr. Fletcher apartment accidentally her finger stabbed by cactus spine. She asked to go home early to have a band aid and antibiotic cream. She used the intensifier 'just' to persuade Alex that she was serious.

1. Man, as Main Character

Mr. Fletcher: You'll be fine. Just use your normal nice voice that I've heard so much of in the last three days. The conversation above happened when Alex persuades Sophie that she will be fine. He used intensifier 'so' to express a strong emotion, so Miss Fisher would believe it.

1. Hypercorrect Grammar

Hypercorrectness in grammar functioned to show politeness in utterance and can also make distance between the speaker and addressee.

1. Woman as Main Character

Miss Fisher: Should I speak to you about this later? Okay. In this conversation Sophie asked Alex's opinion about some word that she thought need changed but Alex did not care since He was still busy to arrange the music melody. Therefore, in this case Sophie asked Alex carefully because she was afraid to disturb him. The word 'should' in the conversation was a kind of politeness in utterance that can make distance between the speaker and the addressee.

1. Man, Main Character

Mr. Fletcher: Right. I'll get the waiter. Would you like the dessert cart as well?

Look, this is ridiculous. This conversation happened in the women's restroom in the restaurant where Sophie hid from Sloan Cotes, his ex-boyfriend. When Alex approached her in the restroom, Sophie asked him to send her a salad and ice tea to the restroom then Alex asked her carefully whether she wanted a dessert cart also. It was a joke but Alex used hypercorrect grammar to show politeness in utterance.

1. Super Polite Forms

'Super' polite form is relating to hypercorrect grammar. It functioned to show politeness. Women are supposed to be carefully to say 'please' and 'thank you' and to approve the other social conventions.

1. Woman as Main Character

Miss Fisher: I'm sorry. I shouldn't get involved. I have no filtering system. When Alex and Greg were discussing a song lyric for Cora, Sophie sang a random lyric but unexpectedly the lyric was appropriated with the new song entitled the way back

to love. It made Greg mad. Then Sophie said her appologize using superpolite form 'soory' in order to reduce friction in personal interaction.

1. Man, as Main Character

Mr. Fletcher: Thank You very much. Thanks. Please. This is it's just a little something that you might possibly recognize. This conversation happened when Alex handled the CD with the new song that Cora requested. He said the super polite form 'thank you' because He thanked Cora She wanted to hear the song however He was quite afraid that she would not like the song. In this case super polite form 'thank you' was used for indirect request and euphemism in his statement.

1. The Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

The difference between using strong swear words lied in how forcefully on says how one's feels-choice of particle was a function of how strongly one allows oneself to feel about something, so that the strength of the emotion conveyed in a sentence corresponded to the strength of the particle.

1. Woman Main Character

Miss Fisher : Oh My God, you're one of them Alex asked Sophie whether she knew Pop or not. At first, She didn't aware that Alex one of them until she looked Pop poster on his wall. The word 'oh my God' indicated that she was very surprise with that fact. She used that word to still represented strong emotion but still not rough.

1. Man Main Character

Mr. Fletcher : My God, I've suffered for my art. No, the thing that really hurts is my upper gum.

Mr. Fletcher stated that speech after he got fight with Sloan Cates. Because of that fight, his hip hurt. Actually it was not caused ny the battle but by doing his Pop dance. He used word 'Oh God' to showed that he was feeling so sick of his hurting hip. However rather than using rough words, he tend to use more polite word.

1. Emphatic Stress

An emphatic stress is another way to express uncertainty about what women have asserted (Lakoff :1975).

1. Woman Main Character

Miss Fisher: 'She was a brilliant mimic' you know

This conversation happened when Alex and Sophie took a walk and suddenly, she was surprised by a bookstore full of Sloan pictures and his new book. Then she told him that she was Sally Michael, the main character of the novel. Sloan, his ex-boyfriend just used her to be his main character in his novel which haunted her when she picked up pen for doing a writing because according to Sloan, Sally was a brilliant mimic that can ape Dorothy Parker or Emily Dickinson. She used the word 'brilliant' which was kind of emphatic stress to emphasize her judgement.

1. Man Main Character

Mr. Fletcher: And it is amazingly difficult to find a sane lyricist. This conversation appeared when Alex asked Sophie to be his lyricist because he thought Greg was not sane enough to be a lyricist. He used word 'amazingly' to emphasize his judgment on the song in the positive politeness. Therefore, he hope he could persuade Sophie to agree to be his lyricist.

Comparing the frequency of Women Language Features spoken by Man and Woman Main Characters

There was said that woman tend to used standard form to prestigious form, while men tend used vernacular form, which does not have social status and not as the correct form, however O'Barr and Atkins's (1980) finding that some of the features thought to be part of 'woman language' were also used by males when in the subordinate position. O'barr and Atkins statemen was shown in 'Music and Lyric' movie that women's language features were not only used by woman main character but aso by the man main character in this movie. In this movie almost all of the woman's language features were spoken by the man main character whie in contradiction most of the features were used more often by the man main character rather than the woman main character. This is interesting phenomena indicated that the man main character was more unconfident and powerless in the society rather than the woman main character. He was in the subordinate class in his society because from the story we knew that he was a singger that was not popular again.

Analyzing the Factors of Phenomena that Found in the 'Music and Lyric' Movie by Using Coates (1986) Theories

1. Social Status

The two main characters which is analyzed in this study were not only different in the sex but also in the social status. Their community background was different each other.

Mr. Alex Fletcher was a singer that had passed his era and not famous again, however he was still a singer that involved in the broadcasting area. Because of that he had to manage his language and used standard language since he used rough language to the people in his society. Therefore, he had become accustomed using Standard English language. In other hand, Miss Sophie Fisher, the woman main character in this movie was Miss Sophie Fisher was a common people. She did not have particular social status that forced her to use Standard English. Although in this movie she did not speak rough but she used less formal language rather than the man character in this movie. In addition, her occupation also supported her that she involves with many common persons in her society in which most of them were using vernacular language as their solidarity language.

1. Subordinate Groups

Looking for this movie we could not say that the woman main character was a subordinate since both of the woman main character and the man main character were important. However, from the story we knew that Alex Fletcher, the man main character in this movie rally needed a lyricist to make a lyric for his new song that Cora request. In other word, it can be said that Mr. Alex Fletcher had bigger necessity rather than the woman main characters. Because of that reason he had to be polite and did not speak rough to Miss Fisher because he wanted to give positive image to her.

1. Prestige and Stigma

Mr. Alex Fletcher, the man main character in this character in this movie was a singer, he related with the broadcasting area. Mr. Fletcher's occupation required him use standard language. He should watch over his language since he was in the high-class community. If he spoke rough, it would fall his prestige. In other to show that he was come from the high social class, he used standard language form. While the woman main character in this movie could not be said using a rough language. It was just her language less formal than the man main character.

1. Convert Prestige

This factor was not working in this movie since the characters did not come from working people class. In addition, Mr. Alex Fletcher, the man main character in this movie could not speak vernacular language or rough language since he was working in the broadcasting area. While although Miss Sophie Fisher, the woman main character in this movie was just a common people but she was not also a kind of working, class

people. Furthermore, from all of the main characters conversation in the movie, there was not found the rough language that spoken by the woman main character because she still attached by norm in society that have to be using polite language for other people.

1. Status and Solidarity

Vernacular language was usually used for showing solidarity to mark their membership that came from the same group. The vernacular language could not use in the main characters' conversation in this movie since both of them came from different social class. Furthermore, they never met before and did not know each other. It would be strange and not polite if they spoke rough. Because both of them were living in the urban area, they use Prestigious Pronunciation (RP) that had more prestige than the regular accents.

1. Social Network

There is a unique phenomenon that happened in 'Music and Lyric' Movie in that the man main character used more polite and standard English language than the woman main character. These phenomena were uncommon since experts said that women tend to use more Standard English language rather than men. The social network also gave influence for these phenomena. According to Coates (1986) Men's speech in many speech communities is closer to the vernacular than women's and we can see that it is the close-knit social network to which men have traditionally belonged which serve to maintain vernacular speech form. Women's speech then is closer to standard form not because women are deliberately aiming at standard English but because the less tight-knit network which belong to are less efficient at enforcing vernacular norms. However, the man main character in this movie did not have opportunity to speak vernacular since his occupation and social background did not support it. He had tight knit social network where he belong was less efficient at enforcing vernacular norms. In addition, the woman main character in this movie had a bigger opportunity to connect with people that use vernacular language since she was coming from common people that was close knit social network.

1. The Acquisition of Sex Differentiated Language

The man main character in this movie was not like other common men that tend to used vernacular language. Although the main characters childhood was not explained in this movie but from the conversation of the characters. We knew that the man main

character had become accustomed using standard language since he had entered broadcasting when he was a child. It showed by the conversation between Mr. Alex Fletcher and Cora Corman below. Miss Corman: Mr. Fletcher, it's a pleasure. Your song 'Dance with Me Tonight' got me through my parents' divorce when I was 7 Mr. Fletcher: really Wow. Yeah, because I recorded that when I was 9 years. From the conversation above we saw that Alex Fletcher had entered broadcasting area since he was very young. Therefore, his childhood had been influenced by his occupation where he had to manage his language with using standard language, polite language for show that he came from the high community class. Although the woman main character in this movie did not use formal language as Alex, but her language was not rough. It might be caused that as a woman she had to manage her language and also because it was not proper if women spoke rough in the society, in addition, she was also babysit his cousins that made her to use the proper language because she was a role model for her cousins. It's showed in the conversation between Alex and Sophie below: Mr. Fletcher: Well, we could just kick some idea around, report the focus Miss Fisher: I don't think so. I appreciate the offer, though. I have to go babysit for my sister now. I mean her kids. She's 38 now, so. Thank you

4. CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the study, it could be concluded that there are nine women's language features proposed by Lakoff (1975) spoken by the man and woman main character in movie 'Music and Lyric'. They were: Lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, 'empty' adjective, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words and emphatic stress. The 'precise color term' was not found in this movie either spoke by the woman main character or man main character. There was an interesting phenomenon that happened in this study where the man main character used women's language feature more often than the woman main character. The factor caused this phenomenon were social status, subordinate groups, prestige and stigma, social network and the acquisition of sex differential language.

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