

**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE FEATURES FOUND IN
LEGALLY BLONDE MOVIE: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS**



THESIS

**Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciencies, Hasanuddin University in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English
Department**

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MAKASSAR**

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With reference to the letter of the Dean of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 1664/UN4.9.1/KEP/2021 on the 26th August 2021 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm approve the thesis draft by Nazila Auliya Nisa (F041181331) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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THESIS

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on 28th January
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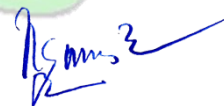
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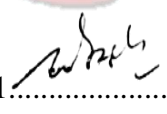

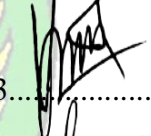
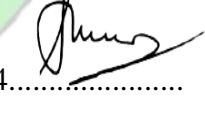
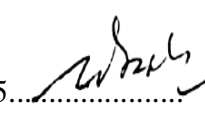
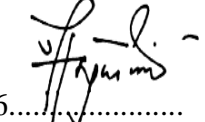
Today, 28th January 2022, The Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **NAZILA AULIYA NISA** (F041181331) entitled:

**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE FEATURES FOUND IN
LEGALLY BLONDE MOVIE: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS**

Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Degree at English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 28th January 2022

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DECLARATION

This thesis by **NAZILA AULIYA NISA** (F041181331) entitled, **GENDER DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE FEATURES FOUND IN LEGALLY BLONDE MOVIE: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS** has been revised as advised during examination on 28th January 2022 and approved by The Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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STATEMENT LETTER

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotation and references.

Makassar, 28th January 2022



Nazila Auliya Nisa

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All praises belong to Allah for his mercies and blessing so that I can conduct this research and finish my thesis entitled Gender Differences in Language Feature Found in Legally Blonde Movie: A Sociolinguistics Analysis as the requirements to obtain sarjana degree. Sholawat and Salam are delivered to the Prophet Muhammad SAW who has guided his followers to Islam.

My first gratitude goes to my thesis advisor, Prof. Dr. Noer Jihad Saleh, M.A., and Drs. Husain Hasyim, M.Hum who has patiently guided and spared the time to help me in writing this thesis. Then, I would like to thank all the lecturers in English Department who had given me the precious knowledge.

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Last, as a human being, I can not avoid making mistakes in writing the thesis. Therefore, I expect endless suggestions and construction for the better of this research and I hope this thesis can be beneficial for us.

Makassar, September 2021

Authors,

Nazila Auliya Nisa

ABSTRAK

Nazila Auliya Nisa. 2021. Perbedaan Gender dalam Fitur Bahasa yang Digunakan dalam Film *Legally Blonde*: Analisis Sociolinguistik. (Dibimbing oleh **Noer Jihad Saleh** dan **Husain Hasyim**).

Penelitian ini bertujuan mempelajari fitur bahasa pada wanita dan pria. Penelitian ini juga bermaksud untuk mengetahui fungsi tiap-tiap fitur bahasa dilihat dari tujuan penggunaan fitur tersebut oleh masing-masing karakter. Frekuensi dari fitur bahasa juga dibahas untuk menemukan perbandingan dari penggunaan fitur dari kedua gender.

Jenis penelitian yang dilakukan adalah penelitian campuran yang merupakan gabungan antara penelitian kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Ucapan-ucapan dari seluruh karakter dalam film *Legally Blonde* menjadi data dalam penelitian ini. Peneliti menggunakan tabel observasi untuk membantu mengumpulkan data untuk menjawab rumusan masalah pertama. Untuk mengetahui jumlah dan persentase masing-masing fitur yang digunakan, peneliti membuat sebuah formulasi. Sementara itu, peneliti juga menggunakan buku, jurnal, dan artikel yang sesuai untuk menjawab pertanyaan kedua.

Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada sembilan dari sepuluh fitur bahasa wanita kecuali *precise color terms* digunakan. Fitur tersebut adalah *lexical hedges*, *tag questions*, *rising intonation on declaratives*, *empty adjectives*, *intensifiers*, *hypercorrect grammar*, *superpolite*, *avoidance of strong swear words*, dan *emphatic stress*. Selain itu, hasil penelitian dari penggunaan fitur bahasa pria menunjukkan bahwa ada lima fitur yang diucapkan. Fitur tersebut adalah *minimal responses*, *questions*, *command and directives*, *swearing and taboo language*, dan *compliments*. Fitur bahasa pria *theme* tidak ditemukan dalam penelitian ini. Selanjutnya peneliti juga mengidentifikasi fungsi dari setiap fitur bahasa.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa, gender, fitur bahasa wanita, fitur bahasa pria.

ABSTRACT

Nazila Auliya Nisa. 2021. Gender Differences in Language Features Found In Legally Blonde Movie: A Sociolinguistic Analysis. (Supervised by **Noer Jihad Saleh** and **Husain Hasyim**).

This study aims to investigate women's and men's language features. This research also intends to find out the functions of each feature by seeing the purpose of using the features by each character. The frequency of features is also discussed to find out the comparison of applying features by both genders.

The type of research conducted was mixed research which was the combination of qualitative and quantitative research. The sentences of all characters in the Legally Blonde movie were the data of this research. The researcher used an observation checklist to help gather the data to answer the first research question To find the amount and percentage of each feature used, the researcher created a formulation. Meanwhile, the researcher also used suitable books, journals, and articles to answer the second question.

The findings of this research shows that there are nine out of ten features of women's language features except precise color terms are used. They are lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Besides, the results of men's language features show that there are five features used. They are minimal responses, questions, command and directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments. The men's language feature theme is absent. The researcher also identifies the functions of each language features.

Keywords: Language, gender, women's language features, men's language features.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

L/F	: Lexical Hedges/ Fillers
TQ	: Tag Questions
RI	: Rising Intonation
EA	: Empty Adjectives
PCT	: Precise Color Terms
I	: Intensifiers
HG	: Hypercorrect Grammar
S	: Superpolite
AS	: Avoidance of Strong Swear Words
ES	: Emphatic Stress
MR	: Minimal Response
Q	: Question
CD	: Command and Directives
ST	: Swearing and Taboo Language
C	: Compliments
T	: Theme

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six-part. The first part is background of the study which introduces the background information of topic chosen. After the research background, identification of the problems is constructed to help the researcher focus on the problem which needs to be solved. The following part is scope of the study to centralize and limits the research. The next part is research question which should be answered and obtain in this study. Afterward, objective of the study is expected to present the aims. At the end of this chapter, significance of the study is formulated to show the benefits of the study.

A. Background of The Study

Since language is a communication tool that we use in everyday living, language become an important aspect of society. The use of language and its society have a close connection. However, the study which focuses on the relationship between language and society is sociolinguistics. In this branch of study, all aspects of society which gives an effect on language is learned, and one of them is called gender.

Gender is not only about men and women with their body and appearances, but also their differences which are given by their society. In everyday living, people do not aware that jobs, responsibilities, and rules are taking effect on language styles. Later on, these language styles become a

characteristic of men and women to speak with their circumstances. We also call these language styles as language features.

Language features used by men and women are different. When men are talking, they look manly and confident. Whereas women look soft and sweet. We also assume that women are more talkative than men. This may be due to their roles in society. Women usually work as bank tellers, food servants, and secretaries. These women's occupations are associated with services that make them speak more softly. While men take jobs as managers, heads of companies, and police. It establishes a strong personality in them. Nevertheless, they may switch their roles which effect on language features used because nowadays women are works as a boss and also men work in public services.

On this day, gender equality requires women's ability to obtain the same rights, including how they speak. This phenomenon leads the writer to conduct this research entitled Gender Differences in Language Feature Found in Legally Blonde Movie. The film is chosen because it has a background about real life in university and office life. In addition, this film is also considered to have a language feature that is used by men and women in their conversations.

Moreover, although men and women are aware of their roles in society, they do not have any concern that they have different language features. While watching the movie, the writer faces difficulties in identifying the language features, due to her unawareness of them. Besides, she also finds some misconception scenes in the Legally Blonde movie since the characters lack

knowledge about the function of a language feature. Therefore, this research is conducted to answer these problems.

B. Identification of The Problem

From the previous background of the study, there are four problems that are constructed:

1. In Legally Blonde movie, the characters used language features. However the writer is having difficulty in identifying that features.
2. Due to the characters's unawareness of the function of language features, there are some misunderstanding scenes on the movie.
3. While watching movie, people do not have any concerns towards the language features and its function that performs by the characters.
4. Since gender equalities happen, men and women able to switch their job and roles in society which may take effect on their language features.

C. Scope of The Study

The scope of the study is analyzing the language feature used by men and women on Legally Blonde movie. The researcher focuses on the six aspect of men's language feature proposed by Coates 2004 and ten aspect of women language feature by Lakoff 1973. Beside, the researcher also identifies the purposes of using certain language feature by men and women on Legally Blonde movie.

D. Research Question

In this research, there are two main questions that are formulated based on the research background into the following questions:

1. What are the kinds of language feature used by men and women on Legally Blonde movie (2001)?
2. What are the purposes of using certain language feature on men and Women on Legally Blonde movie (2001)?

E. Objective of the Study

In this section, the writer presents two main objectives to show the aims of the study which are:

1. To investigate kind of language feature used by men and women on Legally Blonde movie.
2. To describe the purpose of using certain language feature on men and women on Legally Blonde movie.

F. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this study will be beneficial both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study aims to increase the reader's knowledge regarding the differences in language features used by men and women. Practically, the researcher hopes this study can be useful and advantageous for future researchers regarding language features especially for the students of the English Department in Hasanuddin University which is interested in Gender in Sociolinguistics study.

CHAPTER II

THEOTORICAL BACKGROUND

The second chapter consists of two sections, which are previews related studies and theoretical background. The first section presents some reviews of previous similar research. The researcher found five studies that focus on language features. Moreover, in order to show the relationship between one theory to the others, theoretical frameworks are presented in the next section.

A. Previous Related Studies

The first research was Gender and Speech in a Disney Princess Movie conducted by Azmi, N.J., Radzuwan Ab Rashid, Mairas Abd. Rahman, and Safawati Basirah, Z. The study focus on Frozen (2013) movie. The researcher used Lakoff (1975) to analyzed the data. From ten language feature that proposed by Lakoff (1975), the researcher only discussed four language feature. They were hedges, empty adjective, intensifier, and questions. The most used language feature is questions. The researcher also found that the most uttered by female characters were empty adjectives and hedges. While the male characters also used the women language features.

The second research was Tri Puspa Juwita, Dyah Sunggingwati, and Nita Maya Valiantien with the title The Differences between Men and Women's Language in The Devil Wears Prada Movie. The researcher used Coates (2004) to investigate men's language features and Lakoff quoted by Holmes (2003) about women's language. The focus of this research was the language features found in

dialogue by characters on *The Devil Wears Prada* Movie. The finding showed that men characters used four of six men's language features. The two features, compliments and theme about current affairs, travel, and spot did not use. The researcher also found that women characters performed seven of ten women's language features except rising intonation on declarative, hypercorrect grammar, and emphatic stress. They also mentioned that men and women characters in *The Devil Wears Prada* movie did not consistently use their language features based on their gender.

The third research was *Comparison of Sexist Language Used in The Twilight Saga Eclipse Movie* by Ni WayanAyuSanti. This studies analyzed the language feature used Lakoff (1973) to analyzed women language feature, Holmes (1992) to investigate men language features, and Coates (1986) to distinguish the differences between men and women language feature. The researcher found in *The Twilight Saga Eclipse* movie, the women characters was uttered nine women language features except precise color terms proposed by Lakof (1973). While the men character only performed two of six language features by Holmes (1992). They are used ungrammatical form and swearing or taboo language feature. The researcher also analyzed the differences between women's and men's language used Coates (1986). He found that both characters used verbosity, the use of tag questions, questions, command and directive, and also used swearing words or taboo language. He also mentioned that men and women characters in *The Twilight Saga Eclipse* movie did not consistently used their language features based on their gender.

The fourth research was The Analysis of Women and Men Language Feature on America's Got Talent by BayuAnggara Putra and Prayuda. The researcher analyzed the women language feature by Lakoff theory (2004) and men language feature by Coates (2004). The researcher focus on men and women language feature by the judges in America's Got Talent 2018. They found that the female judges performed six of ten women language features. They were lexical hedges, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, intensifiers, super polite forms, and emphatic stress. From the six languages that mentioned, the most female language features frequently used were lexical hedges, intensifiers, and emphatic stress. While the men judges performed three of six language features, they are direct forms, interrupt, and swear words. The most frequently used was direct form.

The fifth research was Women's Language Used by Female Characters in the Movie How to be Single by Ni KetutPutriNilaSudewi and NyomanSedeng. The focus of the study was the language features found in dialogue by main and supporting characters on How to be Single Movie. The researcher analyzed the data used Lakoff (1975). The researcher analysis showed that the character used nine of ten language features except precious. They also describe the function and reasons of each language feature. Most of the language feature was intended to be polite and avoid too strong expression.

Based on explanation above, the writer decided to fill in the gaps of the previous research. Since some of them did not discuss about the gender differences in language features, this study conducted by analyzed the differences between

men and women language features. The women's language was discussed by Lakoff 1973 and men's language by Coates 2004. Moreover, the writer also conducted this research to found the function of language feature by each character in movie. To find out the comparison, the writer also given the percentage of each data findings of women's and men's language used in Legally Blonde movie.

B. Theoretical Background

In this section, the researcher discusses the relevant theory related to the topic taken. All the theories are gathered to help the researcher answer the research question, interpret the data, and expand the knowledge of language features and its function.

1. Sociolinguistics

Language is a social phenomenon that is closely tied up with the social structure and value systems of society (Trudgill, 1983:21). The science that studies the relation of language and society is sociolinguistics. The definition of sociolinguistics can be seen in the following statements.

“Sociolinguistics is the descriptive study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context, on the way language is used, and society's effect on language. Sociolinguistics' historical interrelation with anthropology can be observed in studies of how language varieties differ between groups separated by social variables (e.g., ethnicity, religion, status, gender, level of education, age, etc.) and/or physical variables (a mountain range, a desert, a river, etc.).” (Wikipedia)

Moreover, Wardhaugh (2006:10) proposed in his book *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, the social structure may influence and determine the behavior of people in society and their linguistic structure. But age-grading differs how people

speak based on their ages. Some studies show how humans speak, their choice of words, and the rules or norm determined by their social requirements. Moreover, another study mentioned that the language varieties reflect their regional, social, ethnic origin, even gender.

Therefore, sociolinguistic research may typically focus on linguistic variation in social class differences and gender study is the significant one. The difference between men and women in terms of gender is something that still disputes. Numerous studies have found that women's speech is different from men's (Coates, 2013:33). The study about gender and language can be seen as the sociolinguistics study. On 1973 the research and publication by Lakoff entitled *Language and Women's Place* is believed as the beginning of the study related to gender. She proposes that women had ten language features that different from men.

2. Language and Gender

The term gender is different with sex. Sex is related to the biological difference in bodies between male and female, whereas gender is the roles, activities, and responsibilities that are given by their society related to being men and women (March, Smyth, & Mukhopadhyay, 2005:17-18). In other words, "Gender is not something we have, but something we do, something we perform. Sex is a biological categorization based primarily on reproductive potential, whereas gender is the social elaboration of biological sex" (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2003:10). It means that sex is something that brought since was born and gender is all society gives to define people based on their belief and rules.

Gender is referred to variously differ in different social norm with their different role. According to March, Smyth, & Mukhopadhyay (2005:18), in all societies men and women possess their own tasks, activities, and responsibilities. But they vary from one society to another or one culture to another. In labor, the productive task which is the production of goods and services is given to men. Although in some cases, women also perform this task. Yet, the value or reward given will be different. Meanwhile, reproduction that is the care and maintenance of the household such as cooking, washing, and nursing is the task of women. Reproduction is necessary, yet it is not considered with the same value of productive work and the women occupation is typically unpaid work.

Moreover, language and gender refer to the relationship between the language used by women and men in their society. Gender differences not only reflect the different speeches between both men and women but also reflect the different attitudes and social-behavioral life (Gu, 2013:248). According to Trudgill (1983, as cited in Preston, 1989) women have lesser social positions, generally speaking, and were subordinate to men. They are judged as a woman because she was born as a woman, while men are rated socially by their occupation. However, sociolinguists believe that the different formation or pattern of men and women in the language is due to the unequal status that is given by their society (Dong, 2014:93). Since their infants, men, and women babies have different treatments, so they learn to be different (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013:17). However, due to his power in politics and cultural life, men could control and dominate language use (Sadiqi, 2003). Furthermore, men were seen as

the dominators of the status, and their speech was seen as the norm. Women are considered to be weak and unassertive. (Dong, 2014:94)

Furthermore, the Women's movement changes everything. In the period after the Second World War, all important positions in society were held by men. Britain was headed by King George VI. The prime minister and important positions in Law, Church, and business were held by men. Then, the political activism of the Women's Movement appeared and women have achieved the legal right to be treated as the equals of men both in the Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act came into in Britain in 1975. This women's Movement appeared that changes all the practice, behavior, and also attitudes (Coates, 2013:5). All of this reason allows that the position of women in society changed.

However, many sociolinguists believe that women and men have different forms of the language they used. Men have a great many expressions which the women understand but never utterance it. On the other hand, women also have their words, phrases, and expression which men never pronounce themselves (Trudgill, 1983). However, how women talked to another woman, and how she speak with men would be different. This also applied similarly with the men. They would also use different forms according to the gender of the addressee (Fasold, 1990:93).

3. Women's Language

The publication of Lakoff entitled Language and Women's Place in 1973 was a symbolic moment in language and gender language. Lakoff (1973:50)

stated women establish “Women Language” which characterize as weak and unassertive.

Lakoff(1973, cited in Holmes, 2013:302) formulate ten women’s language feature, they are lexical hedges, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite, avoidance strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

a. Lexical Hedges

Women language often categorized as tentative, and this statement related to women use more hedges than men (Coates, 2013:88).Rosanti&Jaelani (2016:31) mentioned hedge is a mitigating word or sound used to lessen the impact of an utterance.According to Lakoff (1973 cited in Holmes, 2013:304), a hedge is using by women to avoid making a strong statement. Hedge also shows the expressing lack of confidence or uncertainty. Another study mention there is a difference between fillers and hedges. *Sort off* is described as a hedge, whereas *well* and *you see* are classified as meaningless particles and defined to the similar category as pause fillers such as *uh*, *um*, and *ah*.

Another study, Namasaraev (1997:153) explained that Lexical Hedges has nine types based on its classification such as the following:

1. Modal auxiliary verb, e.g. will, must, might, can, should, could, would, may.
2. Lexical verb, e.g. appear, believe, assume, tend, suggest, estimate, think, argue, speculate, idnicate, seem, propose.
3. Probability adjective, e.g. possible, likely, unlikely, clear, definite, certain, probable.

4. Noun, e.g. assumption, claim, probability, possibility, estimate, suggestion.
5. Adverb, e.g. practically, presumably, clearly, probably, conversely, possibly, perhaps, definitely, certainly, virtually, apparently, completely.
6. Adverb of frequency, e.g. often, occasionally, generally, usually, sometimes, normally, frequently, always, rarely, never, seldom.
7. "If" clause, e.g. if true, if anything.
8. Compound hedges, eg. Seems reasonable, looks, probable, may be suggested.
9. Fillers, e.g. you know, you see, by the way, sort of, well, hmm, uhm, uhh, uh, I know, I mean, yeah, like (as cited in Rosanti&Jaelani, 2016:33).

Therefore, linguists claim that women's language is rather odd or arbitrary. Coates (2013) warned that the function of hedges is variously different.

b. Tag Question

Lakoff (1973:55) stated that tag questions may express uncertainty. But Holmes (2013:307) mentioned that in other cases tag questions may be to soften the critical comment or confrontational and coercive devices. Moreover, in some occasion, the tag question act to strengthen the negative force and classified as a boosting. And in other matters to soften the critical comment. While Coates (2013) mentioned that women use question and tag question to keep conversation going. It is indicated that tag questions imply the different functions based on the context. An example of a tag question is, "He's very kind, isn't he?". In some research, women were informed to apply more amount tag question in their utterances than men. She uses it to express positive politeness, but men more use tag questions to express uncertainty (Holmes, 2013:307).

c. Rising Intonation on Declaratives

Lakoff (1973:55) mentioned that women typically rising the intonation in the form of declarative to show their hesitation while giving information or a statement. They tend to answer a question with rising intonation. It may be because they are doubt and need confirmation from other. The example can be seen in the A and B conversation below:

A: "When will we go to dinner?"

B: "Oh..around seven o'clock..?"

B is rising the intonation to show her hesitation. It is as though B were saying, "Seven o'clock, is that OK for you, are you agree".

d. Empty Adjectives

Lakoff (1973:46) proposed women's language concern with the lexicon that contains color terms, particles, adjectives, and syntax that embody tag questions, intonation, and other aspects of request and orders. Women who being labeled feminine from their social used to show their feeling of admiration and approbation by their adjectives. Empty adjectives only used to show feeling, or emotion rather than specific information (Crawford, 1995:24). It means that those words not to express important meaning but only for present affective meaning. For example, "I want this lovely bag." This "*lovely*" word did not affect anything in the content. If that word is not used, the information would be still conveyed clearly to the addressee. Adorable, charming, sweet, lovely, and divine is another adjective that attached to being a woman.

e. Precise Colour Terms

According to Lakoff (1973:49), women tend to name the color accurately than men. The word *ecru*, *beige*, *lavender*, *aquamarine* is women's vocabulary. That color is unfamiliar for men. However, Elliot & Maeir (2014:95) believe that color has important influence about how people affect, cognition, and behaviour. That matter can be linked with women that are concerned with fashion, design, and decoration.

f. Intensifiers

Holmes (2013) claimed that most studies in English-speaking Western societies showed women used more boosters or intensifiers than men. The boosters are indicating the lack of confidence of women. It also presents the expressing uncertainty but not all. *Just*, *very*, *so*, and *really* is the intensifiers. Due to their powerlessness in society, this language feature is also to strengthen the meaning and want their message to be taken seriously.

g. Hypercorrect Grammar

In sociolinguistic research shown that female used more basic form of grammar and men the less standard form (Coates, 2013:61). Holmes (2013) also mentioned that women tend to use standard verb forms. Fasold (1990:93) also mentioned that women preferred use the formal styles. This form may represent their politeness. Instead of saying *goin*, women prefer the standard form. They will deliver *going* rather than *goin* which men mostly did.

h. Superpolite

Women are believed to be more polite than men. Superpolite relate to hypercorrect grammar. According to Lakoff (1973 cited in Holmes, 2013:303) euphemisms, and an indirect request is categorized as superpolite forms. Through this feature, women express their feeling without harming the feeling of the addressee. Women also use this form to suggesting something or ask a favor. The phrases *thank you, please, would you, could you* are the superpolite forms.

i. Avoidance Strong Swear Words

Lakoff (1973:51) found the difference in the meaningless word of women and men. Men's language may be adopted by women, but women's language is rarely used by men. The women's meaningless or expletives word is weaker than men's. *Shit, damn* are utterances by men. Women will propose *oh dear, oh fudge, goodness*, and any other word rather than the strong swear words.

j. Emphatic Stress

Emphatic stress is related to boosting. This form is used to strengthen the meaning and persuade the addressee with their utterance (Holmes, 2013:303). The emphatic stress is shown by using *brilliant, great, awesome, best*, etc. The speakers may be attached the emphatic stress with words to emphasize that the addressee should pay the more attention on it.

4. Men's Language

According to Coates (2013:86) women and men characteristically different in their conversational interaction. It can be distinguished into minimal response,

questions, command and directives, swearing and taboo language, compliments, and theme.

a. Minimal Response

Minimal responses are also called back channels. In some research showed the different functions of minimal response. Schegloff (1972 as cited in, Fellegly, 1995:186) mentioned that minimal response may be use to show they are active listening. But, in another study, Bublitz (1988 as cited in, Fellegly, 1995:186) claimed that those responses indicate that the listener was bored hearing. In another research about language and gender, women use that feature as a signal to support or they are active in listening, while men use them as the response of agreement (Malts & Borker, 1982; Tannen, 1991 as cited in Fellegly, 1995:186). The example of minimal response is *right*, *yeah*, and *mhm*.

b. Questions

Question is interrogative forms in order to get answer from the audience. According to Lakoff (1975:55) women ask more question than men and this question may be the signals of their insecurity. Coates (2013:130) also mentioned that women use more question than men and this may due to their weakness in interactive situation. Another function is in order to keep conversation going. Nevertheless, Fishman (1983:94) mentioned in his book about research that held by Todd (1983), West (1984), Fairclough (1992), Barnes (1971), Stubbs (1983), Barnard (2000), and Thornborrow(2002) which confirmed that questions are greatly used by more powerfull speakers. In context where women and men have

equal status, men may ask question more frequently. However, according to Athanasiado (1991:108-110) questions have four different functions.

1. Questioning for information. It is the general function of the question. The speaker asks the question to make the hearer answer and provide information. For example: “What do you think about me?”
2. Rhetorical question. In this type of question, the speaker does not need an answer from the hearer, since the answer is known by the speaker himself. For example: “Do you know that it is 04.00?”
3. Examination questions. The speaker already knows the answer or the information, but he wants to find out whether the listener knows the answer. For example: “What time is it?”, “Weren’t you at the scene of the crime at 11.00?”
4. Indirect request. The speaker asks a question to make the hearer take an action. For example: “Can you help me?”

c. Commands and Directives

Coates (2013:94) proposed that directives can be interpreted as a speech act to get someone to do something. The directives most commonly found in commands and requests. This directives take the function to make the addressee perform a particular action (Arista & Murni, 2014:85). The directives form of male and female is different. The men tend to use aggravated such as *give me/ gimme*, and *I want..* to define their status. While women prefer the mitigated directives such as *lets*. Let’s is so difficult to use by men. Another mitigated directive is *gonna* that used by the female to makes a suggestion. The modal auxiliaries

such as *can* and *could* also be used by a girl to give suggestions. Men and women are inclined to use different linguistic forms to express directives.

d. Swearing and Taboo Language

Most people have known that swearing and using taboo words are forbidden by society. Coates (2013:97) believed that men swear more than women and use taboo language more frequently. According to Trudgill (1983) taboo is something that although naturally appears with the language in society and concern with the behavior, is nevertheless forbidden, or regarded as improper and irrational manner. Lakoff (1973:51) claims that women will utter *oh dear*, *oh fudge*, *goodness*, and any other word rather than the strong swear words. While men prefer to say *shit*, *damn*, or *fuck*. However, in practice, the people who use taboo words are categorized as breaking the rule and desirable to find the connotation of strength or freedom (Trudgill, 1983)

Moreover, the reason why men tend to use more taboo language than women is due to form is associated with masculinity, not femininity (Coates, 2013:98). Generally, swearing uses bad language that may contain taboo words. They take the function to express the emotion of the speaker. Furthermore, those words create an impact on the listener both positive or negative depending on the context. It means swearing and taboo language has many different functions (Ljung, 2011; Wajnryb, 2005; McEnery, 2006; Jay, 2000; Finn, 2017 as cited in Kristiano, 2018:10).

e. Compliments

Mentioned in Coates (2013:98), the research that done in New Zealand, the United States, and Britain showed that female give and receive more compliment than male. Men and women have a different pattern in use compliments. *What lovely bag!* is utter more by women. While men express the compliment by a minimal pattern such as *great clothes!*. The topic and tone of compliments given by women to other women are different from what is given by men to other men. Women tend to show compliments as an everyday occasion of appearance and men prefer possessions or skills.

Seen from the differences kind of compliments above, it shows that the function of compliments may be variant. Wu (2008:10-11) distinguish the function of compliments into six categories:

1. To express admiration of someone's works, appearance, and taste. For example: "I like your shoes".
2. To establish a good relationship with someone. The forms of compliment can be similar to the first example but in this case, the speaker speaks to someone new.
3. To replace greetings, gratitude, apologies, or congratulations. For example: "How good are you today!". This utterance has a similar function or meaning as greetings "How are you?".
4. To soften face-threatening acts such as apologies, requests, and criticism.

5. To open and sustain the conversation. If the hearer is a stranger, the speaker can begin the utterances with compliments. For example: “Hi, your hair is so beautiful, which salon did you visit?”.
6. To reinforce desired behavior. This kind of compliment not only shows the speaker’s admiration, but also the speaker’s hope to have the same things.

f. Theme

Men and women have different preference types of the topic they talked about. According to Coates (2013:128) Women and their feminine typically talk about people and feelings. While men and their masculinity tend to discuss the current affair, travel, sport, technology, or cars. Men were also known as “sports talk” since their tendency to talk about sport (Cameron, 1997:50). When talking about something personal, men prefer to take drinking habits or their achievements (Coates, 2013:128).

Since their childhood, boys and girls have had different treatment. That social treatment and norm affect the ways they behave. Boys were openly competitive and girls were more cooperative (Tannen, 1991:140). These can be a reason why women and men have different preferences of how they talked and what theme they preferred. Therefore, due to their cooperation, they would be supportive people and prefer to talk about feelings.

For the different sex conversation, women and men avoid the conversation which they usually do with the same-sex conversation. Tannen (1991:45) mentioned that when women and men talked, it’s like a cross-

cultural conversation due to so often misunderstanding happened. Moreover, the purposes of do conversation is different depending on the context.