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# WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES OF DEBBIE IN OCEANS 8 **MOVIE (2018)**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Women and men are different in terms of using language. Women's language proved that women tend to use language differently than men, by the features use this research focused on women's language features and the function of those features. It aims to identify women's language features based on Lakoff's theory and also to identify the functions of language features that is used by main character in Ocean's 8 Movie based on Jacobson's theory. This qualitative research was conducted by applying observation checklist to help the researcher to find out women's language features. Data were taken from Ocean's 8 movie script in the form of women's utterances. The result show that six features uttered by Debbie in Ocean's 8 Movie (2018). They are lexical hedges or filler, tag question, super polite form, empty adjective, intensifier, and avoidance of strong swears words. Lexical hedges or fillers are the most frequent women's language features used by Debbie in Ocean's 8 Movie(2018). Then, the language functions which are served by women's language of Debbie in Ocean's 8 Movie (2018) are expressive function and directive function.

Key words: Sociolinguistics, Women's language, language function, Ocean's 8 Movie

#### **ABSTRAK**

Wanita dan laki-laki berbeda dalam hal penggunaan bahasa. Bahasa wanita membuktikan bahwa wanita cenderung menggunakan bahasa yang berbeda dari laki-laki, dengan menggunakan fitur penelitian ini berfokus pada fitur bahasa wanita dan fungsi fitur tersebut. Hal ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi fitur bahasa wanita berdasarkan teori Lakoff dan juga untuk mengidentifikasi fungsi fitur bahasa yang digunakan oleh karakter utama dalam film Ocean's 8 berdasarkan teori Jacobson. Penelitian kualitatif ini dilakukan dengan menerapkan daftar periksa observasi untuk membantu peneliti mengetahui ciri-ciri bahasa wanita. Data diambil dari naskah film Ocean's 8 berupa tuturan perempuan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa enam fitur diucapkan oleh Debbie dalam Ocean's 8 Movie (2018). Diantaranya adalah lexical hedges or filler, tag question, superpolite form, empty adjective, intensifier, dan avoidance of strong swears words. Lexical hedges or filler adalah fitur bahasa wanita yang paling sering digunakan oleh Debbie di Ocean's 8 Movie (2018). Kemudian, fungsi bahasa yang digunakan oleh bahasa wanita Debbie dalam film Ocean's 8 (2018) adalah fungsi ekspresif dan fungsi direktif.

Kata kunci: Sosiolinguistik, Bahasa wanita, fungsi bahasa, Film ocean'8



e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

#### A. INTRODUCTION

Language is what members of a particular society speak (Wardhaugh, 2005). People needs language to communicate, convey information, feelings, ideas, meaning or message. It can be inferred that without language, human would be difficult to interact with others.In linguistics study, especially sociolinguistic thought us about relationship between language and society. The relationship between language and gender is the relationship between language and the nation of men and women. One of the topics frequently discussed is about language and gender. Gender is a factor which affects the differences in language variations in society. Gender is the result of human construction based on the socio-cultural dimension of men or women. In society, gender is divided into male and female. In this study, researcher also investigated the relation between language and gender especially women's language. It is not be observed in society directly but through a literary work. The object in this research entitled Ocean's 8. The researcher chooses this movie as an object of research for two reasons. First, it is a very interesting movie because takes the story of a group of women where they predominantly used women language. Second, languages that they use can be examined using the theory of women language features by Lakoff. The researcher conducted the research with title Women's Language Features of Debbie in Ocean's 8 Movie (2018).

#### **B. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

#### 1. Sociolinguistics

In society, people used language as a tool of communication to each other. People often meet another person who is from ddifferent tribes and regions so that they have some differences in terms of communication. That is how sociolinguistics works. Sociolinguistics is one of the linguistics studies. Sociolinguistics comes from the word of 'socio' and 'linguistics'. Socio means related to society and linguistics is the scientific of language. So, it deals with the relationship between language, culture, and society. Hudson (1996) defines sociolinguistics as the study of language in relation to the society

#### 2. Language and Gender

Language and gender are a scientific discipline that examines the characteristic of language differences between women and men. Eckert (2003) in her book entitled Language and Gendere explains that gender is the difference between the function, social roles, or responsibilities of men and women which governed by society. . Gender refers to provision process of how men and women should act out of proportion values, social and cultural values that exist in the community.

### 3. Women's Language Features

Women's language indicates the characteristic of women's behavior (Lakoff,1995). That characteristic make the language of women different from men. Robin Lakoff as a professor of linguistics at University of California discusses about women's language in his book "Language and Women's Place". Women's language seems polite to communicate in terms of vocabulary. Women also refer more to the grammatical use of



e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

words. Even to convey something with negative meaning, women still use more subtle words and complements than choose harsh or dirty words directly.

#### a. Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Lexical hedges or filler is a pause in the form of phrases contained in sentences to fill the pauses in conversation, inaccurate information, and lack of self-confidence, uncertainty, doubt, and confusion which is defined as meaningless particles. Another study, for instance, makes a distinction between 'filler' and 'hedges' but with sort of classified as a hedge describe as 'meaningless particles' and assigned to the same category as 'pause filler' such as uh, um, and ah (Holmes, 2001). According to Findlay(1998) hedges are phrases that indicating uncertainty, slight confusion, and indecisiveness.

### b. Tag Question

Tag question is called a hedge that weakens a woman's language in a conversation. The use of tag questions in women language expresses the uncertainty. Lakoff1973) states "a tag, in its usage as well as its syntactic shape (in English) is midway between an outright statement and a yes-no question: it is less assertive that the former, but more confident than the latter". So, women use tag question in making statements when they believe what they say is completely true and will be trusted. However, they ask again when they are not sure and need information or certainty from the listener.

#### c. Rising Intonation

Rising intonation on declarative occurs in interrogative sentences that change into a declarative sentence because of the intonation that rises at the end of the word. It is as if the speaker needs confirmation from the listener and also like weakening a statement because it has turned into a question.

### d. Empty Adjective

There are group of adjectives, in terms of vocabulary, which has a specific meaning and literal and also indicate approval or admiration speakers to something. Adjectives such as these are called empty adjectives which mean that it only concerns the word of emotional reactions of the specific information. Some of these adjectives are neutral, native speakers of any gender, men and women may use it. But there are adjectives that seem to give the impression restricted for use by women.

#### e. Precise Color Terms

In terms of color, women usually have more vocabulary than men. Women have specific language in mentioning color. There are differences in the mention of colors used by men and women. The mention of the colors that used by women is not used by men. For example, in mentioning colors for purple, women have other vocabulary words such as lavender and mauve. So, women always have special terms for colors such as magenta, peach, lavender, burgundy, baby blue, baby pink, beige, and so on.



e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

### f. Hypercorrect Grammar

Lakoff (2004) stated, "Women are not supposed to talk rough". So, it means that a woman must speak softly and smoothly, because rough talking should not be used by women. In order to avoid rough speaking, women use the standard verb form on their words to make sentences that are gentler and politer. Lakoff (cited in Holmes, 1992) states that hypercorrect grammar is the consistent use of standard verb form.

#### g. Superpolite Form

Super polite form is usually used by women to speak polite command sentence and polite language. "Super polite form is also an imperative statement but women use it in a more polite way" (Lakoff, 1993). Women prefer to use polite language than man.

#### h. Avoidance of Strong Swears Words

According to Lakoff (1973) few women even rarely use swear words than men to express their emotions. Women prefer to avoid using strong swear words and substitute it into other word such as "oh dear". The swear word used is softer than men. Although women emotional they avoid to used swears word.

### i. Intensifier

Intensifier is different from previous features such as filler and tag questions that have a debilitating effect on an utterance. Intensifier is a word that reinforces the speaker's statement. Women use this intensifier more often than men. There are words of intensifiers Incredibly, exceendingly, tropingly, extremely well, extremely, truly, really, very, utterly, absolutely, perfectly, sublimely.

### j. Emphatic Stress

Emphatic stress is a typical of special stress that given by speaker to some word in a sentence, usually single out, compare, correct or clarify things. Women use it because they want to re-emphasize the listener what is being said. Emphatic stress arises when a sentence is emphasized and the intonation rises. For example "What a beautiful dress!" Or "That's a brilliant performance!'. The word brilliant is one of the example of an emphatic stress. This word can be used to strengthen the meaning of the utterance.

#### 4. Functions of Language

Women has own characteristic in language. From their utterance exactly, they has a purpose whatever it is. It can be to show her expression when she saw something awesome, to describe something more poetic sentence, talk about something around her and ask someone to do something, etc. In the use of women language features, there are function of that language. Roman Jacobson (1960) defines six function of language, according to which an affective of verbal communication can be described

e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

#### a. Phatic Function

Phatic function means expressing solidarity and empathy with others. That is helps to establish contact and refers to the channel communication. Phatic function opens the channel or checking that it is working, either for social reason. Phatic function is also used for sociability. Therefore sometimes vernacular words used in this function. It is characterizted mainly of speech, how ever in a certain types of writing it can also be noticed as in letters.

### **b.** Expressive Function

Expressive function also known as "emotive or affective function". Expressive function means express the speaker's feelings, thought and creativity. Expressive function focuses on the addresser. This function comes out when speakers want to express their emotions although someone does not speak to give an information.

#### c. Poetic Function

Poetic function is also known as the imaginative or aesthetic function. In this function, language can be used to deliver idea, concept, and feeling wherever that is true or just imaginative. This function also used in art work like poetry, myth, story, joke.

#### d. Directive Function

This function also known as a instrumental function. This function regulates someone or listener to do something. In this function, the speaker does not only make the listener to do something, but listener do something in keeping with command or request by speaker.

#### e. Referential Function

Referential function means give information. Essentially, referential function is the communication is information. Language as a tools of discuss object or event around the speaker or the culture existing in general.

#### f. Metalinguistic Function

Metalinguistic function means discuss on the language itself. It means metalinguistic function is used whenever the speaker and listener need to check whether they use some code and when the language is used to speak about language. Narcis (2017) states metalinguistic function is currently present in ordinary conversation as a means of control on the use of the same linguistic code by the interlocutors.

#### C. RESEARCH METHOD

#### 1. Research Design



e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

According to Cresswell (2009), research design is a series of plans and procedures for conducting research using detailed data collection and analysis methods. This research is a qualitative research because it aims to analyze women language features used by Debby in Ocean's 8 movie (2018). Qualitative research is a means for knowing, observing, exploring and understand the meaning of individual or groups towards social or human problem (Creswell, 2009). The researcher uses qualitative method because in this research the data are utterances by the main character in the movie; not number. In the other hand, the researcher also uses descriptive approach to describe the women language features revealed in Ocean's 8 and to describe functions of utterances that revealed by main character, Debbie, in the movie.

#### 2. Research Instrument

According to Anmun (2015) research instrument is important to obtain the data of the study for set of method which is used to collect data. The research instrument in this research is the researcher herself. The researcher focuses on observing and interpreting the Ocean's 8 movie (2018) as the source of data of the research.

#### 3. Data and Data Source

The data source in this research are movie and moviescript of Ocean's 8 (2018), which are downloaded from the internet. The data are in the form of word, clauses, phrases and sentences which belong to women language and language functions that is discovered in conversation. This research focuses on dialog that show about women language features used by the main character, Debbie Oceans. So, in this case, the data are Debbie's utterances.

#### 4. Data Collection

There are some steps to collect the data. First, the researcher watches the movie a couple of times. Second, the researcher read the script. After that, the researcher identifies and select the dialogue by Debbie as a main character which include women language features according to Lakoff's theory.

#### 5. Data Analysis Technique

Wiersma (1995) states that a process of categorization, description and synthesis were include as the data analysis. In this research, the researcher analyzed the data by categorizing and describing the findings within sequential procedures that are written as follows. In order to answer the research questions above, the researcher will do some steps to analyze the data. After collecting the data from the dialogue, the researcher will make a note then continuing the analysis by creating and doing observation checklist in the form of table. The researcher will put women language features and Debbie's utterances that refer to women language feature into the table to help the researcher answer the first research question. The researcher described the data basd on those categories and function of women's language features. And the last the researcher re-checked and re- read the data again to make sure the data are correct.

e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

#### D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section discussed the findings and concerning of two research questions. The first section find and explain the women's language features of Debbie in ocean's 8 movie by lakoff. And second section discuss about function of women's language features used theory by Jacobson

## 1. Debbie's women language features in Ocean's 8 movie

# a. Lexical Hedges or Filler

Lexical hedges or filler is a pause in the form of phrases contained in sentences to fill the pauses in conversation, inaccurate information, and lack of self-confidence, uncertainty, doubt, and confusion which is defined as meaningless particles. Lakkof (1973) filler such as *um* and *uh* are features that help women to give some pause to think what they want to say.

**Debbie** : No.No, sir.Um...I fell for the wrong person. It was a mistake. Uh... but it happened. And if I were to be

released, I would, Um... Sorry.

Based on the conversation above, Debbie finally released from the prison. Debbie looks nervous talking with the police and several time pauses to think something. The police asked Debbie several time and she answer relaxed but sometimes lack of confident. Debbie promise to police and regret her mistake. Debbie trying to answer every question while her speech used a lot of fillers. She used *um* and *uh* help Debbie need pause time to think what they want to talk. According to Lakoff (1973), fillers are meaningless particles that give a pause for women to think what they want to say. This features help Debbie since she needs a little time to think what she is going to say.

## b. Tag Question

Tag question or also known as a yes- no question is used when the speaker declares a statement in form of question in order to gain certainty of it from the interlocutor (Lakoff, 1973). Meanwhile, the features tag question in this research did not much used by Debbie. Debbie does not use a lot of tag question in her conversation; she only uses it three times.

**Debbie** : So, seems to me, eight shares of 150 million is better than Seven shares of nothing, **right**?

Based on the conversation, Debbie uses a tag question in order to gain certainty from her friend, Daphne. And then her friend also gives response. According to Pearson (1958), unlike men, women are more likely to ask other to do something for them indirectly. The word *right* needs answer, She want to make sure and need confirmation from Daphne. According to Lakoff (1973) states that sometimes the question are used because the interlocutor is believed to have correct answer. Even though Debbie knows the answer but she is still asking her friend used tag.

# c. Empty Adjective

In this study, the researcher found two features of empty adjective that used by Debbie. According to Lakoff (1975) explained that some of these adjective were neutral, native speaker of any gender, men and women may use it. There are group of adjectives, in

## e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

terms of vocabulary, which has a specific meaning and literal and also indicate approval or admiration speakers to something.

**Debbie**: It's jewels. **Spectacular, great, big, blingy,** big old Liz

Taylor jewels that are locked in a vault 50 feet

Underground.

From the conversation above, Debbie talks to Lou if she has a mission to steal jewels. Debbie said if the jewel saved in 50 feet underground Debbie explain to Lou the jewels so spectacular, great, big, and blingly. Debbie used spectacular, great, big and blingly to express and describing things. Women tend to express what they feel including their opinions to others easily (Pearson, 1985).

### d. Superpolite Forms

Super polite form is usually used by women to speak polite command sentence and polite language. Super polite form is also an imperative statement but women us it in a more polite way (Lakoff, 1993). Super polite form also show if women as a human being can be polite than men. In this movie, Debbie used for two times in her utterances.

**Debbie**: Hi, this is Mrs. Randall. We just checked out of room

2814. May I speak with Monica, please?

From the conversation above, Debbie contacted reception by telephone and asking something. Debbie wanted a room at the hotel near from airport. She also asks it politely using the word please because she needs help from the reception. The word *please* a form of request or polite command.

#### e. Intensifiers

Women use this intensifier more often than men .Intensifier is a word that reinforces the speaker's statement. According to Holmes (2013) reveals that women use booster or intensifier more than men. Women use this features as an intensifier to stress, to strengthen their intended meaning, and to make sure that the interlocutor receive their message. In this movie Debbie used word of really for express her feeling what she look. She also reinforces her statement if what they see is so good.

**Debbie** : What about this one. She looks good. Let's see. Regional

theater, but she trained at Julliard. It's really a magnificent piece.

From the conversation above, Debbie used intensifier on her utterance, it's **really** magnificent piece. She used **really** to show with her friend if what they see was really amazing. It means what Debbie said is true and she is serious that jewels look amazing.

# f. Avidance of Strong Swears Words

According to Lakoff (1973) few women even rarely use swear words than men to express their emotions.

**Debbie** : Oh. When somebody got interested in a piece, I'd pose as

another buyer and drive up the price. Money was good

e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

> and he was great in the kitchen. Oh my God, it's so good. One day he asked me to pose as the seller, not the buyer. What did you do? (SIGH)

From the conversation above, Debbie talk to her friend claude backer. They were talking about the art but in the middle of conversation Mr. Backer eats like ice cream or soup and Debbie ate it out of the same bowl. Debbie was amazing with the taste. So she used Oh my god, to avoid using strong swear words and substitute it more polite. From the explanation, Debbie used Oh my god to express her feelings. She very like that food and she talk it very suddenly

### 2. The functions of women's language features used by Debbie in Ocean 8 Movie

The second research question regarding to the function of women language of Debbie in Ocean's 8 Movie, the researcher found there are two functions of women's feature language that used by Debbie, there are expressive function and directive function.

### a. Expressive Function

The first expressive function that Debbie showed in the movie can be found at the scene when Debbie released from prison and have a conversation with the police

> : No.No, sir. Um...I fell for the wrong person. It was **Debbie**

> > a mistake. Uh... but it happened. And if I were to be released, I

would, *Um*... Sorry.

Based on the data above, it showed that Debbie used some words that included as lexical hedges or filler, the words are Uh and Um. Uh and Um are two words that have function to give Debbie more time to think what she supposed to say then. At first, when Debbie has to answer a question from the police, she said "No.No, sir. Um...I fell for the wrong person. It was a mistake". In this sentence, Debbie used "Um" to get posed time, and also to show her expression of disappointed toward herself who loved her brother that made her did something wrong. For the next sentence, Debbie starts her words by saying "Uh... but it happened". Debbie back to use the word "Uh" to get a paused before she start her words and it also functioned to express the inaccurate information that she want to tell to the police. After Debbie gave unclear information to the police, Debbie tried to talk again, but she finally cannot finish her words by saying "And if I were to be released, I would, Um... Sorry". At this sentence, Debbie tried to speak, but she felt so sad and her voice getting heavier, so she stop to speak by saying "Um" to get more time to control her feeling, but finally she cannot. "Um" at this point, "Um" have a function to express her sadness. In conclusion, the words "Uh and Um" that used by Debbie in this conversation above functioned as a pause time, disappointed expression, inaccurate information and also a sadness expression of Debbie that indicated as expressive function that categories in lexical hedges or filler.

The second expressive function showed by Debbie in the movie can be found at the scene when Debbie talks with her friend about the jewels.

**Debbie** : It's jewels. Spectacular, great, big, blingy, big

Old Liz Taylor jewels that are locked in a vault 50

e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

### Feet underground.

From the conversation above, Debbie explain the jewels if that thing so spectacular, great, big and blingly. In this scene, Debbie expresses her feeling by using word "spectacular, great, big, and blingly.

The third conversation when Debbie looks pieces of jewels that they found in gala dinner.

> : What about this one. She looks good. Let's see. **Debbie**

Theater, but she trained at Julliard. It's really a magnificent piece. She used "Really" to confirm if that jewels is good. In conclusion, the word that used by Debbie included to expressive function.

The last scene in a room when Debbie tasted a bowl of soup with Mr. Backer.

**Debbie** : Oh. When somebody got interested in a piece, I'd

another buyer and drive up the price. Money was good and he was great in the kitchen. Oh my God, it's so good. One day he asked me to pose as the seller, not the buyer. What did you do?

(SIGH) well...

Based on conversation above, Debbie used Oh my god, It's good to avoid the swear words. But, in that case, Debbie used Oh my god also as an expression if that food is very good. In conclusion, Avoidance of Strong Swears Words in this scene included to expressive function.

#### **b.** Directive Function

The first scene directive function of Debbie that showed in Ocean's 8 movie can be found when Debbie talk to her friend.

> : So, seems to me, eight shares of 150 million is **Debbie**

Better than seven shares of nothing, **right**?

Based on conversation above, Debbie used "Right" to express her uncertainty. She need confirmation to her friend and makes the listener to do something. In this case, Daphne answers the question although Debbie knows the fact. In conclusion, tag question in this case included to directive function.

Second scene showed when Debbie talk to reception by telephone and ask a room hotel.

**Debbie** : Hi, this is Mrs. Randall. We just checked out of room

2814. May I speak with Monica, please?

Based on conversation above, Debbie used "May I speak with Monica, please?" it show if Debbie speak polite helping by word "please". The word "please" also indicating ask someone do something. In this case, the word spoken by Debbie included as a directive function.



e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

#### 3. Discussion

Based on the data finding, the researcher founds six from ten features and two from six functions. The features are lexical hedges of filler, super polite forms, empty adjective, intensifiers, tag question and avoidance of strong swears word. And then the features not found are raising intonation, emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar and precise color terms. In this movie, the main character, Debbie used more lexical hedges and five features because in their utterance Debbie more slowly and often lack of confident to talk with someone. Debbie used many filler, word more polite and do not talk rough. And then from six function, poetic function, directive function, referential function, metalinguistic function, phatic function and expressive functions only two functions included or found in this research. It because utterance from Debbie used more features like filler or hedges, super polite form, empty adjective, intensifier and tag question where the features found belongs to expressive function and directive function.

#### E. CONCLUSIONS

Women's Language Features of Debbie in Ocean's 8 Movie. There are eight womens in this movie but the researcher only focus to the main character Debbie. The research problems are what are the women's language and what are the function of women's language features used by Debbie. Based on the findings and discussions, the conclusions of this research are the list of women's language features by Debbie in Ocean's 8 movie and the function of each features. These research problems were analyzes based on Lakoff theory about women's language features and from Jacobson's theory about the function of language. In this study, the researcher discovered six out of ten features in Ocean's 8 Movie. Six functions of language according to Jacobson (1960) they are expressive function, directive function, referential function, metalinguistic function, poetic function, and phatic function. From six functions most frequently included in women's language features they are expressive function and directive function.

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e-ISSN 2549-7715 | Volume 6 | Nomor 4 | Oktober 2022 | Hal: 1569-1580 Terakreditasi Sinta 4

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