



Language Features: Analysis of Women and Men Language in *Birds of Prey* Movie by Cathy Yan

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ABSTRACT

“BIRDS OF PREY” movie is about a spin off from the previous movie Suicide Squad, in which Harley Quinn is romantic with the Joker played by Jared Leto. The movie tends to show different way of women and men characters statement in the conversation. The different is about language features that women and men characters use. Therefore, the researcher is interested in analysing the film BIRDS OF PREY so that the research is titled “Language Features: Analysis of Women and Men Language in BIRDS OF PREY Movie by Cathy Yan”. This research aims to find out the different language features that use by women and men characters and also the language features of men that used by women. This research is qualitative descriptive using Lakoff language features theory. The result of this study is women shown women used intensifier which means that they were giving emphasis to the statement and express the superlatives and heavily stressed about something. Different with women, men talk more taboo and ten to use swear words. This is the way they show the emotion and attitude towards someone in their communication.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the means humans use to communicate in the form of sounds and words. Furthermore, language means frequently associated with politics, the media, gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and identity. The correlation between language and gender is one of the most intriguing subjects. Gender appears to present a language with distinct qualities in its use, despite gender being the same as the separation of humans into men and women with all of their language variances. One of the variances of language is language features.

According to Lakoff (2004) describe the women language features which are lexical hedge, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words and emphatic stress. Lexical hedge is a form of phrases word as a lack of self-confidence, information that is not fully accurate, uncertainty, doubt, and confusion. Tag question is midway between an outright statement and a yes-no question or a question followed by a statement and declarative sentence. Rising intonation is used to answer question typically has a rising intonation similar to yes-no question intonation. Empty adjective is the concern of emotional reactions rather than specific information. Precise color term is the ability to interpret colors in details. Intensifier is a way to back down from a commitment to an opinion it gives absolute superlatives and heavily stressed. Hypercorrect grammar is the consistent use of the satndar verb forms. Super polite form is a way of communicate politely and very carefully. Avoidance of swear words is a way of avoiding violent curses in communication. Emphatic stress is used to express uncertainty with the own expression.

According to Coates (2004) describe the men language features which are minimal responses, command and directives, swearing and taboo language, compliments, the theme, question. Minimal responses are respons used to assert the dominance in the communication. Command and directives are used to explicit command especially in the same-sex groups. Swearing and taboo language is a way of express emotion using violent curse. Compliments is use to complement each other based on skill and possession. The theme is use to talk about current affairs, travel and

sprot in the same sex group conversation. Question is directly way of men to ask question to someone to gain information.

The movie *BIRDS OF PREY (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)* was directed by Cathy Yan. The movie, starring Margot Robbie, is one that provides a deeper exploration of the character of Harley Quinn, also focuses on strong women characters and their ability to overcome obstacles. The movie is about a spin off from the previous movie *Suicide Squad*, in which Harley Quinn is romantic with the Joker played by Jared Leto. While in the movie *BIRDS OF PREY* itself, it is told that Harley Quinn has parted ways with the Joker.

Movie is a popular object that interesting to discuss. The similar study that has been analyzed by some researcher. Putra (2019), Ramadina et al., (2022), and Dinata et al., (2023). The first conducted by Anggara Putra, n.d. (2019) "The Analysis of Women and Men Language Features on America's Got Talent". In his research two conclusions. First, the researcher found 6 women language features classified according to Lakoff (2004). Second, the men in this movie use all the 6 language features. The second research is "Women's language used by characters in movie "Brave" conducted by Ramadina et al., (2022). This research found 5 types of women language features in movie *Brave* analyze by using Lakoff (2004) theory. There were rising intonation, intensifier, empathic stress, lexical hedges, and super polite form. The third research is "Men's and Women's Language Features Used in the Conversation of the Talk Show "The Ellen Show" conducted by Dinata, Sukarini and Maharani found that most used language features are lexical hedges or filters, empty adjectives, and emphatic Stress. While man speakers only use four language features, the most used language features" are swearing, taboo language, and questions.

Although this research uses the same theory, Lakoff (2004) and Coates (2004), nevertheless the object analyze of this research is different. As the means that the data and result are different from the previous research.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research aims to indetify the language features of women and men in "BIRDS OF PREY" movie. Therefore, this study conducted using qualitative research. Qualitative research is an inductive approach whose purpose is to gain a deeper understanding of individual or group experiences. To collect the data, researcher using content analysis technique. This kind of collecting data is the way researcher analyzing the content of all verbal materials which can be either spoken or printed. The analysis of content is a central activity whenever one is concerned with the study of the nature of the verbal materials. By using this technique, researcher can interpret the spoken and printed material. The researcher focused on form of word, word phrase, and sentence containing types of women and men language features in the movie. The data of this research consist of movie script and the conversation in the "BIRDS OF PREY" movie. This data sources analyzed using a descriptive approach, means as the researcher interpret and describe the language features of women and men use in the movie. For instance, the content analysis and descriptive approach in this research help the research gain a deep understanding of the language features that used by women and men in "BIRDS OF PREY" movie.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

There are three section analysis to disscuss in this research; first is women language features; men language features; and men language features that used by women in the "BIRSD OF PREY" movie based on Lakoff (2004) theory.

3.1. Women Language Features

Women language features stated by Lakoff (2004) were lexical hedges, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words and emphatic stress. There were 35 utterances that can be categorized as the types of women language features used by the women character in *BIRDS OF PREY* movie. The types of the women language features can be seen in this table below.

Table 1 Women language features

No	Women Language Features	Data	Percentage
1	Intensifier	10	28,57%
2	Tag Questions	6	17,14%
3	Avoidance of swear words	3	8,57%
4	Super polite form	9	25,71%
5	Rising intonation	4	11,42
6	Lexical hedges	3	8,57%
	Total	35	100%

1. Intensifier

Lakoff (2004) stated that intensifier is the language features of women that functions to express the strong emotions and giving emphasize to statement. From the table of data above, there were found 10 data of intensifier. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Montoya: “Yeah, well, he’s also a **very** dangerous man” [W1]

Data W2 situation happens when Montoya talked about Sionis with his driver, Black canary.

Her statement function as gives emphasis as an information that the person who talked about is very dangerous. The word “very” functions as something that gives the other person trust bout what she is saying.

2. Tag Question

Lakoff (2004) stated that tag question is used when the speaker still needs the hearer respond even, they might predict the response having uncertain feeling. From the table of data above, there were found 6 data of tag question. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement

(1) Canary: “Janky clown with bad eye makeup. **Isn’t she?**” [W2]

Data W3 situation happens when Canary answer Harley’s question about herself.

Her statement explained that he was not convinced by the statement. Putting a tag question at the end of the sentence to make it not look like he is saying something wrong.

3. Avoidance of Swear Words

Lakoff (2004) stated that women are not expected to use expletive words, they tend to avoid using swear words because they will consider as unladylike. It shows how women tend to use statement that are more polite, gentle, and less painful to others. From the table of data above, there were found 3 data of avoidance of swear words. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Canary: “Oh, **thank God**. I’m gonna get you outta here” [W3]

Data W4 situation happens when Canary found Cassandra cain in the toilet because of Harley.

Her statement considers to avoiding some cursing word. The women tried to express her gratitude that Cassandra was safe and found. This shows that Canary was very worried about what happened to Cassandra. She chose to express her gratitude by thanking God.

4. Super Polite Form

Lakoff (2004) stated that women are supposed to speak more polite. It also shows their politeness to others because they feel more aware to something their express. From the table of data above, there were found 9 data of super polite form. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Harley: “**Sorry** for busting in on you like that, **thanks** for the shortcut” [W4]

Data W4 situation happens when Harley bump into someone windows because of the accidents.

Her statement as a form of politeness towards someone. The women gave the statement because she felt guilty after jumping in someone else's window. Giving a thank-you note gives the impression of being more appreciative of what others have done for her.

5. Rising Intonation

Lakoff (2004) stated that women are a widespread difference perceptible which means intonation on declarative occurs in declarative sentences becomes a question because there is an intonation that rises at the endpoint of the word. From the table of data above, there were found 4 data of rising intonation. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Harley: “**Know what a harlequin is**” [W5]

Data W5 situation happens when Harley asking Canary opinion about her.

Her statement using rising intonation because of the wants to find out information about him, but doesn't want to seem like he's asking for an opinion. Harley intonated his statement because he seemed unsure about it.

6. Lexical Hedges

Lakoff (2004) stated that women use a pause in the form of phrases word, or filler contained in conversation sentences to lack of self-confidence, information that is not fully accurate, uncertainty, doubt, and confusion. From the table of data above, there were found 3 data of lexical hedges. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Montoya: “**I think** it’s the Bertinelli diamond” [W6]

Data W6 situation happens when Montoya talked about Sionis losing a thing.

Her statement considers to explained that she had no idea about the truth of Sionis lost thing. She just revealed a news moreover because she has heard it from someone. Montoya used word “I think” because she has lack confidence about her statement.

3.2 Men Language Features

Coates (2004) describe the men language features which are minimal responses, command and directives, swearing and taboo language, compliments, the theme, question. There were 29 utterances that can be categorized as the types of men language features used by the men character in this movie. The types of the men language features can be seen in this table below.

Table 2 Men language features

No	Men Language Features	Data	Percentage
1	Command and Directives	8	27,5%
2	Direct Form	4	13,7%
3	Swearing and taboo language	15	51,7%
4	Compliments	2	6,8%
	Total	29	100%

1. Command and Directives

Coates (2004) stated that men tend to use it to assert dominance and explicit commends especially when they were in the same sex-groups. They also use loud or explicit commands to get what they want. From the table of data above, there were found 8 data of command and directives. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Sionis: “You’re **gonna** get me my diamond” [M1]

Data M1 situation happens when Sionis talked to Harley about his lost diamond.

His statement considers as command. Sionis use word “gonna” which means as giving someone explicit command to do something. Without a command word this statement is classified as a command because it explicitly gives an order to the person, that she must find his lost diamonds.

2. Direct Form

Coates (2004) stated that men is to give a statement directly to others. Men also used this kind of expression to say something without polite gestures or pleasantries. From the table of data above, there were found 4 data of direct form. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Police Chief: “You are a good cop, Montoya, but you’ve lost your way” [M2]

Data M2 situation happens when Montoya talked with Police chief about Sionis.

His statement means as direct form because the police said something directly without caring about the feelings or politeness towards others. The police tried to explain to Montoya that what he was doing was very wrong. By providing information that was not necessarily true to the police.

3. Swearing and Taboo Words

Coates (2004) stated that men used language features that sound impolite, rude, and inappropriate. From the table of data above, there were found 15 data of swearing and taboo words. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Sionis: “**Fuck!** These are my things. This diamond is my things. My things! **Fucking fuck!** I don’t ask for much, do I?” [W3]

Data W3 situation happens when Roman Sionis lost his diamond.

His statement considers to swearing words. Sionis express his feelings using swearing “fuck” to clearly show that he is angry because losing his diamond.

4. Questions

Coates (2004) stated that men use statement that they talked when questioning something. They tend to ask directly when gain information, it has different pattern to women which sometime use question tag to ask question. From the table of data above, there were found 2 data of questions. In this finding, researcher choose one data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Sionis: “**Will yout paramour be joining us this evening?**” [W4]

Data W4 situation happens when Roman Sionis talked with Harley Quinn about the incidents that happened in his club because of her.

His statement considers to questioning directly to gain the information about Joker to Harley. Sionis wants to know that if Joker will be joining him or not.

3.3 Men Language Features Used by Women

According to Lakoff (2004) women tend to speak more polite and using statement that avoid swear and taboo words. In the “BIRDS OF PREY” movie shows that many of women character used the swear and taboo words in the certain situation. This language features as stated by Coates (2004) is use by men. There were 31 utterances that can be categorized as the types of men language features used by the women character in this movie. The types of the men language features can be seen in this table below.

Table 3 Men language features used by women

No	Men Language Features	Data	Percentage
1	Swearing and taboo language	31	100%
	Total	31	100%

1. Swearing and Taboo Words

Coates (2004) states that swearing and taboo words is language that impolite, rude, and innappropriated when it spoke. From the table of data above, there were found 31 data of swearing and taboo language that used by women. In this finding, researcher choose two data to elaborate and describe into statement.

(1) Harley: “This is where it all began, Puddin'. You **motherfucker!**” [WM1]

Data WM1 situation happens when Harley steals a truck filled with gasoline to blow up her favorite place and Joker.

Her statement using swearing word “motherfucker” to conveyed high emotions for his breakup with the Joker. Harley tries to get rid of her memories with Joker. Saying swearing words expresses the anger within her.

(2) Harley: “And I'm sorry I tried to sell you. That was a **dick** move” [WM1]

Data WM1 situation happens when Harley said sorry to Cassandra

Her statement considers to taboo language. Harley tried to revealed that what he had done to Cassandra was not good. He tried to give a "dick" analogy for what he did. This explains that the female statement uses taboo language to clarify her bad actions towards someone.

4. CONCLUSION

This research gain using qualitative decribtive methods, and documentation that related with object of research. In the result of research, the researcher describes entire data with statement according to related theoretical studies. As the conclusion from the result can be described as following;

Language features women and men in "BIRDS OF PREY" movie

Based on the data from transcript and the conversation in the movie found as follow: The most used women language features in this movie is intensifier consist of 10 data (28,57%). As for men, the most used language feature is swearing and taboo words consist of 15 data (51,7%). Furthermore, language features of men that used by women found swearing and taboo words as the most shown in the movie consist of 31 data.

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