



## An analysis of sexist language between women and men on social media pages

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**Abstrak:** This article aims to analyze the language of women and men. One of the things that affect language is gender. The theory used in this study is This study uses theory from Coates (2004) about male language features and Lakoff cited by Holmes (2003) about female language. The language differences between women and men here are regarding language features, their vocabulary, and topics that are usually discussed. This study uses a qualitative method. The data source is taken from social media conversations in the form of Whats App. The collected data will be analyzed using descriptive techniques to draw conclusions. The results of this study will then reveal some differences in conversations between women and men.

**Kata kunci:** Language and Gender, Sexist Language, Language Features, Vocabulary, Topics.

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## Introduction

Language is the most important thing in a communication. With language, we can understand what other people convey. However, the language of each region is different. The language used can usually be influenced by several things such as age, environment, technology, and gender (Kristy, 2022). In this study, researchers will discuss the influence of gender in a language. There have been many studies related to language and gender. The results of the study show that the use of grammatical and lexical choices for each gender is different. Not only that, there is also research that discusses the differences in masculine and feminine diction in each gender.

Based on the objectives, this study aims to determine the differences in language between women and men. There is a similar study, namely *Comparison of Sexist Language Used in The Twilight Saga Eclipse Movie (2013)* by Ni Wayan Ayu Santi. This study uses the same theory as Coates (2004) about male language features and Lakoff cited by Holmes (2003) about female language. In this research, (Santi, 2013) also discusses the differences in the language of female and male characters through their dialogues. The results of this study found several differences between men and women based on verbosity, use of question tags, questions, orders and directions, and swearing or taboo language. Eventually, he discovered that women were more polite than men.

According to Coates (2004) the characteristics of the language used by men. First, the minimal response to assert dominance is like, terms like mhm, yes, and true. Second, commands and directives. Third, swearing and taboo language. Fourth, praise. Fifth, topics of conversation such as travel and sports. And finally, questions, men ask questions directly to get information. Meanwhile, according to Lakoff (as quoted in Holmes, 2003) suggests that there are ten characteristics of women's speech: First, fences or lexical fillers. Second, the increase in intonation in the declarative. Third are color terms such as, beige, mauve, turquoise blue etc. Fourth is intensifier. The fifth feature is the adjective 'empty' e.g., charming, cute, perfect, etc. The sixth feature is grammar such as the use of pronunciation, tenses, or grammatical constructions. The eighth feature is the forms of 'superpolite', the ninth feature is avoiding strong swear words. The last feature is the emphasis on empathy, namely stating something clearly.

Therefore, the sexist language between man and women is that there are positive and negative stereotypes of the language expressed by both (Holmes, 2013). Negative things about women are usually proven by the use of harsh language, however, men use it more often than women themselves. Meanwhile, positive things about women can be seen from their polite choice of words and for men when they are more to the point in expressing their opinions.

## Research Method

Analysis of research data using qualitative methods. Researchers used the model from Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, which contains three steps, namely data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

### a. Data Reduction

Data reduction is the first step in qualitative methods. In this step, collect data first, then summarize data from transcription. the researcher focuses on the important things and looking for themes and patterns is an example of data condensation. After the data has been collected and reduced, the researcher presents it in a descriptive form.

### b. Data Display

Data display is the second step in the qualitative method. This step contains a collection of data that has been organized and compressed for drawing conclusions. In this step, the researcher organizes and presents the collected data logically and systematically.

### c. Conclusion drawing/verification

This step is the third step of the qualitative method. this conclusion was concluded by the researcher himself. Conclusions are drawn from presenting a descriptive explanation of the data that has been collected.

## Result and Discussions

### 1. Language features of women in Whatsapp conversations

Dialogue 1 shows Alfiyatu as a woman. She uses the language features of Lakoff, namely the grammar of women. The first dialogue shows a conversation between Alfiyatu and Sedy.

#### Dialogue 1

Alfiyatu : “*Guys gausa nggae es*”(Guys, no need to make ice)

Alfiyatu : “*Tak tumbasne*”(I will buy it)

Sedy : “*Maaaciii*”(Thank you)

In the conversation above, Alfiyatu called his friends in the grub with the word “**Guys**”. This word is also often used by women when calling their closest friends. The vocabulary is preferred by women because nowadays the word “**Guys**” is also widely used by many people.

The second word is “**Maaaciii**”, the context in the conversation is that Alfiyatu wants to inform his friends at the boarding house not to buy ice because he will buy it for his friends. Then, the answer “**Maaaciii**” from Sedy expressed his gratitude to Alfiyatu. Writing the word “**Maaaciii**” here is obtained from the word “Thank you”. This vocabulary is often used by women because it shows the cute or funny nature of women.

#### Dialogue 2

Alfiyatu : “*udan kii*”(It's raining)

Alfiyatu : “*sido traweh nda?*”(So taraweeh or not?)

Putri : “*ogalah udan*”(No, it's raining)

Alfiyatu : “*okiww*”(Okay)

The second dialogue is shown in the conversation between Alfiyatu and Putri. The conversation above discussed the activities they would do, namely the Tarawih prayer. In the conversation, the conditions were described as being rainy, so Alfiyatu asked whether Putri was going to attend the prayer or not. Putri gave the reason for not participating because of the rain, then Alfiyatu answered with the word “**okiww**”. The word “**okiww**” here comes from the word “okay”. The writing of these words shows the style of language used by women. The change in word also shows the feminine nature of a woman as well.

#### Dialogue 3

Chosita : “*Ladala wkwk*”

Chosita : “*Aku nek bengi dewe tau dek, nek bbok ng kos dwe gung tau, wedi*

*horor* 🤩🤩🤩🤩🤩”(I've never been alone at night, but i've never slept alone, i'm afraid of horror)

Dian : “*Aaa mosok aku nko bengi dewe*”(Aaa am i alone tonight)

Dian : “*Mbk cooo*”(Mrs. Co)

Dian : 🥲🥲🥲(Cry)

Dian : “*Aaa mosok aku nko mantuk bengi*” ng Ponorogo malah gk wani 🥲”(Do I have to go back to Ponorogo at night, i don't dare)

The third dialogue is shown in Chosita's conversation with Dian. The conversation discussed Dian asking if any friends were still in the boarding house she was staying at. Because at that time, many of his friends had already returned home so he asked that question. However, the answers from friends were that no one was in the boarding house. This is supported by a statement from Chosita where she said that she had never slept alone in a boarding house because she was afraid. The answer “**Aaa**” from Dian showed a spoiled expression from a woman. The word is usually pronounced with a high intonation and bends like a woman's complaint. Likewise with the addition of the crying emoticon as a form of expressing the words he wrote in the message.

## 2. Language Features of Men in WhatsApp Message

The use of grammar from men will be shown in WhatsApp message conversations. He uses language features from Coates (2004) on male language. They use strong and taboo swear words in the conversation.

### Dialogue 1

Gowok : *"Ayo lapangan su tk parani"*(Let's go to the field, I'll pick you up)

Rafi : *"Gass"*(Go)

Rafi : *"Selak turu aku"*(Hurry up, I'm going to sleep)

Gowok : *"Nko no sore wae yah mene golek opo ngek"*( Later, at this hour there is nothing to look for either)

In the conversation the two men above showed many of the language characteristics that are often used by men, starting from the words "su", "gass", "ngek". The first word is "su", the word is one of the curses that is often said by men to their closest friends. The word comes from the name of a dog in Javanese, namely "Asu". The choice of words did not offend his friend, Rafi, because it was natural for them to use it when calling their friends. Similar to the word "ngek", the word is also a term to call a friend.

The initial context discussed in the conversation was Gowok who was going to invite Rafi to go to the field. Then Rafi immediately answered "gass". These words show that Rafi agreed to Gowok's invitation. Supported by the following statement that he would sleep soon if he didn't leave. This statement illustrates that men are very to the point, without further ado they say that answer.

### Dialogue 2

Aris : *"We bar nyabu"*(You've been consuming methamphetamine, right?)

Jalu : *"Bar nyabuopo to oraa"*(No, I do not consume it)

Jalu : *"Koh ping2 sing omng"*(Ping-ping told me)

Jalu : *"Cok jan nemen"*(Damn, that's outrageous)

In the conversation above, we discussed a taboo subject, namely "nyabu" which is meant by methamphetamine. This context was a joking statement from Aris, a close friend of Jalu, who wanted to ask his friend whether he was consuming methamphetamine. It is very taboo to say in everyday conversation. However, since they were already intimately acquainted they could bring it up into a casual topic.

Likewise with the swear word "cok". The word is a swear word that can be sensitive for someone. As explained by previous researchers, the context of friendship between the two of them is close friends. So that the word does not offend anyone in it.

## 3. The Topic of Women's Talk in Conversation

The topics of women's talk that are often discussed are usually women's clothing, food, accessories, etc. The conversation that the researcher will show will discuss the topic of the conversation. Shown in whats app grub conversations that contain only girls.

### Dialogue 1

Dian : *"Mbk sg punya high heels sg duwure 9cm spa ya?"*(Sis, does anyone have 9cm high heels?)

Alfi : *"Ponakanku punya yan, tapi luincip ujunge"*(My niece has high heels but they have sharp edges)

Dian : *"Warnane hitem Mbk"*(What color black?)

Alfi : *"Engga katane yan, coklat susu"*(No, milk chocolate)

Alfi : *"Harus item kah?"*(Must be black?)

Dian : *"Aduh ngh pon lk ngonten Mbk dikenee hitem lo garai 🖤"*(Ok then, it has to be black, sis)

In the conversation above, it shows that there is a topic of conversation that they discussed, namely **high heels**. During the conversation, Dian asked her friends if they had high heels. One of them, Alfi, replied that his nephew had the item. However, it has a different color from what Dian needs. The topic discusses high heels that are only worn and discussed by women. Likewise with the color that is only known by women as mentioned,

namely “**coklat susu**”. Men don't know anything about various colors, they only know about specific colors such as only brown, only green, or only blue.

#### Dialogue 2

Fani : “**Masak opo?**”(What are you cooking?)

Alfi : “**Ruhku mok tempe, sop, pindang suwir**”( I only know tempeh, soup, pindang shredded)

Fani : “**Masak sop, sambel kecap, tempe goreng ready gak?**”(Cook soup, soy sauce, fried tempeh, are you ready)

Alfi : “**Ready**”(Ready)

Alfi : “**Siapp**”(Ready)

Sekar : “**Guys brambang bawang lombok ng kamarku enek**”(Guys, onion, garlic, chilies are in my room)

The conversation above shows that the topic they are talking about is cooking. It started with Fani asking her friends for cooking ideas. Food ingredients such as “**tempe, sop, pindangsuwir, sambelkecap**” as well as “**brambang, bawang, lombok**” which means shallots, garlic and chilies in English. The ingredients and cooking ideas are also topics that are often discussed by women.

#### 4. Men's Topics in Whats App Messages

The topic of a man's conversation is usually inseparable from topics such as football, games, sports, etc. Men prefer things that are masculine. This statement will be proven by conversational messages between men and men in the following data.

##### Dialogue 1

Fadlan : “**Info makrab sebelum liburan mas masku semua**”(Info on the night of intimacy before the holidays, guys)

Rafli : “**Yu**”(Let's go)

Nawaf : “**Gazz ahh camcer part 2**”(Come on, cheerful camping part 2)

Fadlan : “**Tgl 10 gowkan**”(The 10th, let's go)

In the conversation above, the topic they discussed was vacation plans. It is the word “**camcer**” that identifies them as discussing traveling. “**camcer**” itself is an abbreviation of cheerful camping. The conversation was started by Fadlan who asked his opinion about the information about “**makrab**” or “**malamkeakraban**”. The question was answered by his friends who agreed with Fadlan's idea by saying “**Gazz ahh camcer part 2**”.

##### Dialogue 2

Marcelo : “**Piala champion akan balek lagi ke Manchester**”(The champion cup will return to Manchester)

Rizal : “**La pie wi Sidone Manchester is red opo blue**”(So how about manchester is red or blue)

Hafidz : “**Loh jare papa pep city karo mu ki tetangga dadi ga oleh iri kudu mendukung wkwk**”(You know, they said Manchester City and Manchester United are neighbours, so you can't be jealous, you have to support)

Hafidz : “**Totenhamakusaiki ben netral**”(I'm Tottenham now, stay neutral)

In the conversation above, they discussed the football team. They discussed their favorite football team, “**Manchester**”. The conversation contains two football clubs namely Manchester United and Manchester City. The color symbols depicted by the two clubs are **red and blue**. At that time there was the Champions Cup Final which was won by Manchester City. Then Marchelo believes that the **champion trophy** will again be won by Manchester. However, Hafidz joked that he would only support **Tottenham** to be neutral rather than choosing one of them.

## Conclusion

The conclusion obtained in this study is that gender is very influential in language. From the data obtained from the Whats App message above, it states that there are differences between the language of women and men. The difference lies in the use of grammar, vocabulary, and the topics they present. Words that show feminine energy in women are found when discussing women's language features, while masculinity energy from men can be shown in men's language features such as swear words and taboo things they say when giving messages. The same goes for the topics they talk about. The topics they discussed were in accordance with the areas preferred by each gender, such as cooking and accessories which were preferred by women and the topics of traveling and football which were liked by men.

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