Men's and Women's Language Features Used in the Conversation of the Talk Show "The Ellen Show"

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Abstract: This article is entitled *Men's and Women's Language Features Used in the Conversation of the Talk Show "The Ellen Show". This article aims to find the men's and women's language features in "The Ellen Show". The analysis of the article was focused on the utterance of man speakers and woman speakers to find out the features of men's and woman's language used in a conversation on a talk show. This article uses Lakoff's theory about Women's Language Features and Coates' theory about Men's Language Features to analyse the utterances of the talk show's men and women speakers. This article uses the documentation and observation technique to collect data. As a result, there are ten data and seven language features from woman speakers, namely Lexical Hedges or Filters, 'Empty' Adjectives, Rising Intonation on Declarative, Intensifies, 'Super-polite' Forms, Avoidance of Strong Swear Words, and Empathic Stress. From the man speaker, there are six data and four language features: Direct Form, Compliment, Swearing, Taboo Language, and Questions. The results indicate any linguistic features, differences, and similarities between men and women in a conversation on the talk show.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is the way to communicate with every human being. Many factors, including gender, influence every language use. The communication between men and women can be different if it is connected with some features, they frequently use daily. Many linguists have proposed the outcome of their studies. They found some differences between men and women in using language. Lakoff's book Language and Women's Place (1975) states that men speak more assertively, maturely and speak directly to the point of linguistic elements, in contrast to women who are indecisive and use figurative words. They often use more subtle and mannered words.

Differences between male and female language can occur due to societal influences. In this modern era, women are equal to men, which is why the language has changed and is influenced by gender. The language and gender phenomenon can be found especially on a TV show. In this case, we can find the difference between men's and women's language in a Talk

Show in America, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show". The Ellen Show is an American daytime television comedy variety talk show created and hosted by a woman named Ellen DeGeneres. In this analysis, the data was taken from one of the episodes of The Ellen Show, Episode 61.

This research aims to find the differences between men's and women's language, especially in the dialogue on television. Since millions worldwide will be watching, the speaker on a talk show must be conscious of what they say and control how they act. This article will answer two research questions based on this phenomenon. First, What are the female language features in the video "Will Smith's Interview with Ellen"?. Second, What are the male language features in the video "Will Smith's Interview with Ellen"?

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Definition of Language and Gender

In the Handbook of Language and Gender (2003), Holmes and Meyerhof discuss the shift in the field since the early 1970s--a movement away from "essentialist and dichotomous conceptions of gender to a differentiated, contextualized, and performative model which questions generalized claims about gender." According to Holmes (2008: 157), language and gender are discussed in sociolinguistics. The forms of language used by women and men differ - to different degrees - across all language communities. Another theory came from Eckert (2003). In her studies, she defines gender as the community-regulated variations between the functions, social duties, and obligations of men and women. It refers to the procedural requirements for how men and women should play a role in accordance with the standards of society and culture.

2. Women Language

Lakoff (1973), in Language and Woman's Place, introduced many ideas about women's language that are now commonplace in sociolinguistics. She claims that ten distinct characteristics of women's language can be used to distinguish women's speech from men. Lakoff describes women's speech that was characterized by linguistic features. They are:

2.1 Lexical Hedges or Filters.

A lexical hedge is a pause in the form of a word phrase used as a filler in confident, conversational phrases and offers a way out when there is disagreement. For example, *I guess*, *I mean*, *well*.

2.2 Tag Questions.

Lakoff (2004:48) says, "Tags, in their usage, as well as their syntactic form (in English), are halfway between direct statements and yes-no questions: they are less assertive than the former, but more confident than the latter." It's used when women lack information and use a tag question to be corrected by the hearer. For example, *she's beautiful, isn't she?*

2.3 Rising Intonation on Declarative.

A significant distinction in women's international patterns can be seen in the rising intonation on declarative, which is tied to this particular application of a grammatical rule. Women used intonation for a question. For example, *is it okay if I go*?

2.4 'Empty' Adjectives.

According to Lakoff (2004:45), an empty adjective is a term that only refers to emotional

responses as opposed to specific facts. Women mostly use many adjectives. It is applied to soften and add friendly elements to the sentence. For example, *charming*, *cute*, and *lovely*.

2.5   Precise Color Terms.

Lakoff (2004:43) stated that differences in color specifications only occur in women. Women describe colors with greater accuracy than men. For example, cyan, magenta, and olive.

2.6   Intensifies

Intensives are used where the pourer will insist on absolute superlatives, with strong emphasis, which seems more characteristic of female language than male language. However, this is found in the latter. From Lakoff's theory of intensifiers, this is more characteristic of female language. An intensifier is a word that can strengthen a statement so that the listener recognizes the speaker. For example, *I like him so much*.

2.7   'Hypercorrect' Grammar.

Hypercorrect grammar is the consistency of standard verb forms. The use of the standard verb, an avoidance of vulgar terms. For example: '*ain't'*, and precise pronunciation, such as sounding the final 'g' in words such as "going' instead of the more casual '*goin'*.

2.8 'Super-polite' Forms.

According to Lakoff (2004:80), women should speak more subtly than men. According to Lakoff (through Cameron, 1990:231), a request can also be a polite order that does not demand explicit compliance but proposes an action to be taken in the speaker's kindness or sympathy. For example, *I'm sorry to bother you. Thank you very much for your attention*.

2.9 Avoidance of Strong Swear Words.

Lakoff (2004:44) believes that women's swearing differs from men's. Men and women have different preferences in using swear words. Men often use crude and forbidden swear words, while women use more civilized versions of swear words. For example, *God darn it*.

2.10 Emphatic Stress.

Lakoff states that women use strict emphasis to improve their intonation. This suggests that women use emphasis because they anticipate their interlocutors not taking it seriously. For example, *it was a difficult test*.

These characteristics came from Lakoff's research and observations. Nonetheless, they seemed precise and simple to study.

3.   Men's Language

According to Lakoff (2004), many things are the basis for language differences between women and men. It is explained that men's language is more assertive, mature, and to the point. Lakoff (1995) states that women's linguistic behavior can generally be more polite than men's. Women tend to focus more on speech's social or affective function, whereas men emphasize the referential function of language.

In the Men language features, Coates (2004:97) states language features that men use. According to Coates, six language features characterized men's language features.

3.1   Minimal Responses

Men mostly use minimal responses, or backchanneling, language features. Men often use terms such as *mhm*, *yeah*, and *right*. Men tend to use these language features to assert the dominance of the conversation.

3.2   Command and Directives

In using a language, men use the command and directives when they are in a same-sex group, the word like *gimme*, *gotta*, and *gonna*, is the word that is usually used by men with their friends or people who are closed to them.

3.3   Swearing and Taboo Language

The fact that men use swearing language more often than women is true. They use swear words to express emotion. According to psychologicalscience.org, swearing words can achieve several outcomes when used positively for joking or storytelling. Research conducted by Coates shows that conversations between men and men use swear words more than between women and women.

3.4   Compliments

In their conversations, men often used the complement to appreciate each other based on skill and possessions. Such as *good job, good boy*.

3.5   The Theme

Men sometimes talk about current issues and topics that interest men such as sports, hobbies, and, travel.

3.6   Question

Not only women, men often use the questions. They use the questions to gain information, while women use question tags to ask a question.

Coates (2004:157) says that male speakers are more likely to interrupt others intrusively; they are also more likely to interrupt women than women interrupt men. This situation is called overlap.

RESEARCH METHOD

The data used in this analysis were taken from the video, specifically on the Talkshow video, The Ellen Show entitled "Will Smith's Full Interview with Ellen", to compare the use of language features in women and men. In this episode, Ellen invited Will Smith as a guest. This talk show is about Will Smith's 50th Birthday experience and his role in his latest Movie, "Aladdin". This episode was aired in 2019. The subject of this research was the speech of Will Smith (Men) and Ellen DeGeneres (Women) in the video "Will Smith Interview with Ellen DeGeneres". This video was chosen because The Ellen Show is one of the most famous Talkshows worldwide and the most popular on YouTube compared to other Talkshows. The data in this study came from 1 video of 23 minutes and 44 seconds duration.

To collect data, the writer is using the Documentation method. The method used in this study is the documentation technique which means watching the video and downloading the transcript. The technique used is to listen to the use of language by someone and read the transcript of the speech from the talk show, and separate the data found into two groups of data language groups used by women and men. After collecting the data, the writer used observation

to analyze the data. The collected data were categorized and separated based on their language features. In this study, the writer analyzes the data using the theory of Women's Language Features by Lakoff (1973) and Men's Language Features by Coates (2004).

The analysed data is presented using the informal method. The informal method refers to the method of presenting the analysis by using words. In this study, the data is presented in 2 different parts, the first is Women's Language Features, and the second is Men's Language Features. they are categorized based on their types and function. The data are explained afterward.

FINDING & DISCUSSION

The findings of the study have been divided into two categories. The language characteristics of the female host of The Ellen Show, Ellen DeGeneres, are discussed in the first section, and the male guest star, Will Smith, is discussed in the second section.

4.1 The Female Language Features (Ellen DeGeneres)

4.1.1 Lexical Hedges or Filters.

1st Data

Ellen: "oh, well we do, because it's one thing" (Minute 2.32)

In her utterance at minute 2 and 32 seconds, one of the female language features is Lexical hedges. The word "well" stated by Ellen is to show that she agrees with Smith's statements. In this utterance, lexical hedges are used to her opinion.

2nd Data

Ellen: "I mean like everybody wanted to be a part of this movie" (Minute 11.57)

Lexical hedges are used by women to show politeness and also to give strength to their opinion or statements. In Ellen's utterance, she used the word "mean" to fill the gap and to restate her opinion.

4.1.2 'Empty' Adjectives.

3rd Data

Ellen: "it was wonderful" (Minute 2.01)

Women used empty adjectives to strengthen their feelings about what they were discussing. It is also used to attract more attention from the addressee that their message to the addressee is important. In Ellen's utterance, she stated the word "wonderful" to show empathy and appreciation toward Smith's experience. She used this word to show appreciation for Smith's statement.

4th Data

F1: "You know, loved, it was—it has everything" (minute 12.23)

In this utterance, the female guest star is using the word "Loved" to soften and add friendly elements to the sentence because in this case, she is going to talk about her experience as an actress in the film "Aladdin"

4.1.3 Rising Intonation on Declarative

5th Data

Ellen: "But you made—you forced your wife" (Minute 2.37)

The rising intonation in declarative is used when the speaker tries to find information. In this utterance, Ellen uses the Rising intonation in the sentence "You forced your wife" to seek the information and the fact from Will Smith. She used these language features in order to find confirmation from Will Smith.

4.1.4 Intensifies

6th Data

Ellen: "you're so much fun" (Minute 2.05)

The main feature of intensifying women's language features is strengthening the statement. It could be used to strengthen the speaker's statement. In this utterance, Ellen used the word "so" to show that she admires Will Smith's personality and feels entertained whenever Will Smith appears on her show.

4.1.5 'Super-polite' Forms.

7th Data

Ellen: "I always love when I know you're going to be on the show." (Minute 2.02)

The use of super-polite forms in women's speech expresses their identity that women tended to speak politely to create an impression that women were more concerned about their behavior. In this utterance, Ellen states that she is very happy when Will Smith is coming to her show to be a guest star, but her utterance can also be a way to show politeness to the audience and Will Smith as her guest star.

4.1.6 Avoidance of Strong Swear Words.

8th Data

F1: "oh my gosh" (Minute 20.22)

Women mostly use the avoidance of strong swear words. They behave more politely and keep their nature as women to maintain their reputation and societal position. In her utterance, the women guest star is using the word "gosh" to avoid the strong word because she was surprised by Will Smith's costume, which is slightly inappropriate for children. In this situation, she expressed her feeling by saying Oh My Gosh rather than harsh words.

4.1.7 Emphatic stress.

9th Data

Ellen: "That was enjoyable" (Minute 1.40)

In this utterance, Ellen appreciated Will Smith's performance by saying, ' That was enjoyable.' She used this word to express her feelings toward Smith's performance, and she appreciates Smith by saying the word 'enjoyable' to him.

10th Data

Ellen: "How does that not-- that would scare me, too" (Minute 9.11)

The use of emphatic stress is to give force and boost the utterances so that people will be convinced, in this utterance, Ellen is saying the word 'that would scare me too' to emphasize Smith's story. This utterance boosts the audience's feelings about Will Smith's extreme experience and convinces them that Will Smith did something very scary.

4.2 The male language features (Will Smith)

4.2.1 Direct Form

1st Data

Will Smith: "Two lucky people, you beat out hundreds of actors for this"
(Minute 11.55)

The direct form is one of the men's language features. In delivering a language, men's language is more assertive and mature, and using a direct form, they deliver the messages they want to express directly. In this utterance, Will Smith explains that those two people are very lucky because they can beat a lot of actors for having a role in the film Aladdin. He expressed the utterance on point so the audience could understand his message.

4.2.2 Compliments

2nd Data

Will Smith: "And Ellen, she is such a good host" (Minute 13.09)

Not just women, men also use compliments while producing a language. In this utterance, Will Smith compliments Ellen by saying she is a good host. He used this word to respect Ellen as a host and gave Ellen this utterance as a token of appreciation based on the previous context. Ellen was coughing but still paying attention to her guest star.

4.2.3   Swearing and Taboo Language

3rd Data

Will Smith: "You stupid!" (Minute 4.30)

In a language, men are known for one of their language features which are Swearing and taboo language. In this utterance, will smith is using the word 'stupid' to describe his unforgettable experience by doing skydiving. The word stupid is his emotions and expression to describe that scary moment.

4th Data

Will Smith: "You're a very dumb man" (Minute 4.41)

In this utterance, will smith is using the swearing word 'dumb' to express his emotions by doing bungee jumping. While telling his experience of doing some of his extreme sports, he expressed his feelings while doing that activity.

5th Data

Will Smith: "You got to rub that lamp the right way" (Minute 19.32)

Sometimes men also use taboo words to make a joke. In this utterance, will smith is giving his reaction with the word 'rub that lamp' because, on the talk show, one of the scenes shows that he's wearing a costume that's inappropriate to watch, so he makes fun of it by saying this utterance.

4.2.4   Question

6th Data

Will Smith: "Right?" (Minute 1.45)

In the language features, men also use the tag questions to be competitive and engage in conflict, such as commanding, arguing, and issuing. In this utterance, Will Smith use the word 'Right' at the end of his speech. He used this word to restate his argument and to ask for confirmation. Will Smith also used the question tags on the talk show with the same pattern. Here is some of the data of the men's question tags: Will Smith: "it's flying, right?" (Minute 4.55)

CONCLUSION

The topic of the discussion is men's and women's language features, focusing on the men's and women's language features from the talk show between Ellen DeGeneres (woman) and Will Smith (man). There are ten data and seven language features from woman speakers: Lexical Hedges or Filters, 'Empty' Adjectives, Rising Intonation on Declarative, Intensifies, 'Super-polite' forms, Avoidance of Strong Swear Words, and Empathic Stress. From the man speaker, there are six data and four language features: Direct Form, Compliment, Swearing and Taboo Language, and Question. Of ten woman's language features, only seven are used by women speakers in "The Ellen Show", most used language features are Lexical Hedges or Filters, 'Empty' Adjectives, and Emphatic Stress. While man speakers on "The Ellen Show" only use four language features, the most used language features" are Swearing, Taboo Language, and Questions. The result of the discussion found that women and men have some similarities in their linguistic features when talking to each other., First, men and women are often using compliment words to appreciate each other and to give sympathy to their interlocutors (e.g You're so much

fun (Ellen), She is such a good host (Will)). Second, the men speaker uses several question tags in some of his utterances to redeclare and restate their utterances, just like what women used to do. (e.g. right? You know?). Based on the analysis, we can conclude that men and women have different language use characteristics. In this analysis, we can find that man speaker is using women's language features, such as Question Tags. While the woman speaker is using men's language features like a Compliment.

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