



Women's language analysis used by female characters in mulan movie

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ABSTRACT

Women's language and its features have been a subject of linguistic study for decades. This research explores the women's language features used by female characters in the 2020 movie "Mulan," directed by Niki Caro. Utilizing Robin Lakoff's (1975) framework of women's language features and Judy Pearson's (1985) theory on the functions of these features. The purposes of this study are to identify the specific women's language features in the Mulan movie and to examine the functions of women's language features. The study employs a descriptive qualitative method, analyzing the film's script and dialogues to extract relevant data. The results indicate that there are 8 women's language features which are hedges and fillers, intensifiers, tag questions, super polite forms, emphatic stress, empty adjectives, hypercorrect grammar and rising intonation on declarative. The functional analysis revealed 5 functions of women's language features which are expressing uncertainty, getting responses, softening utterances, initiating discussions, and expressing feelings and opinions. This study contributes to the understanding of women's language in contemporary media, highlighting how female characters in "Mulan" use specific linguistic features to navigate their interactions and express themselves.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is categorized as a science in which the function is to get information. Crystal (2010, p. 246) emphasizes that all the information that attempts to prove how language works and how it is learned and used can be immediately understood. The study of language is known as linguistics, which is categorized into two parts: micro and macro linguistics. Microlinguistics directs its study of the internal structure of a particular language to the internal structure of that language or to the internal structure of languages in general. In micro-linguistics, there are several branches of study, such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and lexicology. While the field of macrolinguistics includes psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, and sociolinguistics.

Specifically, sociolinguistics examines the relationship between language and society to gain a better understanding of the structure of language and of how languages function as a means of social condition. In addition, sociolinguistics focuses on social interaction to show an act based on their purpose, which starts from childhood to adulthood for both men and women. Specifically, sociolinguistics examines the relationship between language and society to gain a better understanding

of the structure of language and of how languages function as a means of social condition. In addition, sociolinguistics focuses on social interaction to show an act based on their purpose, which starts from childhood to adulthood for both men and women.

Women have a unique way of using language than men. Since some sociolinguistics has found that there are some differences in the use of language in men and women, which are features in speech between women and men. For instance, women are a social group that have unique characteristics in their use of written or spoken language. It can be in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, etc. Lakoff proposed features of women's language that women generally use to distinguish between women's and men's language. Lakoff (1975) as cited in Holmes (2013, p.158) states women's language features which are lexical hedges and filler, tag question, precise color terms, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, and empathic stress .

These language features have function as Pearson (1985) states 5 function of women language features which are expressing uncertainty, getting response, softening utterances , initiating discussions, expressing feelings and opinions., This study analyzes the utterances by female characters in the Mulan movie. Mulan Movie is the Asian movie that was directed by Niki Caro, has been chosen as the subject of this study. The film was selected as the object because it perfectly captures dialogue or conversation.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive-qualitative approach. Creswell (2014, p. 187) emphasizes that the qualitative approach focuses on data collection, analysis, and writing. Thus, qualitative research is research discussing human problems and their behavior by using data in the form of pictures, videos, notes, or interview results and not numerical data. Moleong (2017, p.10) emphasized that the descriptive method is a research method that describes and analyzes a research result. The data for this study were words, phrases, or sentences that contain women's language in the statement used in the Mulan movie. As a technique of data collection, this study uses movie transcripts as the data. First, this study selects the text script that contains the women's language. Second, In analyzing data, this study used Lakoff theory (1975) and Pearson theory (1985). The object of the study is the 2020 Mulan movie by Niki Caro. The Mulan movie explains the situation when the Middle China Empire was attacked by Huns from the north. The emperor then required each family to send one man to fight on the battlefield. A young Chinese woman named Hua Mulan disguised herself as a boy to fight for her father's place. The movie is chosen as the object of the study since it portrays the theme of discrimination against women's positions in society.

The data used to determine Robin Lakoff's theory of women's language features and Judy Pearson's theory of women's language function. Additionally, the sentences were examined in order to investigate some of Women language analysis used by female characters in the Mulan movie. The data collection technique involves gathering sufficient information to address research questions. Creswell (2017, p. 262) describes data collection as the process of obtaining information from documents or visual data, followed by establishing guidelines for organizing this information. In this study, the steps for collecting data include; Repeatedly and intensively watching the movie to understand the entire story; Concentrating on female characters with issues related to women's language features and Women's Language Function then selecting relevant scenes for the study; Focusing on the chosen scenes and thoroughly understanding the characters' dialogues; Collecting data in the form of images, dialogues, and from the selected scenes, paying attention to key words and sentences; Arranging the selected data into several sections to obtain comprehensive and in-depth data results. After collecting the data, the study proceeds to the data analysis stage. Moleong (2017, p. 280) describes data analysis as the process of organizing data, categorizing it, and describing it to form a final hypothesis. The data analysis stage is the stage where the author describes and explains the data that has been collected then writes down the findings and makes interpretations of them. Data analysis

is the stage that contains the results of research, which means the data analysis stage is the core stage of a study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter contains the results of the data analysis for *Mulan Movie 2020* by Niki Caro. The data analyzed the sentences, and words from all female characters in the *Mulan* movie, which support answering questions from the formulation of the problem. This chapter consists of two sub-chapters according to the formulation of problems. The first sub-chapter begins by analyzing the sentences that apply the women's language used by female characters in *Mulan Movie*. The second sub-chapter is to find out the function of language features used by female characters in the *Mulan* movie. This study has twenty-one data points to analyze Women's language features in the *Mulan* movie.

Women's Language Features

In this subchapter, the concept of women language can be elucidated through Robin Lakoff (1995) for women language features. Judy Pearson (1985, p.97) states the Function of Women's Language. This study discovered twenty one sentences that apply language features. There are eight types of Women's Language features found in this study: Hedges and filler, intensifier, Tag question, super polite form, emphatic stress, empty adjective, hypercorrect grammar, and raising intonation on declarative. The Frequency can be seen in the table below :

Table 1. Women's Language Features

Women's Language features	Total
Lexical Hedges and filler	7
Tag Question	4
Intensifier	3
Empty adjective	3
Super Polite form	1
Emphatic stress	1
Hypercorrect grammar	2
Rising intonation on declarative	2
Total of Women's language Features	23

From Table 1. women's language features used by the female characters contain 7 data of lexical hedges and filler, 4 data of tag questions, 3 data of empty adjectives, 3 data of intensifier, 1 data of superpolite form, and 1 data of empathic stress, 2 data of rising intonation on declarative and 2 data of hypercorrect grammar. The data above shows that the two most dominant features are lexical hedges or filler followed by tag question.

a. Lexical Hedges and Filler

Datum 1: "I think one was a male, one was a female." *Mulan* (0:13:53.32-0:13:55.70), Datum 1 The above was mentioned by *Mulan* when she rode alongside two rabbits side by side. She wasn't really sure what exactly the gender of the rabbit, rather being confused, she said that. The sentence I think can be seen as hedges because they add a bit of doubt to the statement. In this case, the speaker might use these words to indicate uncertainty or to caution the listener that they are not entirely sure about what they are saying. Therefore, women's language features like these may appear in conversation as a strategy to reduce tension or to express doubt.

b. Tag Question

Datum 8: "Do you think we are lost?" Mulan (0:27:49.83- 0:27:51.24), Datum 8, The sentences above was mentioned by Mulan when she was on her way. The food she had ran out, but it seemed they weren't going to arrived yet. Mulan started asking herself if they were lost. In terms of women's language characteristics, the inquiry "Do you think we are lost?" incorporates a tag question. By starting with Do you think and ending with we are lost?, The speaker seeks validation or confirmation from the listener. This usage of the tag question indicates a level of uncertainty or worry on the speaker's part regarding their current whereabouts. This mirrors a typical pattern in women's language, where tag questions are utilized to solicit agreement, assurance, or to initiate further discussion.

c. Intensifiers

Datum 12: "So? So this is natural.", Mulan (0:56:09.40-0:56:12.57), Datum 12, The sentence So? So this is natural contains an intensifier. The repetition of so emphasizes the speaker's point, indicating a strong affirmation or acceptance of the situation. This use of intensifiers, like so, is common in women's language to add emphasis, express conviction, or reinforce a statement. In this instance, the speaker is asserting that the situation is indeed natural, and the use of the intensifier so strengthens their stance.

d. Super Polite Form

Datum 15: "I'm truly blessed to be in the presence of such enchanting women.", Mulan's sister (0:15:51.90-0:15:55.32), Datum 15 The sentence I'm truly blessed to be in the presence of such enchanting women exemplifies the super polite form in women's language features. This expression conveys a sense of admiration and respect towards the women present, emphasizing their enchanting qualities. The use of words like truly blessed and enchanting reflects an extra level of courtesy and appreciation, which aligns with the super polite form. This language choice demonstrates the character's desire to convey genuine admiration and gratitude in a polite and respectful manner.

e. Emphatic Stress

Datum 16: "We will live. I guarantee it." Mulan (0:56:31.46- 0:56:32.72), In this datum 16, In the Mulan movie, the line We will live. I guarantee it. demonstrates emphatic stress in women's language features. The emphasis is placed on the words will and guarantee, indicating a strong conviction and assurance. By emphasizing these words, the speaker conveys intense determination and confidence in their statement. This use of emphatic stress serves to underscore the speaker's commitment to the outcome and to instill confidence in the listener, showcasing a characteristic feature of women's language in expressing certainty and assurance. Mulan use the empathic stress when convincing her fellow soldiers to make them believe.

f. Empty Adjective

Datum 17: "We have excellent news". Mulan's mother (0:14:03.79-0:14:05.71), In datum 17, In the Mulan movie, the phrase "We have excellent news" showcases the use of empty adjectives in women's speech patterns. Empty adjectives are words that express positive feelings or approval without offering detailed descriptions. Here, excellent indicates the speaker's excitement and satisfaction with the news without specifying its details. This practice of using empty adjectives is a common feature of women's language, often utilized to convey positivity, enthusiasm, or approval in conversation.

g. Hypercorrect Grammar

Datum 21: "The more power I showed, the more I was crushed". Xianning (1:15:11.63-1:15:15.01), The sentence "The more power I showed, the more I was crushed" is an example of the comparison degree, specifically of parallel comparative structures. It compares the amount of power shown with the resulting degree of being crushed, using "the more...the more" pattern. This construction emphasizes that as one variable (power shown) increases, so does the other (degree of being crushed). Comparison degrees are used in describing women or women's language. In this sentence, mulan shows that there is hypercorrect grammar which is can be seen from the use of comparison degrees.

h. Rising intonation on Declarative

Datum 22: "She must be...Is something wrong?", Matchmaker (0:17:15.57- 0:17:16.90), In datum 22," She must be..." This part of the sentence begins as a declarative statement suggesting an assumption or conclusion. Then, in the sentences "... Is something wrong?" The rising intonation occurs at the end of the statement, transforming it into a question-like form. This rise in pitch typically indicates uncertainty or a request for confirmation. In the movie "Matchmaker," who is focused, asks Mulan, who seems to be almost dropping the tea glass, Matchmaker hears the sound of the glass collision, and makes sure if everything is all right.

Functions of Women's Language Features

In this subchapter, the study presents the functions of women's language features using Judy Pearson's theory (1995). This study used twenty two sentences to classify. There are Five Functions of Women's Language features found in this study: Expressing uncertainty, Softening utterances, Initiating discussions, Expressing feelings and opinions, Getting responses. The frequency data can be seen in the table below.

Table 2. Women's Language Function

Women's Language Function	Total
Expressing uncertainty	5
Softening utterances	2
Initiating discussions	2
Expressing feelings and opinions	10
Getting responses	4
Total of Women's Language Function	23

a. Expressing uncertainty

Datum 1: "I think one was a male, one was a female."Mulan (0:13:53.32-0:13:55.70), The sentence "I think one was a male, one was a female" illustrates how women express uncertainty in their language. By using I think, the speaker indicates they're not entirely certain about their statement. Instead of asserting something definitively, they introduce a level of doubt with I think. This allows them to express their opinion while acknowledging potential inaccuracies. Thus, the sentence demonstrates how women use uncertainty to articulate their thoughts and convey a lack of complete confidence in their statements.

b. Softening utterances

Datum 6: "I'm truly blessed to be in the presence of such enchanting women." Mulan's sister (0:15:51.90-0:15:55.32), The sentence I'm truly blessed to be in the presence of such enchanting women. illustrates how women soften their expressions in conversation. By using phrases like truly blessed and enchanting women, the speaker expresses admiration and appreciation. This language choice helps to make the statement more gentle and polite, rather than simply stating that they're in the company of wonderful people. It shows that the speaker values and respects

the individuals they're referring to. This approach creates a friendly and positive atmosphere, making the interaction more pleasant. Overall, this sentence demonstrates how women use softened language to communicate respectfully and considerately.

c. Initiating Discussions

Datum 8: "Well, it doesn't feel natural." Mulan (0:56:12.65- 0:56:14.20), The phrase "Well, it doesn't feel natural" illustrates how women often initiate conversations. They employ Well to indicate that they're about to convey something significant and desire further discussion. Subsequently, when they remark it doesn't feel natural, they're prompting a dialogue about the topic. This invites others to express their opinions, pose inquiries, or provide reassurance. Consequently, this sentence showcases how women utilize language to commence discussions and foster engagement with others.

d. Expressing feelings and opinions

Datum 10: "But I think the teapot should remain where it is." Mulan (0:17:38.63- 0:17:42.01), The sentence "But I think the teapot should remain where it is" shows the function of expressing opinions and sentiments within women's language. Through the phrase I think, the speaker signals their intent to share their personal viewpoint on the matter of the teapot's placement. This expression enables them to convey their thoughts while recognizing the possibility of differing perspectives. Furthermore, the inclusion of should conveys a strong sense of conviction or preference, indicating the speaker's firm belief in maintaining the current location of the teapot. In essence, the sentence illustrates how women utilize language to convey their opinions and emotions, thereby enriching discussions and fostering the exchange of diverse viewpoints.

e. Getting responses

Datum 20: "Do you think we

are lost?" Mulan (0:27:49.83- 0:27:51.24), The sentence "Do you think we are lost?" illustrates how women use questions to gather information. Here, the speaker is inquiring about the listener's opinion on the situation. By using the phrase Do you think, the speaker indicates a desire to hear the listener's thoughts or ideas. Additionally, the mention of being lost suggests a potential problem, prompting the speaker to seek a response from the listener. Essentially, this sentence aims to initiate a conversation and encourage the listener to share their perspective.

4. CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that women exhibit different language characteristics compared to men, based on the features of women's language proposed by Lakoff (1975) and the functions of women's language as outlined by Pearson (1985). This study focuses on the features and functions of women's language used by female characters in the Mulan movie. It identified 22 instances of these features: 7 hedges or fillers, 3 intensifiers, 4 tag questions, 1 super polite form, 1 emphatic stress, 3 empty adjectives, 2 hypercorrect grammar, and 2 raising intonation on declarative statements. The most common feature was hedges or fillers, which help indicate uncertainty, soften statements, and facilitate smoother conversations. Regarding the functions of women's language, the study found 5 instances of expressing uncertainty, 4 of getting responses, 2 of softening utterances, 2 of initiating discussions, and 10 of expressing feelings and opinions. The most common function was expressing feelings and opinions, which is central to the characters' communication, contributing to character development, plot progression, and understanding of motivations and relationships.

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