

**AN ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGE IN
KAZUO ISHIGURO'S NOVEL: *NEVER LET ME GO* (2005)
(A SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY)**

Meka Sapitri¹, Dhanu Ario Putra²

English Literature Department, Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu

Email¹ : Mecca.fitrii27@gmail.com

Email² : dhanryu@unived.ac.id

Abstract

This study examined about women's language in Kazuo Isiguro's novel: Never Let Me Go (2005). The objective of the study are: (1) to explain the lexical terms of women's language in Kazuo Ishiguro's novel: Never Let Me Go (2) to know the syntactic terms of women's language in Kazuo Ishiguro's novel: Never Let Me Go. The method of this study is descriptive qualitative. The data were collected through document analysis; the reasearcher read and marked all the conversations of Kathy and Ruth. In analyzed the data, the researcher used technique developed by Spradley. The finding showed that Kathy and Ruth used the lexical terms of women's language divided into Intensifier, empty adjective, avoidance of strong swearword and emphatic stress. While syntactic terms of women's language were used by Kathy and Ruth divided into Hedges, taq-question, rising intonation on declarative, super polite.

Keywords : *gender, kazuo, language, lexical terms, syntactic term*

Introduction

In social life, people communicate with each other to convey their intentions, ideas, emotions or feeling through language. Keraf (as cited in Smaradhipa, 2005) stated that language is a means of communication between one person to others in a group through symbol of sounds produced by organ system of human sound. There are several language characters, one of them is that the language is dinamic. Dinamic means that languages differ somewhere else. Language can also change from time to time influenced by the speaker in society. One of the causes of language difference is gender, especially the language used by men and women. They are generally different in using language.

According to Jendra (2010), languages vary based on gender. There are men's language and women's language variations. Holmes (1992) stated that women and men do not use the exact same thing as each other in speaking. W hen

talking, men tend to talk about hobbies, sports and automotive. While women tend to talk about relationship, family and fashion. Even so, there are some women who talk about automotive and sports vice versa men talk about relationship and family. It depends on context, situation and individual respectively.

Based on Lakoff opinion(1975), women and men are different in using the language. Women often use standard form when speaking and they also often use adjectives such as *terrific*, *lovely*, *sweet* and so on. The opinion of the experts above, it can be concluded that generally women and men have different ways in communication.

Research Design and Methodology

This study used descriptive qualitative research. According to Sugiyono (2010), descriptive research is a study conducted to determine the value of independent variables, either one variable or more without making a comparison with other variables. Based on Ospina (2004) qualitative research as a form of systematic empirical inquiry into the meaning.

The data source of this study is *Never Let Me Go* novel. There are two data in this study, they are primary and secondary data. Primary data in this study are primary data are all conversations of Kathy and Ruth indicated women's language. Whereas secondary data in this study are *Never Let Me Go* novel overview, biography of Kazuo Ishiguro as the writer of *Never Let Me Go Novel* and five theses that the researcher has reviewed before. To collected the data the researcher conducted the following steps, read *Never Let Me Go* novel and focused on conversations of Kathy and Ruth characters and marked all the conversations of Kathy and Ruth.

Findings

This section describes the findings of the data that has been analyzed. Through *Never Let Me Go* novel, the researcher found the data to answer two objectives of the study. This section has two parts, the first part showing the finding of the lexical terms of women's language in *Never Let Me Go* novel. The

second section showing the syntactic terms of women's language in *Never Let Me Go* novel. The researcher found 192 data indicated in women's language used by Kathy and Ruth characters in *Never Let Me Go* novel. 116 utterances included in lexical terms and 76 utterances included syntactic terms. In analyzed the data, the researcher used theory by Lakoff.

Lexical Terms of Women's Language

According to Lakoff (1975), women and men are different in language use. Certain lexical terms applied to men different to women. Women's language are divided into lexical terms and syntactic terms. Lexical terms are elaborated to precise color word, avoidance of strong swearword, empty adjectives, intensifier and emphatic stress. Below are the table of the data amounts included the lexical terms women only that used by Kathy and Ruth, the characters in *Never Let Me Go* novel.

Table 4.1. lexical terms of women's language only by Kathy

Character	Lexical terms (women only)	Data	Percentage
Kathy	Precise color word	0	-
	Avoidance of strong swearword	0	-
	Empty adjectives	8	10.52%
	Intensifier	67	88.15%
	Emphatic stress	1	1.31%
Total Data		76	100%

The use of lexical terms by Kathy are 76 utterances. In number intensifier is the most widely used, that are 67 utterances, and the percentage are 88.15%. 8 utterances used empty adjectives, and the percentage are 10.52%. 0 precise color word. 0 avoidance of strong swearword and 1 utterance used emphatic stress, and the percentage are 1.31%.

Table 4.2 lexical terms of women's language used by Ruth

Character	Lexical terms (women only)	Data	Percentage
Ruth	Precise color word	0	-

	Avoidance of strong swearword	2	5%
	Empty adjectives	0	-
	Intensifier	38	95%
	Emphatic stress	0	-
Total Data		40	100%

Ruth used lexical terms of women's language as many as 40 utterances. Kathy used intensifier 38 utterances, and the percentage are 95%. 0 empty adjectives, 0 precise color word, 2 utterances used avoidance of strong swearword, and the percentage are 5% and 0 emphatic stress.

Below are some data using the lexical terms of women's language used by Kathy and Ruth.

Avoidance of Strong Swearword

The researcher found that Ruth used avoidance of strong swearword in *Never Let Me Go* novel at the pages 150. Ruth used avoidance of strong swearword *sweetie* and *dear* in her utterances "*Tommy, **sweetie**, don't make a fool of yourself in front of our friend. Do it to me, that's all right. But not in front of our **dear** Kathy and It's not just me, **sweetie**.*" She used swearword when she got angry with Tommy because she thinks theory that Tommy found does not make sense. But she still used the polite swearword to keep her attitude in front of Tommy as her boyfriend even though she got angry with him.

Empty Adjectives

The researcher found two utterances that Kathy used as the empty adjectives *sweet* and *great* at the page 131. Kathy said "*They had some, Tommy. Oh, never mind. It was a **sweet** idea. I'm really touched. It was a **great** idea. This is Norfolk, after all.*" In the conversation Tommy said that woolworth's shop maybe sell the same tape as tape of Kathy. Kathy used empty adjectives *sweet* and *great* to express her happiness rather than give specific information.

Intensifier

i). Intensifier used by Kathy

In the statement “Not **just** that, Tommy. You've turned things around for yourself. I've been watching. So that's why I was asking” at the page 20 Kathy used intensifier *just*. Intensifier *just* is to strong her statement. She used intensifier *just* when Tommy says do not be angry because Tommy thinks that Kathy is so fussy.

ii). Intensifier used by Ruth

Ruth used intensifier *really* in her utterance at the page 60 “Kathy, it's not your one. The one you lost. I tried to find it for you, but it's **really** gone.” She used intensifier *really* to make Kathy believe that her tape has been lost. The function intensifier *really* is to strong her statement and make Kathy believe with her statement.

Emphatic Stress

The researcher found that Kathy used an emphatic stress *awfully* in her statement at the page 173 “I get to see a lot as a carer. An **awful** lot.” She used emphatic stress when she, Ruth and Tommy talked about Rodney who will donate his organs. Emphatic stress that she use to emphasize her utterance about her fear of being a donor.

Syntactic Terms of Women's Language

The next category of women's language is syntactic terms. Syntactic terms of women's language are divided into taq-question, hedges, rising intonation on declarative, hypercorrect grammar and super polite forms.

Below are the table of the data amounts included syntactic terms women only that used by Kathy and Ruth characters in *Never Let Me Go* novel.

Table 4.3 syntactic terms of women's language used by Kathy

Character	Syntactic terms (women only)	Data	Percentage
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Kathy	Taq-Question	5	11.62%
	Hedges	29	67.44%
	Rising Intonation on Declarative	5	11.62%
	Hypercorrect Grammar	0	-
	Super Polite Forms	4	9.30%
Total Data		43	100%

Kathy used the syntactic terms of women's language as many as 43 utterances. Hedges is the most widely used, that are 29 utterances, and the percentage are 67.44%. 5 utterances used taq-question, and the percentage are 11.62%. 5 utterances used rising intonation declarative, and the percentage are 11.62%. 0 hypercorrect grammar and 4 utterances used super polite forms, and the percentage are 9.30%.

Table 4.4 syntactic terms of women's language used by Ruth

Character	Syntactic terms (women only)	Data	Percentage
Ruth	Taq-Question	5	15.15%
	Hedges	20	60.60%
	Rising Intonation on Declarative	0	-
	Hypercorrect Grammar	0	-
	Super Polite Forms	8	24.24%
Total Data		33	100%

Ruth used the syntactic terms of women's language as many as 33 utterances. 20 utterances used hedges, and the percentage are 60.60%. 5 utterances used taq-question, and the percentage are 15.15%. 0 rising intonation declarative, 0 hypercorrect grammar and 8 utterances used super folite forms, and the percentage are 24.24%.

Below are some data using the syntactic terms of women's language used by Kathy and Ruth.

Taq-Question

- i). Taq-Question used by Kathy

At the page 24 Kathy used taq-question in her statement “*She wasn't having you on, was she? It wasn't some clever way of telling you off?*” the conversation talked about Tommy and Kathy who are talking about Miss Lucy who says not to worry about creativity to Tommy. The function of taq-question in her statement is to express that she protests with Miss Lucy who says to ignore the creativity and she used taq-question to need confirmation

ii). Taq-Question used by Ruth

The researcher found three utterances that Ruth used taq-question at the page 96. In the conversation there is misunderstanding between Kathy and Ruth. Kathy advising Ruth not to copy everything that Chrissie and Rodney do. Ruth used taq-question in her statement “*that's what this is, isn't it? And But I'm right, aren't I?*” She used tag question to reveal what she was doing is right and does not need confirmation. She also used tag-question in her statement “*We're still friends, aren't we?*” because she is unsure of their relationship with Kathy after they arguing and it taq-question does not need confirmation.

Hedges

i). Hedges used by Kathy

In the conversation between Kathy and Tommy at the page 20-21 she used hedges *well* in her statement “**Well**, go on then.” The function of hedges *well* in her statement to make Tommy tells her about the conversations Miss Luccy with him.

Kathy used hedges *I think* at the page 87 in her statement “**I think** that's a good chance for you.” She use hedges *I think* in her statement because she is not sure to that Tommy can be back with Ruth again.

ii). Hedges used by Ruth

The conversation between Ruth and Kathy at the page 155-156, the researcher found three utterances that Ruth used hedges *you know*. That are her statements “*and now there's all this talk, about couples getting deferrals if they can prove, you know, that they're really right*” and “*It'd be completely natural if you'd thought about, you know, what would happen if me and Tommy decided*”

we shouldn't be together any more" and "*besides, you know how Tommy is.*" The function of hedges *you know* is way of Ruth interact with Kathy, does Kathy listen to follow and pay attention to her speech.

Rising Intonation on Declarative

Kathy used rising intonation "***Where did you get that? Was it in the Sale?***" at the page 46 when she seen Ruth having new stuff. She used rising intonation to find out where Ruth got the stuff. Whether it was a gift by person or she got from sale.

Super Polite Forms

i). Super Polite Forms used by Kathy

Kathy used super polite form when she give her regards to Miss Emily with Madame. She used superpolite form in her utterance ***Please say goodbye to Miss Emily for us*** at the page 208. it is as an attitude of respect with hers teachers in Hailsham.

ii). Super Polite Forms Used by Ruth

At the page 82 Ruth used super polite form in her statement "***Kathy, will you help?***" When she request for help to Kathy. She used superpolite form is to Kathy wants to help her.

Analysis

Based on the findings of lexical terms of women's language used by Kathy and Ruth, the reseacher found four kinds of lexical terms of women's language in *Never Let Me Go* novel. The first is avoidance of strong swearword. According to Lakoff (1975) women swearing in different form with man. women avoid use the words rude. In the novel, Ruth used avoidance of strong swearword when she got angry, but she still used polite language to keep her attitude. The second is empty adjective. Empty adjective used to expresses admiration for something of speakers (Lakoff, 1975). In *Never Let Me Go* novel, Kathy used empty adjective to express her emotional reaction.

The third is intensifier, Kathy and Ruth used intensifier to strong their statements. It is related to the theory by Lakoff (1975). She stated that intensifier is one of women's language that used to strong the statement of the speakers. The last is emphatic stress, Kathy used emphatic stress to emphasize her statement. Same with the theory by Lakoff (1975), that women tend to use that emphasize speech to reinforce the meaning of speech. While precise color words did not found used by Kathy and Ruth in *Never Let Me Go* novel, because the characters of the novel there is no talk about the colors.

The researcher found four of syntactic terms of women's language used by Kathy and Ruth. Based on Lakoff (1975), stated that women used taq question to need confirmation or no need confirmation in their question. In the novel, Kathy and Ruth used taq-question in their statements to need confirmation and did not. The second is hedges. The using of hedges indicate that the speakers less confidence to their statements (Lakoff,1975). Kathy and Ruth used hedges in their statements because they less confidence to what they say. The third is rising intonation on declarative. Kathy used rising intonation on declarative in her statement to find out the informations from her friend. It is related with theory by Lakoff (1975) she stated that rising intonation on declarative is declarative answer to a question, serves to rising inflection yes-no of a question.

The last is super polite form, Kathy used super polite form as a form of respect to an older person. While Ruth used super polite form whe she requests something to the other person. It is done in order that the request is fulfilled. Same with the theory by Lakoff (1975) that women request for something in a polite language. The researcher did not found that Kathy and Ruth used hypercorrect grammar in *Never Let Me Go* novel, because hypercorrect grammar is usually used by people who have a high social class. But in the novel the characters, especially Kathy and Ruth are not women who has high social class.

From the analysis above, showed that female characters ie Kathy and Ruth in *Never Let Me Go* novel used some lexical and syntactis terms of women's language. It is connected with the theory by Lakoff (1975) that women have different language. Although the author of the novel is a man, but he can adjust the language used by women. So, the researcher concluded that language

influenced by social, one of them is gender. Gender plays a role in language differences and variations, especially women's language.

Conclusion

Based on the results of finding and analysis, the researcher concluded the using of lexical and syntactic terms of women's language used by Kathy and Ruth in *Never Let Me Go* novel. From the five of lexical terms of women's language, intensifier is the most dominant used by Kathy and Ruth. While precise color word and avoidance of strong swearword are did not found used by Kathy. But, Ruth only did not used precise color word.

The most dominant using of syntactic terms used by Ruth and Kathy is hedges. Whereas, Kathy did not found used hypercorrect grammar and Ruth did not found used hypercorrect grammar and rising intonation on declarative. Kathy used lexical and syntactic terms of women's language more than Ruth, because she is the main character in the novel.

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