

ENGLISH USED BY MALE AND FEMALE FACEBOOK USERS IN THEIR POSTS

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Abstrak

Sosiolinguistik telah melibatkan banyak topik penelitian yang signifikan, diantaranya adalah bahasa dan gender. Wardhaugh (2006) menyatakan, topik utama dalam sosiolinguistik adalah hubungan, diantara struktur, kosa kata, dan cara menggunakan bahasa tertentu dan peran sosial antara pria dan wanita yang menggunakan bahasa ini. Menggunakan teori bahasa dan gender ini sebagai landasannya, maka perbedaan penggunaan bahasa antara pria dan wanita saat mengunggah bahasa tulis di media sosial kemudian dipilih untuk dianalisa lebih lanjut dengan rumusan masalah sebagai berikut: Perbedaan pengguna Facebook laki-laki dan perempuan dalam menggunakan pilihan kata dalam unggahan mereka (Wardhaugh, 2006) dan Struktur kalimat dasar yang digunakan oleh pengguna Facebook laki-laki dan perempuan dalam unggahan mereka (Delahunty, 2010). Data dari penelitian ini telah diambil dari Facebook dengan metode pengumpulan data kepustakaan. Data-data itu dikumpulkan dengan cara membaca postingan pengguna Facebook, dengan menggaris bawahi dan membuat catatan. analisis ini dipaparkan dengan penerapan metode deskriptif, seluruh contoh dikumpulkan dengan penjelasan.

Kata kunci: laki-laki dan perempuan, Facebook, postingan.

Abstract

Sociolinguistics has involved many significant research topics, among which is language and gender. Wardhaugh (2006) states, a major topic in sociolinguistics are the connection, between the structures, vocabularies, and ways of using particular languages and the social roles of the men and women who speak these languages. Using this theory of language and gender as the foundation, thus the difference in using language between men and women when posting in a social media, namely Facebook was chosen with some composed problems as follows: Differences of female and male Facebook users use lexicon in their posts (Wardhaugh, 2006) and the basic English sentence structure used by female and male Facebook users (Delahunty, 2010). The data was taken from Facebook by using library research. They were collected by reading the Facebook user's post, by underlining and note taking. The analysis was done by descriptive method; all of examples were completed with explanation.

Keyword: Male and Female, Facebook, Posted

1. INTRODUCTION

A language is a social fact, a kind of social contract. It exists not in an individual, but in a community. Language can also be viewed as a mental reality. It exists in the heads of people who speak it, and we assume its existence because of people's ability to learn languages in general and their practice in dealing with at least one particular language. '[A] grammar is a mental entity, represented in the mind/brain of an individual and characterizing that individual's linguistic capacity' (Lightfoot 2000: 231). Note that Lightfoot here talks of a *grammar* rather than of a *language*, but one possible definition of a language is precisely that it is the grammatical

system which allows speakers to produce appropriate utterances. 'Grammar' has as many meanings as 'language'.

Language is a highly elaborated signaling system. We call the aspects that are peculiar to it, the *design features* of language. Some of these we find only with the language of human beings, others we have in common with animals. Another aspect of human language is that we express *thoughts* with words. All human languages have a *small, limited set* of speech sounds. The limitation derives from the restricted capacity of our *vocal apparatus*. The speech sounds are referred to as *consonants* and *vowels*.

A major topic in sociolinguistics is the connection, if any, between the structures, vocabularies, and ways of using particular languages and the social roles of the men and women who speak these languages. There are differences between men and women is hardly a matter of dispute. On average, females have fatter and less muscle than males, are not as strong, and weigh less. They also mature more rapidly and live longer. The female voice usually has different characteristics from the male voice, and often females and males exhibit different ranges of verbal skills. (Wardhaugh 2006).

The word 'gender', originally a grammatical term, has come to refer to the social roles and behavior of individuals arising from their classification as biologically male or female. This is a huge complex embracing virtually all aspects of social behavior of which language is only one. In the past three decades or so intensive research has been carried out into the relationship of language and gender, largely by female scholars who have felt drawn to the topic because of the obvious discrimination against women which has taken place in the past and which is still to be observed today (Thomas 2004).

Based on some arguments by the experts of sociolinguistics that relates to language and gender above, the researchers will conduct a research about language and gender in social media. The difference in using language between men and women when posting some words in a certain social media, namely Facebook, will be researched by the researchers. The researchers choose this social media to collect data for their research because Facebook is one of the biggest social media in the world according to the Statista (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/272014/global-social-networks-ranked-by-number-of-users/>). Based on the aforementioned background of the study, the problem of the research can be formulated as follows: the differences of female and male Facebook users use lexicon in their posts and the basic English sentence structure used by female and male Facebook users in their posts.

2. MATERIAL AND RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Language and Gender

Sociolinguistics, as defined in Oxford Dictionary is the study of language in relation to social factors, including differences of regional, class, and occupational dialect, gender differences, and bilingualism. The focus in this study apart from the language is the gender and according to Raymond Hickey in his book *Language and Society* (2013:21) The word 'gender', originally a grammatical term, has come to refer to the social roles and behavior of individuals arising from their classification as biologically male or female. This is a huge complex embracing virtually all aspects of social behavior of which language is only one. This social behavior is the key point related to the gender and language itself. It is as defined by D. Gilbert, S. Fiske & G. Lindsey in their book entitled *Handbook of social psychology Vol.2* (2010: 41) that Language pervades social life. From the above theories, we could draw the line that gender in the scope of men and women is closely related to the social behavior which includes the social identity and interaction in society and this becomes the basis of how the language is used in this context of social.

2.1.1 Lexical Variety

One early study which showed such a pattern is Trudgill's (1972) work in Norwich, England. He offers (1972, 182–3) several possible explanations for women using forms associated with the prestige standard more frequently than men. He suggests that women may be more status-conscious because they are less secure and have less well-developed social networks than men. Their social position is usually inferior to men and they are usually subordinate to them. Men are also judged by what they do, whereas women are rated on how they appear, and an important part of that appearance is their speech. Women have a much greater need to use language to signal their social status than do men.

2.1.2 The Basic Sentence Structure

The sentence according to Oxford Dictionary is a set of words that is complete in itself, typically containing a subject and predicate, conveying a statement, question, exclamation, or command, and consisting of a main clause and sometimes one or more subordinate clauses. Gerald P. Delahunty and James J. Garvey in their book entitled *The English Language from Sound to Sense* mentioning that the elements of the clause or the basic functional analysis of a clause is very simple. It is stated that a clause is a grammatical unit that contains a subject and a predicate. Therefore, we know it is the clause when it has the subjects and verbs and the

verbs could be either full verbs (both intransitive and transitive) or linking verbs (to be is, am, and are). In addition,

2.2 Research Method

Research is one of the efforts involved to find and examine the truth of something. Method of reach is a procedure needed to do the research better. In this case, method of research covers data source, data collection and data analysis. The data of this research have been taken from Facebook. The Facebook is as an online social networking website where people can create profiles, share information such as photos and quotes about themselves, and respond or link to the information posted by others. The method that have been used in collecting data was method of library research. They were collected by reading the Facebook user's post, by underlining and note taking. The method that have been used in collecting data is method of library research. They were collected by reading the Facebook user's post, by underlining and note taking. We would like to find out the data about male and female Facebook user's post, we analyzed them based on their lexical choice, and structure in using English referring to the theories from Wardhaugh(2006)*An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, Suzanne Romaine(2003)*The Handbook of Language and Gender* and other theories related to language use and syntax as listed in the bibliography. The data analysis was the last step in this process of writing this research. The analysis was done by descriptively method.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The discussion section has two parts to analyze the data mainly based on the theories from Wardhaugh (2006) *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, Suzanne Romaine (2003) *The Handbook of Language and Gender* and other theories related in order to answer the research questions and to provide the research findings. The first part is discussing the lexicon used by female and male users and the second part is focusing on the basic sentence structure that both male and female use in their posts.

3.1 Lexicon used by female and male Facebook users

Gender consists of roles allocated to male and females and determined by society then it is not a given, at least very much less than one's biological sex is a given. Scholars nowadays refer to gender as constructed; it is something which is performed by individuals who adopt categories of beliefs and behaviour which are associated in a given society with their biological sex.

3.1.1 Powerless

There are four kinds of powerless lexicon used by male and female languages such as (1) Indirect statement, (2) Tag Question, and (3) Use of hedges.

1. Indirect statement

Indirect statement focuses more on the content of what someone said rather than their exact words. (Dictionary, 2017).

Data 1

Male : *"Ahh very sad but beautiful at the same time"*. (Bromham, Chris. 2017)

Female : *"Tell me your Sunday ritual...My Sunday at home: Sipping Pu-erh in the morning sun. Watching black and white butterflies kiss the purple sage. Mia giggling because the cat climbed to her top bunk to cuddle, Gerad making omeletes& toast, fending off an ant colony with essential oils and prayer"* (Muzyka, Shena.2017)

In this data, there are two postings in Facebook by Male and Female users. They used different style in language. Male Facebook users actually used the direct sentence to show their purpose. The male Facebook user has the simple language to show up their feeling. He used the word *"ahh... very sad..."* this statement meant that he directly said he was very sad at that time. Furthermore, Female Facebook user has different style in language. She showed up their activities to the reader like *"My Sunday at home: Sipping Pu-erh in the morning sun. Watching black and white butterflies kiss the purple sage. Mia giggling because the cat climbed to her top bunk to cuddle..."* In this sentences she wanted the reader knew their activities on Sunday. She was very happy and enjoys running her Sunday at home, but she did not put the statement that she was being happy. She described her happiness by her enjoyable activities on Sunday.

2. Tag Question

Data 2

Male : It is impossible to shed tears when you feel nothing for everyone except yourself.
(Lavine, Marcy. 2017)

Female : Of course, it's August, the month of cremation, isn't it?. Does he get cremated?
When you say "brought his soul in a Puspa". (Mount,Kuatarina. 2017)

In this data, there are two styles in language that used tag question in the sentences. The Female Facebook user might use the tag question to explain their sentences. The sentence like *it's August, the month of cremation, isn't it?* (Mount,Kuatarina, 2017), these sentences' purpose asked someone about one idea but she did not need the answer. Female Facebook user might have different style to explain her language than male Facebook users. The male

Facebook user did not need tag question to explain his posting. He used simple structure without question tag even though he wanted to ask the confirmation itself.

3. Use hedges

In communication, a word or phrase that makes a statement less forceful or assertive. It also called hedging. It is contrast with boosting and intensifier. (Evelyn Hatch: 2014).

Data 5

Male : **I think I know how** the tie these. (Coquillard, Peter.2017)

Female : Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. Yep they are pretty tall... 88 floors so close to Bali and yet a world away. (Silvestar, Julie.2017)

The male and female Facebook users have different style in posting their feeling. The male Facebook users actually used the hedges of language. The hedges are important part of polite conversation. They commonly used less direct sentences. The most common forms of hedging involve tense and aspect, modal expressions including modal verb and adverb. The male Facebook user commonly used hedges in their posting. It would be shown in these sentence *I think I know how the tie these. (Coquillard, Peter.2017)*. The male Facebook user needed their posting more polite to be read. They used the expression *I thought it would..., would you,.... : I think the...,* all these expressions were indicated wedges used in their sentences. It made the female Facebook users commonly used hedges to express their feeling and made the sentences more polite. However, the female Facebook user did not need hedges in their sentence. She used direct sentence and common sentence in her posting. It will be shown the sentence in her posting *Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. Yep they are pretty tall... 88 floors so close to Bali and yet a world away. (Silvestar, Julie.2017)*.

3.1.2 Emotional

1. Augmentative

Augmentative includes all of forms of communications (other than oral) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. The augmentatives indicate large size and something awkwardness or unattractiveness. (Hickey, 2010)

Data 6

Female : the absolutely most gobsmacking, mind blowing amazing birthday present EVER I am persuaded to go away for a night with 2 friends, and by the time I'm at the top of the lane my house id invaded by 9 friends, their staff and various tukang for complete makeover. Between 9 am. Friday and 8 pm. Saturday they have cleaned and painted walls and furniture, rewired and hung new lights, installed a new curtains redesigned the seating area and reupholstered it. Made up the bed with designer linen

pillows... in short, created an entire fresh and delightful new house for my birthday surprise. I can't begin to imagine the weeks of planning and shopping and making and work that went into this epic act of love... AND it was a perfectly kept secret. Can't find the words to express my thanks for your wonderfulness, imagination and love. (Wheeler, Cat. 2017)

Male : I run every day to train for when I will run all the way around the coast of Bali in September 2017 as a fundraiser to support the great work Robert Epstone's Solemen Indonesia is doing.

The circumference of Bali is about 600 kilometers = about 30 half marathons. I plan to run the distance of a ½ marathon/day. And take a rest whenever I need to.

Let me know if you like to support the great work Solemen is doing helping the disadvantaged in Bali, Indonesia. We are one of the most well-known and trusted charities in Bali. (Throne, Tyr. 2017)

In these data the male and female Facebook user actually used augmentative in their post. That length sentences was indicating the large size and tell something awkwardness or unattractiveness sentences. The male and female Facebook users used unimportant sentences that made the sentences were unattractive. The posting by Wheeler (2017), she wanted the reader knew about her birthday present however she described her present by many words and sentences. It would make those sentences were unattractiveness.

The other side, posting by male Facebook user also used length sentences in his post. The male Facebook user needed some words to explain about his run activities. He also described about his daily activities and at the end of his sentences he also advertised something on his posting as *Let me know if you like to support the great work Solemen is doing helping the disadvantaged in Bali, Indonesia. We are one of the most well-known and trusted charities in Bali.* (Throne, Tyr. 2017). The female Facebook users actually used length sentences to describe something on her posting however those were unattractiveness to be known by the reader. The male Facebook users, even though he used length sentences to explain something, he actually used the sentences to advertised something. It made his sentences more important to be known by others.

2. Euphemisms

The euphemism is a generally innocuous word or expression used in place of one that may be found offensive or suggest something unpleasant. Some euphemisms are intended to amuse; while others use bland, inoffensive terms for things the users wish to downplay.

Data 7

Male : Its so great to see all the kinds thoughts and signs of support for the French over Facebook, we really are all united against these sick acts of terrorism. These people

have to lead pretty pathetic lives to be so hell bet on killing innocent people and blowing themselves up. (Zalecki, Stefan. 2017) = terorisme

Female : This is one day you can officially do a rain check! (Dennefe, Janet. 2017).

In these data, the male and female Facebook users almost used similar style in language. They wanted to offensive something unpleasant. However, the male Facebook users needed some suggestions to be known by the reader as the sentences *Its so great to see all the kinds thoughts and signs of support for the French over Facebook, we really are all united against these sick acts of terrorism* (Zalecki, Stefan. 2017). He wanted to suggest the reader to united against terrorism. However, this post tried to tell the reader about the offensive unpleasant way to terrorism. In other side, the female Facebook users used similar style in language. She wanted to express about unpleasant condition in rain. However, she did not try to give suggestion. She just typed her disappointed felling in her post as the sentence *This is one day you can officially do a rain check!* (Dennefe, Janet. 2017). This sentence indicated that she expressed about unpleasant felling.

3.2 Basic sentences structure used by female and male Facebook users

In this case, the basic sentences consist of complex and simple sentences. The data would be described in detail, as follow:

3.2.1 Complex sentence

A complex sentence is a sentence that consists of a main clause and one or more other clauses subordinate to it. A complex sentence contains an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence and makes a complete thought and a dependent clause cannot stand alone, even though it has a subject and a verb.(Miller, 2002: 63).

1. Female Data:

Data 1 : The solution for stopping the climate isn't to stop emissions, it's to requester CO₂ into the soil through no-till, regenerative farming (Muzyka, Zhena. 2017)

This sentence is defined as a complex sentence because it has an independent clause that is *The solution for stopping the climate isn't to stop emissions*, and has two dependent clauses that are *it's to requester CO₂ into the soil through no-till*, and *regenerative farming*.

2. Male Data:

Data 11: It is impossible to shed tears when you feel nothing for anyone except yourself (Levine, Marcy. 2017)

This sentence is defined as a complex sentence because it has an independent clause that is *It is impossible to shed tears* and has one dependent clause that is *and when you feel nothing for anyone except yourself*.

3.2.2 Simple sentence

Simple sentence is generally means a sentence that consisting of one subject–predicate unit. A simple sentence contains only one independent clause. This means that it does not contain more than one, and it does not contain any subordinate clause. It expresses only one main idea (Miller, 2002: 63).

1. Female Data:

Data 16 :*Sending you all love on a Tuesday* (Muzyka, Zhena. 2017)

It can be concluded that this sentence is belong to simple sentence. It is because it contains only one independent clause that is *Sending you all love on a Tuesday* and it expresses only one main idea, *sending love*.

2. Male Data:

Data 20 :*The gift of consciousness* (Chouinard, Claude. 2017)

It can be concluded that this sentence is belong to simple sentence. It is because it contains only one independent clause that is *The gift of consciousness* and it expresses only one main idea, *The gift of consciousness*.

In addition, referring to the foregoing analysis above the findings can be stated that the lexicon used by female and male Facebook users can be of powerless and emotional. Powerless includes indirect statement, Tag Question, and Use of hedges. Emotional includes Augmentatives and Euphemisms. Then, Basic sentences structure used by female and male Facebook usersconsists of both complex sentences and simple sentences.

4. CONCLUSION

Referring to the findings from the foregoing analysis it can be concluded that the lexicon used by the users can be of both of powerless and emotional, and the basic sentences structure used by female and male Facebook usersconsists of both complex sentences and simple sentences.

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