WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES FOUND IN EMMA WATSON'S INTERVIEW WITH RUPI KAUR: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TALK AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS' READING LITERACY

A THESIS

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Certify that the thesis entitled "Women's Language Features Found in Emma Watson's Interview with Rupi Kaur: A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Talk and Implications for Students' Reading Literacy" is my own work and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethics and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face out if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Palembang, June 2023

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DEDICATION

I sincerely dedicated this thesis to the greatest treasure and the light of my life, my beloved parents. Thank you so much for always loving me endlessly and supporting me wholeheartedly. I cannot finish this thesis without the encouragement and love that have been given to me.

MOTTO

"But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you, and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. And Allah knows, while you know not."

[The Qur'an 2:216]

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Alhamdulillahirabbil'alamin. All praises to Allah SWT, the Almighty, the Compassionate, and the Merciful, who has always been there for me and blessed me with a lot of beautiful things in life. It is because of His blessings that this thesis could be completed. This study was written to fulfill one of the requirements for accomplishing the undergraduate degree (S1) at the English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sriwijaya University. This thesis also would not be finished without the help and support from the people around me. Therefore, the researcher would like to epxress the deepest gratitude to them.

My first gratitude goes to my lovely parents who always love and support me unconditionally, and also to my greatest advisor, Soni Mirizon, M.A., Ed.D. Thank you so much for the guidance, suggestions, helpful comments, and support during the process of finishing this thesis. Next, I would like to thank to the Former Vice Dean for Academic Affairs of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Sriwijaya University (Dr. Ismet, S.Pd., M.Si.), the Head of English Education Study Program (Eryansyah, S.Pd., M.A., Ph.D.), and the Administration Staff of English Education Study Program (*Ibu* Anggi and *Ibu* Yufinsi) for their assistance in administrative matters. The deepest gratitude also goes to all my lecturers at Sriwijaya University for teaching and giving me valuable knowledge.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my best friends; Indah Safitri, Novita Sulistiani, Giska Puspitasari, Hesti Junita, Gina Aulia, Bernanda Maylafayza, and Choirani Agnecia for always helping and supporting me. I am really grateful to have them all. Their presence really gives immeasurable joy to my life and makes everything much easier. Lastly, for all of my friends, SEESPA 2019 Palembang, thank you for the beautiful memories, support, and help during my study at Sriwijaya University.

Palembang,
The Researcher,

Afifah Novintia

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the problems of the study, the objectives of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is very important in human life because language is needed to communicate and interact with others in order to deliver and obtain a message. Without language, it will be difficult for people to carry out interactions with others. Wardhaugh (2010) explains that language is used by people in a particular society to talk to each other. Therefore, people cannot be separated by the use of language in their daily lives.

In communication, the relationship between language and society is related. Language and society are so interconnected that it is impossible to understand one without the other because every social institution is maintained by language. Related studies about the relationship of language and society are called sociolinguistics. Holmes and Wilson (2017) state that sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society. In addition, Chaika (1982) points out that sociolinguistics is the study of the ways people use language in social interaction.

In society, people can be distinguished by their gender. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, and attributes that a society considers appropriate for men and women. Holmes and Wilson (2017) argue that the term gender is more appropriate for distinguishing people on the basis of their sociocultural behavior, including speech. Therefore, gender differences are one of the specific reasons why people use language in a different way. Moreover, Talbot (2020) explains that society and social divisions on gender grounds are reflected in a pattern of language use. It means men and women have differences in terms of using language and the language used by people can reveal their gender.

Cultural norms believe gender highlights different responsibilities and social roles, resulting in how men and women use different language (Eckert & McConnel-Ginet, 2013). In short, men and women use language in different ways because they are brought up differently and have different roles in society. According to Haeberle's theory, men's social roles are designed to support them as the masculine male figure, whereas women's social roles are designed to support them as feminine figure (cited in Rahmawati et.al., 2019).

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Because society perceives men as more powerful, they tend to speak more assertively, directly, and confidently as they are naturally privileged with domination and power. In contrast, women are perceived as being less powerful and inferior to men which causes them to be more likely to preserve politeness in order to fit the ideal standard given by society and to show their femininity. If a woman refuses to speak like a lady, she is ridiculed and criticized as unfeminine (Lakoff, 2004).

Because of the existence of those stereotypes, women adopt certain language features that distinguish them from men. Lakoff (2004) states that women communicate differently from men due to women's language features. According to her theory, there are ten women's language features; lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words and emphatic stress. Lakoff links the use of those language features with the role of women in society, which is considered subordinate. Women in a male-dominated society are pressured to show feminine qualities of weakness and are subordinate in status to men (Lakoff, 2004).

Although nowadays, women's position in society is considered equal to men's, for instance having the same opportunity in the fields where men used to lead such as education, politics, and economics, women are still expected to talk more ideally and properly and the way they talk is often judged while men are not. Wardhaugh (2014) states that women are more likely to be judged by their appearance and speech is one of the important aspects of that appearance. Therefore, this research intends to examine the women's language features in an interview between two females; Emma Watson and Rupi Kaur.

The data of this research were taken from the interview between Emma Watson and Rupi Kaur. It is an interview which was for a book club that Emma Watson had participated in and was once a member, namely Our Shared Shelf. The interview's duration is 47 minutes and 41 seconds. The researcher takes Emma Watson's and Rupi Kaur's utterances in the interview as the data of the research to be analyzed to know what women's language features found in the interview and to find out the functions of women's language features found in an interview between Emma Watson and Rupi Kaur based on Lakoff's theory (2004). The reasons why the researcher chose the video interview between Emma Watson and Rupi Kaur is because of their backgrounds and influences in society. Emma Watson is very well known for her role as Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter movies as well as her role as an activist and feminist who often voices gender equality. Meanwhile,

Rupi Kaur is a poet who gained much popularity from her book entitled Milk and Honey. The topic of femininity and womanhood are also often portrayed in her poetry.

In light of the explanation above, the researcher was interested in conducting a study to analyze the women's language features in Emma Watson's interview with Rupi Kaur and the functions of language features that they used, and explain the implications of this study for students' reading literacy. Therefore, the researcher conducted research entitled "Women's Language Features Found in Emma Watson's Interview with Rupi Kaur: A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Talk and Implications for Students' Reading Literacy."

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the background above, the problems of this study are formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of women's language features are found in Emma Watson's interview with Rupi Kaur?
2. What are the functions of women's language features found in Emma Watson's interview with Rupi Kaur?
3. What are the implications of this study for students' reading literacy?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems of the study, the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the types of women's language features found in Emma Watson's interview with Rupi Kaur.
2. To find out the functions of women's language features found in Emma Watson's interview with Rupi Kaur.
3. To describe the implications of this study for students' reading literacy.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

It is expected that this study is useful and bring some benefits for the theoretical and practical use of language. Theoretically, this study can give an understanding and enrich the knowledge in the sociolinguistics field, especially about women's language features. Practically, this study is expected to benefit and be useful for English teachers, students, and other researchers. First, this research can be used by English teachers as a source to give additional reference about women's language features in teaching sociolinguistic course. Second, this research might be useful for students who are

interested in the sociolinguistic field to gain knowledge about the relationship between language and gender and women's language features. Hopefully, this research can help the students to differentiate and recognize women's language features in their daily lives and conversations. And last, for other researchers, this study is expected to be an academic reference for conducting further research about women's language features and give beneficial information to finish their research.

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