

FEATURES AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGES

FOUND IN *AMIRA AND SAM* MOVIE

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature



By:

Norlaili

15150057

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUNAN KALIJAGA

2019

FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this research is originally my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this research. Other researchers' opinions or findings included in this research are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, 11 Februari 2019
The researcher,



NORLAILI
Student ID. 15150057



NOTA DINAS

Hal : Skripsi
a.n. Norlaili

Yth.
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Di Yogyakarta

Assalamu'alaikum wr. wb.

Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudara:

Nama : Norlaili
NIM : 15150057
Prodi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
Judul : **FEATURES AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGES FOUND IN AMIRA AND SAM MOVIE**

Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi sebagian syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatian yang diberikan, saya ucapkan terimakasih

Wassalamu'alaikum wr. wb.

Yogyakarta, 08 Februari 2019
Pembimbing,

Ening Herniti, M.Hum

NIP 19731110 200312 2 002



PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

Nomor : B-74/Un.02/DA/PP.00.9/02/2019

Tugas Akhir dengan judul : FEATURES AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGES FOUND IN AMIRA AND SAM MOVIE

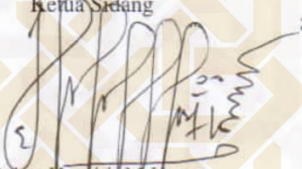
yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:

Nama : NORLAILI
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa : 15150057
Telah diujikan pada : Kamis, 14 Februari 2019
Nilai ujian Tugas Akhir : A


dinyatakan telah diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

TIM UJIAN TUGAS AKHIR


Ketua Sidang


Ening Hermiti, M.Hum
NIP. 19731110 200312 2 002


Penguji I


Dr. Ubaidillah, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 19810416 200901 1 006

Penguji II


Aninda Aji Siwi, S.Pd., M.Pd.
NIP. 19851011 201503 2 004

Yogyakarta, 14 Februari 2019
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
DEKAN


Dr. H. Akhmad Patah, M.Ag.
NIP. 19610727 198803 1 002

MOTTO

Speak a good word or remain silent.

~~Prophet Muhammad~~
[Peace be upon him]

To speak less is wisdom, to eat less is healthy, to sleep less is a prayer, and there is a peace in solitude.

~~Umar RA~~

How honorable knowledge is that the one who does not have it says he does and how dishonorable ignorance is that the one who has it says he does not.

~~Imam Ali AS~~

Her voice was ever soft, gentle, and low, an excellent thing in women.

~~William Shakespeare~~

DO NOT FEEL LONELY; THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS INSIDE YOU.

~~Rumi~~

DEDICATION

The researcher dedicates this graduating paper to:

My beloved parents, Normansyah and Zainun

My older sister, Normalita

My younger sisters, Dewi Nilam Sari and Nabila Putri Afrilia

All of my friends in English Department especially chapter 2015



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamu'alaikum wr.wb.

I would like to thank Allah SWT., the master of judgment day. He, who has given blessing and mercies, is the only One that people worship and ask for help. He establishes good fortune for those who purify their hearts and souls. He also always gives guidance so that this graduating paper entitled “Features and Feature Changes of Women’s Languages Found in *Amira and Sam* Movie” can be finished completely.

In this best occasion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to:

1. My beloved parents and sisters who always give support and motivation and pray for my success.
2. Dr. Ubaidillah, S.S., M.Hum as the Head of English Department.
3. Mrs. Ening Herniti, M.Hum as my advisor who has given me the guidance, criticism, and advice to complete my graduating paper.
4. Dr. Witriani, S.S., M.Hum as my academic advisor.
5. All the lectures in English Department who have supported and shared much knowledge for the researcher. Thank you so much: Aninda Aji Siwi, S.Pd, M.Pd, Arif Budiman, S.S., M.A, Bambang Hariyanto, S.S., MA, Danial Hidayatulla, S.S., M.Hum, Nisa Syuhda, Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd, M.Hum, M.Ed, Dwi Margo Yuwono, M.Hum, and others.

6. All the reviewers who have given much help in correcting this graduating paper.
7. All the classmates in English Department thank you so much for the kindness and support all the time.

Lastly, I realize that the perfection belongs to Allah SWT. Meanwhile, some mistakes are possible found in my graduating paper. Therefore, it is a need to revise them. Then, hopefully the readers can give their advice and criticism to improve my graduating paper.

Wassalamu'alaikum wr. wb.

Yogyakarta, February 11th, 2019

The researcher,

NORLAILI

Student ID. 15150057

FEATURES AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGES FOUND IN AMIRA AND SAM MOVIE

By: Norlaili

ABSTRACT

Commonly, men and women use different languages in making a conversation. Lakoff claims that women tend to speak more polite and standard than men. However, the researcher finds that there are feature changes of women's languages which have been said by Lakoff in a movie entitled *Amira and Sam*. In this movie, a main female character named Amira often utters languages which are usually used by men. It is the reason which makes the researcher interested to research further what features and factors of women's languages are uttered by Amira in this movie. The researcher uses the theory of women's languages by Robin Lakoff to find out the features and uses the theory of speech events by Dell Hymes to describe the factors. This research focuses on the analyses of features and factors of women's languages uttered by Amira. It uses a descriptive qualitative method because this research is done in order to analyze features and factors of women's languages by describing words. After the data are analyzed, it can be concluded that Amira uses nine features in her utterances. They are lexical hedge or filler, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite form, avoidance of strong swear word, and emphatic stress. Meanwhile, factors of Amira's languages are situation, participant, end, act sequence, key, instrumentality, norm, and genre. Moreover, the researcher also finds some feature changes in Amira's utterances. They are non-standard grammar, direct speech, slang word, vulgar word, and strong swear word.

Keywords: *features, feature changes, women's languages, movie, Amira and Sam*

FEATURES AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGES FOUND IN AMIRA AND SAM MOVIE

Oleh: Norlaili

ABSTRAK

Pada umumnya, laki-laki dan perempuan menggunakan bahasa yang berbeda saat melakukan percakapan. Lakoff mengklaim bahwa wanita cenderung berbicara lebih sopan dan standar daripada laki-laki. Akan tetapi, peneliti menemukan bahwa ada pergeseran ciri-ciri bahasa wanita yang dikatakan oleh Lakoff dalam sebuah film yang berjudul *Amira and Sam*. Dalam film ini, tokoh utama wanita yang bernama Amira sering menuturkan bahasa yang biasanya digunakan oleh laki-laki. Inilah alasan yang membuat peneliti tertarik untuk meneliti lebih jauh tentang ciri-ciri dan faktor-faktor dari bahasa perempuan yang dituturkan Amira di film ini. Peneliti menggunakan teori bahasa perempuan (*women's language*) oleh Robin Lakoff untuk menemukan ciri-ciri bahasa dan menggunakan teori peristiwa tutur (*speech events*) oleh Dell Hymes untuk menjelaskan faktor-faktor penggunaan bahasa. Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisis ciri-ciri dan faktor-faktor dari bahasa perempuan yang dituturkan Amira. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif karena penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menganalisis ciri-ciri dan faktor-faktor bahasa perempuan dengan mendeskripsikan kata-kata. Setelah data dianalisis, kemudian dapat disimpulkan bahwa Amira menggunakan sembilan ciri-ciri ujaran, yaitu *lexical hedge or filler, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite form, avoidance of strong swear word, dan emphatic stress*. Sementara itu, faktor-faktor bahasa Amira adalah *situation, participant, end, act sequence, key, instrumentality, norm, dan genre*. Disamping itu, peneliti juga menemukan beberapa perubahan ciri-ciri pada tuturan Amira, yaitu *non-standard grammar, direct speech, slang word, vulgar word, dan strong swear word*.

Kata kunci: *ciri-ciri, perubahan ciri-ciri, bahasa perempuan, Amira and Sam*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language builds a stereotype that women are the second class human beings in this world. In other words, language makes women placed more inferior than men in society, especially English (Berger and Kachuk as cited in Spender, 1985: 15). Mauriel Schulz says that the relationship between women's devaluation in language and society is because there is a systematic basis for linguistic sexism (as cited in Spender, 1985: 16). In many cases, languages favor men and subordinate women. It can be seen from many words describe women in negative ways while there are many positive words for men. Hence, women have been claimed "the weaker sex" in society for a long time (Lei, 2006: 87).

In contrast, Islamic perspective, as cited in Holy Qur'an Surah Al-Hurajat verse 13, says that men and women are created equal (Ali, 1973: 979). Something which distinguishes them is only their righteousness. English speakers also claim that "everyone is created equal" (Lei, 2006: 87). However, discriminations against women still exist. These cases have been showed visibly in society and have been widespread and rooted in cultural beliefs and traditions which makes women should do anything better than men or at least equal to men. Hence, there are many feminists who want to reduce this sexual stereotype and discrimination against women. However, it makes an enormous chance to influence language changes.

The language changes can happen because the characteristic of languages is dynamic. The languages always change based on the society and the culture of their speakers. If society and culture change, the languages used also change. Hence, it cannot be avoided if there are many deviations in using languages at this time. The deviations here are called *anachronism*, a general name for utterances which are not in accordance with grammatical, semantic, and social norms (Kridalaksana, 2009: 13).

In this era, there are so many language changes and deviations happened. They are found and spread widely in many ways. One of the ways is a movie. Many movies portray human beings and physical objects specifically as if anything happened in real life has been represented by the movies or the opposite (Barsam, 2010: 3). Hence, people are interested to watch movies. In addition, movies for many people can be a refreshing break from their daily obligations and a form of escape, entertainment, and fun. Movies are also a way to view the world around us and our place in the world. Besides, most movies try to attract viewers' emotion and transport them inside the world displayed on a screen which make them more interesting. Sometimes, movies tell about a great deal about societies and they contain complexity, knowledge, and meaning which make them valuable to be studied and analyzed (Barsam, 2010: 2-3).

One of the movies that the researcher has found some phenomena of changes in using language is *Amira and Sam* movie. *Amira and Sam* is produced by Sean Mullin with romance, drama, and comedy genre in 2014 (<https://m.imdb.com/title/tt3139538>). This movie tells about love a story between

an army of the United State and an immigrant from Iraq. It becomes an interesting issue because after the September 11th 2001 attacks or more famous with 9/11, there is Islamophobia in the United State. Hence, the love story between a non-Muslim man and an Islam woman aims to reduce discrimination against Islam (Oakley, 2015: <http://cutprintfilm.com/features-/interview-sean-mullin/>).

Besides the story, there are some interesting things in this movie that make the researcher chooses the movie as the object of study. Firstly, the main female character in *Amira and Sam* movie takes a Muslim woman as an actress named Amira. In this movie, Amira covers her head with a veil, but she wears short-sleeved shirt and even at a party she wears a veil with a dress showing her chest. It makes her become the center of attention to many people and the focus figure for audiences because she is the main character in this movie. Hence, this movie is interesting to be studied and analyzed.

The second interesting thing in this movie is the use of Amira's language. She likes to use languages which are usually used by men. She also speaks swear words twice in making conversation with others.

AMIRA. "You have a bike? Like a motorcycle?"

SAM. "Mm-hmm".

AMIRA. "**Shit**".

SAM. "Look, I'm not leaving without you" (2014: 00:28:03 – 00:28:13).

According to Lakoff, the use of the word *shit* is categorized as strong swear words (Lakoff, 1973: 50). Strong swear words are usually used by men and disapproved to be used by women. Besides, she is a Muslim woman. In Islam, each person

should speak kindly and politely. According to Tobroni, a good word or *qaulan ma'rūfa* is a word of appropriate kindness and friendliness (Tobroni, 2018: 8). In addition, some linguists also say that women should speak more polite and cooperative than men (Wardhaugh, 2006: 317).

Basically, men and women have many differences in using language. The characteristics of their language features indicate their behavior in society. Women are more aware that how they speak in a community shows their social class background or social status. Standard forms are commonly related to high social status (Holmes, 2013: 167). That is why women tend to use more standard forms than men. Women also tend to have better behavior than men because they are the first teacher for children so that they should speak correctly and standardly. In contrast, men use vernacular forms to show machismo or male behavior which is strong and forceful because vernacular forms are usually associated with masculinity and toughness (Holmes, 2013: 170).

For example, a large number of pieces of research say that women use a better grammatical structure than men. Women ordinarily tend to use hypercorrect grammar including standard pronunciations such as /going/ rather than /goin'/. (Lakoff as cited in Holmes, 2013: 303). Men and women also have differences in using expressions, words, and phrases. According to Rochefort through Jespersen, men have many peculiar expressions which women understand but women never pronounce them. Whereas, women have many words and phrases which are never used by men, even men will laugh to scorn them. Men claim that in women's conversation it often seems as if women have other languages (as cited in Talbot,

2010: 5). For example, the usage of colour words, women have many words in naming colours such as lavender, beige, and magenta (Lakoff, 1973: 49).

From the explanation about the differences between men and women in using languages, it can be concluded that the use of language by Amira is a change of women's language features that have been said by Lakoff. This problem interests the researcher to research deeply about the changes of women's languages in Amira's utterances. Besides, the researcher also wants to explain the factors which influence them. Related to this problem, it can be solved by finding out first the features of Amira's utterances and the factors or reasons of the language use.

Hence, the researcher uses Lakoff's theory about women's language which is appropriate with this problem. Lakoff claims that there are ten features of women language. They are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress (as cited in Holmes, 2013: 302-303). Meanwhile, to explain the factors of Amira's language, the researcher uses speech event theory by Dell Hymes because this theory is appropriate to solve the problem in this research. There are eight components which influence the factors of language use proposed by Hymes. He abbreviates the eight components to be an acronym SPEAKING for the various factors of language (Hymes as cited in Wardaugh, 2015: 232-233).

1.2 Research Questions

- a. What are the features of women's languages uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie?
- b. What are the factors of women's languages uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie?
- c. What are the feature changes of women's languages uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie?
- d. What are the factors of the feature changes of women's languages uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie?

1.3 Objectives of Study

The objectives of study are to find out the features of women's language uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie, to explain the factors of women's language uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie, to find out the feature changes of women's language uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie, and to explain the factors of the feature changes of women's language uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie.

1.4 Significance of Study

The findings of this research are intended to increase the knowledge of both the researcher and the reader in terms of differences of language features used by women. This research is expected to be a reference for the next research that wants to research about gender and language, particularly in women language features. Hopefully this research is useful for the development of science, especially in the field of linguistics.

1.5 Literature Review

This research focuses on analyzing features and feature changes of women languages uttered by Amira in *Amira and Sam* movie. The researcher has found several similarities to and differences from this research. The several researches can be a proof that this research has never been researched yet. These previous researches also can help the researcher doing this research.

The first research is a journal of *Psychology of Language and Communication* written by Zbigniew Kloch from University of Warsaw entitled “Language and Gender: Social and Psychological Determinants in Communication” in 2000. This research discusses the social and psychological limitations of style and communication that culture locates on gender known as the determinant of social roles and the inherent aspect of psychological identity. Zbigniew Kloch begins with the explanation of an asymmetry of gender categories in grammatical usage and pronunciation, the comprehension about weak and strong versions of gender in language relation, the description of strategies and styles of communication in normativeness of masculine styles, Lakoff’s view, and Irigaray’s studies, and the finding of communication differences between women and men in Tannen’s perspective and Handke’s work. Zbigniew Kloch sums up this research that style and way of speaking place everyone in a specific role to represent the biological sex, to determine the conventions of behavior assigned to the cultural sex, and to label everyone in other’s eyes. Zbigniew Kloch also thinks that the use of a style is conditioned by the necessity to confirm gender identity and by the situations.

The second research is a journal of *Education and Practice* written by Rafiul Islam Shazu from Department of English Language and Literature, JKKNIU entitled “Relationship between Gender and Language” in 2014. In the journal, Shazu researches about the reason why men and women speak in different ways. She adds whether there is a same way of men and women in using language or not. She also questions why the differences arise. Shazu uses many theories about gender and language, such as Coates, Brend, Lakoff, Holmes, Eakins, Soskin and John, Bernard, Aries and Johnson, Chambers, Oakley, and Tannen. Then, Shazu concludes that there are many close relationships between gender and language. Men and women have their own way in using language because the structure of language, the norm of society, and the people of the society that use language are different. Therefore, there is a close connection between the structure, vocabulary, and the way of using language and social roles between men and women who use languages.

The third research is a graduating paper written by Nurhasanah from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta entitled “Citra Perempuan Islam Dalam Film *Amira and Sam*” in 2016. She uses semiotic theory by Charles Sanders Peirce. Meanwhile, the method of her research is qualitative. Her problem statements are about how *Amira and Sam* movie portrays the image of an Islamic woman in the figure of Amira and how Islam describes a good woman according to the Qur’an and Hadith. In her research, she finds that there are two images played by Amira, positive and negative images.

The fourth research is a graduating paper written by Laila Nur Aflah from State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta entitled “Features and Functions of Women’s Language in Anna’s Character of *Anna Karenina* movie” in 2016. Her research statements are about how the feature of women’s language used by Anna’s character in *Anna Karenina* movie is and what the functions of language used by Anna are. Hence, she uses the theory of women’s language proposed by Robin Tolmach Lakoff. The method of her research is descriptive qualitative because she wants to analyze the phenomena of women’s language by describing the occurrences in word forms. In her research, Laila Nur Aflah finds nine features (Lexical Hedge or Filler, Tag Question, Rising Intonation on Declarative, Empty Adjective, Precise Colour Terms, Intensifier, Super Polite Forms, Avoidance of Strong Swear Words, and Emphatic Stress) and six functions of women’s languages (to express uncertainty, to get response, to express feeling, to emphasize an utterance, to soften an utterance, and to commence a discussion).

The fifth research is an Indonesian journal of *English Education* written by Aal Inderajati and Ubaidillah from Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University entitled “The Non Standard English Used by Women in *The Help* Movie” in 2016. In this research, Aal Inderajati and Ubaidillah target to research about the grammatical features of Non-Standard English used by women characters in *The Help* movie and the factors which influence the use of them. To find out the features, they use the theories of the eight idiosyncrasies or grammatical features of Standard English from Trudgill (1999) and Non-Standard English grammar by

Holmes (1992). Meanwhile, to explain the factors of the features used, they use SPEAKING theory from Dell Hymes as the supporting theory.

Moreover, they use a qualitative method. Then, after analyzing the data, they find five features of non-standard English used by women characters in *The Help* movie. They are missing auxiliary verbs, construction words, grammatical mistakes, wrong pronouns, and double negatives. Additionally, the factors which influence the use of non-standard English are Setting and Scene, Participants, Ends, and Genre. From the four factors, Participants is the most factors which affects the use of Non-Standard English by women in *The Help* movie.

From the previous researches above, it can be concluded that this research and Zbigniew Kloch's research similar to research about language and gender. The difference is the object of study. Hence, it will not give the same result in the research finding. In addition, between Shazu's research and this research have the similarity in the usage of women's language by Lakoff. However, the researcher does not use other theories unless Lakoff's theory. Hence, we must get different results in our research.

Additionally, the similarity between Nurhasanah's research and this research is the object. We both research about *Amira and Sam* movie. The differences of the researches are the theory and the research problem. Hence, our research result must be different. Moreover, the similarity between the researcher's research and Laila Nur Aflah is that we use the same theory in analyzing our research. We use women's language features theory by Robin Lakoff. However, our objects are different so that we must find different results.

The last is the similarity and the differences of Aal Inderajati and Ubaidillah's research and this research. The similarity of our research is the theory of SPEAKING by Dell Hymes as our supporting theory. The differences are the object of study, the main theory, and the focus on the research. They take *The Help* movie as the object of study while the researcher takes *Amira and Sam* movie as the object of study. They use the eight idiosyncrasies or grammatical features of Standard English from Trudgill (1999) and Non-Standard English grammar by Holmes (1992) as the main theories. Meanwhile, the researcher uses women's language theory by Robin Lakoff. Then, they focus on the finding of the features of Non-Standard English used by women's characters and the important factors which influence them. Besides, the researcher focuses on the features and the factors of women's language and the feature changes of women's language in Amira's utterances in *Amira and Sam* movie. Therefore, our findings in research must be different.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The researcher uses two theories to analyze this research. The first theory is women's language by Robin Lakoff because Lakoff's theory is appropriate to solve the problem of this research. Lakoff says that there are ten language features used by women (as cited in Holmes, 2013: 302-303). They are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

To find the factors of women's language feature uttered by Amira, the researcher uses speech event theory by Dell Hymes as the second theory. Hymes proposes eight components which influence the factors in the use of language. Hymes uses acronym SPEAKING for the various factors of language (Hymes as cited in Wardaugh, 2015: 232-233). They are *s* (*situation*), *p* (*participant*), *e* (*end*), *a* (*act sequence*), *k* (*key*), *i* (*instrumentality*), *n* (*norm*), and *g* (*genre*).

1.7 Methods of Research

1.7.1 Type of Research

The researcher uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze this research. It collects information from written source. The qualitative research is a method of describing words without any calculating and numbering (Moleong, 1990: 2). It is related to this research because the researcher wants to identify and to explain the features of women's languages.

1.7.2 Data Sources

Data sources are fact and information about words and statements which give and provide data, while data are everything provided by data sources. Hence, the main datum in this research is *Amira and Sam* movie. The secondary datum is the movie's script (https://www.scripts.com/script/amira_%252526_sam-2736).

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

The researcher uses a library research method in collecting data. The library research method relates to the method of library collection, reading, noting, and analyzing the research data (Zed, 2004: 3). In this method, the researcher faces directly with the texts as the research data. The library research

method is done firstly by watching *Amira and Sam* movie. Secondly, the researcher transcribes the dialogues from the play script. Thirdly, the researcher collects all dialogues in the movie. Fourthly, the researcher makes some notes.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

The researcher uses sociolinguistics approach to analyze this research. The determinant of sociolinguistics method is the speaking partner. For example, in determining the command sentence, if the sentence is pronounced, it must cause certain action from the speaking partner (Zaim, 2014: 101). In analyzing the data with this method, the researcher takes some following steps:

- a. Identifying features of women's languages used by Amira.
- b. Classifying features of women's languages in Amira's utterances.
- c. Finding feature changes of women's languages in Amira's utterances.
- d. Giving explanations of features and feature changes in the utterances.
- e. Describing factors of features and feature changes in the utterances.
- f. Drawing conclusions of the analyses.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is made up of background of study which tells about the object and reason of choosing it. It also explains about research questions, objectives of study, significances of study, literature review, and methods of research. The second chapter is concerned with a theoretical background. The third chapter discusses about the findings of features, factors, and feature changes of women's language. The fourth chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

Based on findings and discussions, the researcher has some conclusions. Firstly, there are nine features of women's language in Amira's utterances in *Amira and Sam* movie. They are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Meanwhile, the researcher does not find the use of precise colour terms in Amira's utterances.

In her utterances, Amira uses 20 lexical hedges or fillers, 2 tag questions, 65 rising intonation on declaratives, 7 empty adjective, 24 intensifiers, 40 hypercorrect grammar, 11 superpolite forms, 7 avoidance of strong swear words, and 41 emphatic stresses. The percentages of each feature are 8.47% lexical hedges or fillers, 0.84% tag questions, 27.54% rising intonation on declaratives, 2.97% empty adjective, 0% precise colour terms, 10.17% intensifiers, 16.95% hypercorrect grammar, 4.66% superpolite forms, 2.97% avoidance of strong swear words, and 17.37% emphatic stresses.

Secondly, the researcher finds eight factors of women's language in Amira's utterances in *Amira and Sam* movie. They are s (situation), p (participant), e (end), a (act sequence), k (key), i (instrumentality), n (norm), and g (genre). The percentage of the factors is 100%. It is because the factors of language use proposed by Dell Hymes influence all of Amira's utterances in this movie.

Thirdly, between Robin Lakoff's research in 1973 and this research in 2018, the researcher finds that there are feature changes of women's languages at this time. These findings prove that there are enormous possibilities of feature changes of women's languages during 45 years, especially English represented by *Amira and Sam* movie. Those feature changes are the uses of non-standard grammar, direct speech, slang word, vulgar word, and strong swear word in Amira's utterances. The percentages of each feature are 0.42% non-standard grammar, 1.69% direct speech, 4.24% slang word, 0.84% vulgar word, and 0.84% strong swear word.

4.2 Suggestion

After finishing this research, the researcher realizes that there are many things which can be analyzed and studied more detail about both the theory and the object of this research. For example, readers and other researchers can make a deeper research about features and factors of women's language. Meanwhile, the subject of this research also can be analyzed further by the theory of the functions of women's language, the differences of men and women language, the dialects in *Amira and Sam* movie, and other theories.

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