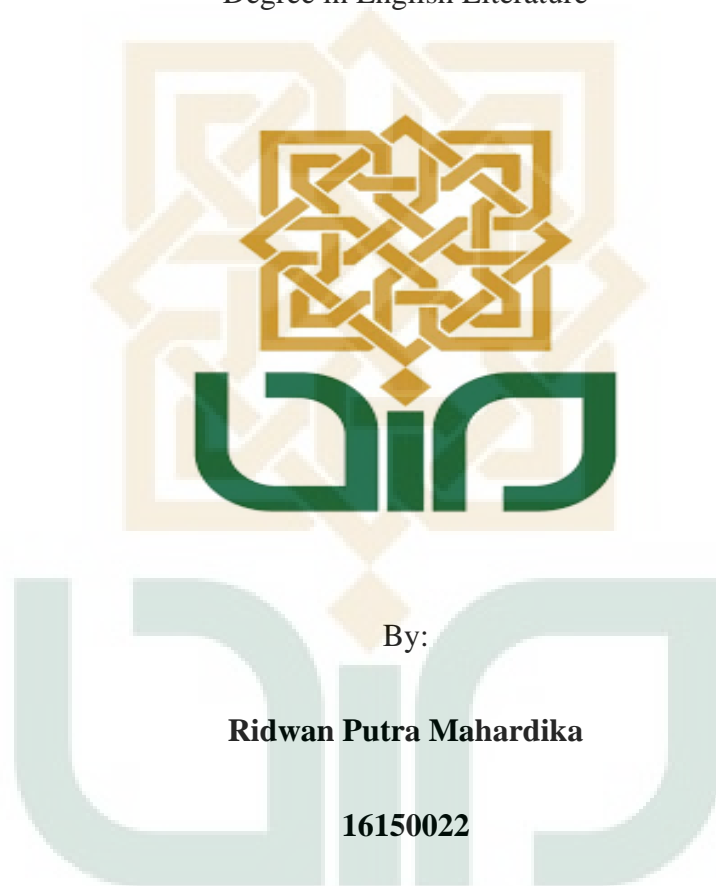


**VIOLATIONS IN WOMEN LANGUAGE FEATURE IN *THE*
TAQWACORES MOVIE**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Literature



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YOGYAKARTA

2020

FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this research is originally my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this research. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research are quoted in accordance with ethical standards.

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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, saya ucapkan terima kasih.

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**THE VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN LANGUAGE FEATURE IN *THE
TAQWACORES MOVIE***

By: Ridwan Putra Mahardika

ABSTRACT

Humans can use their language as they want. However, men and women are different in using their language. The women language is characterized in 1975 and remained in long time, although it begins to change. The changes happen in *The Taqwacores* movie, a girl who is called Rabeya violates the women language feature from Robin Lakoff, so this research takes her utterance as the object of research. This research is using qualitative descriptive method because this will describe the violations of women language feature from Robin Lakoff. This research also uses Dell Hymes' SPEAKING theory to describe the factors beneath a Rabeya's utterance. This research's result is there are some utterance that violates women language feature. The features that are violated are empty adjectives or particles, rising intonation, tag questions, lexical hedges, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite form, emphatic stress, and avoidance of strong swearing words. In addition, the researcher finds some factors under her utterance like setting, participants, ends, act sequence, key, instrumentalities, norms, and genres that is happened in conversation.

Keywords: *Women Language Feature, the Violations of Women Language Feature, The Taqwacores, Rabeya.*

THE VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN LANGUAGE FEATURE IN *THE TAQWACORES* MOVIE

Oleh: Ridwan Putra Mahardika

ABSTRAK

Semua manusia dapat menggunakan bahasa mereka seluas yang mereka mau. Namun, laki-laki dan perempuan berbeda dalam penggunaan bahasa mereka. Penggunaan bahasa oleh para wanita dijadikan teori ciri-ciri bahasa wanita pada tahun 1975 dan bertahan dalam waktu yang lama, meski perlahan-lahan mulai berubah. Hal ini terbukti dalam film *The Taqwacores*, seorang wanita bernama Rabeya melanggar ciri-ciri bahasa wanita, jadi peneliti meneliti ujarannya sebagai objek penelitian. Penelitian ini bersifat deskriptif kualitatif karena akan menggambarkan pelanggaran ciri-ciri bahasa wanita dari Robin Lakoff. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori Dell Hymes dengan singkatan atau akronim SPEAKING untuk menjelaskan faktor-faktor dalam pembicaraan yang dilakukan Rabeya. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan ciri-ciri bahasa wanita yang dilanggarnya antara lain *empty adjectives or particles*, *rising intonation*, *tag questions*, *lexical hedges*, *intensifier*, *hypercorrect grammar*, *superpolite form*, *emphatic stress*, dan *avoidance of strong swearing words*. Lebih dari itu, peneliti menemukan beberapa faktor dibalik ujarannya, yakni *setting*, *participants*, *ends*, *act sequence*, *key*, *instrumentalities*, *norms*, and *genres* yang terjadi selama percakapan.

Kata Kunci: Ciri-ciri bahasa wanita, pelanggaran ciri-ciri bahasa wanita, The Taqwacores, Rabeya.

MOTTO

“If we deny a band their spot because we don’t like their attitude or their interpretations.

Then really it makes us no different than those who’ve excluded us.”

Jehangir (*The Taqwacores’* character)

“Please Allah. I know you have no reason to listen to me. Because I’m shit.

Please...

Don’t make a new Islam sect“

Jehangir (*The Taqwacores’* character, edited by the reseacher)

Be honest to yourself, because someone inspired me with “I hate, I hate someone who lie to his/herself”

The researcher



DEDICATION

The reseacher dedicates this undergraduate thesis to:

Everyone who wants to read from any era



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All gratitudes belong to Allah swt, Lord of Judgment's Day. Allah is the only one who always gives blessings and guidance, that gives a better life to people who have purity in body and soul. Allah also gives His blessings, so this undergraduate thesis entitled "Violations in Women Language's Feature in *The Taqwacores* Movie" can be completed well. Not only the gratitudes are for Allah swt, but also for Rasulullah Muhammad SAW who teaches Islam patiently from his life until Islam spread across the world.

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Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of Study

Humans have their own way of communication with their own kind, which is called *language*. Language means system of speaking or writing of humans in certain places (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary "Language"). Moreover, George Yule states that language serves as a type of communication system in different situations (2017:79). So, the researcher concludes that language means a system in humans that is used for communication in many events, either it is written or spoken. Humans can use language freely as a result of their freedom of language choice. However, when humans use language, it has a problem with something which is called gender. Gender affects many things, including language usage. The term "women are powerless" in language usage is happened because women are powerless than men (McConnell-Ginet and Eckert, 2003: 158-159).

How language treating women because of gender remained since a long time, until a linguistic expert called Robin Lakoff published *Language and Women Place* in 1975. Her published book talks about how women use language in real life or the characters of women language. This book becomes a famous theory of women language feature and is used by many researchers as the main theory of analyzing women language.

The recent years with many changes in sight, language makes a little but steady change in its usage where women try to imitate men's speaking, for

instance swearing words. Swearing words that are commonly used by men become a strange thing or taboo when women use it. The usage of swearing words will not be used without a context. The context happens in any conversation, including movies.

Movie is the moving picture with sounds and is shown in cinema, TV, or movie theater (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary "Movie"). It is liked by most people because it does not take a long time to watch, and are easier to be understood by people who watch it for fun. However, understanding movie is not as easy as humans thought, because people need to understand something that is in film's context or it is connected with world's context.

There is a movie which tells Islam's perspectives in Buffalo, New York, America, *The Taqwacores* movie which is taken from Michael Muhammad Knight's novel. This movie tells about a Pakistani man who moves to Buffalo for his college studies. When he lives in a house with many Muslims, he learns about punk rock, other perspectives of Islam, and its relations from anyone in the house even from a girl who live in the same house (<https://www.eofilmfest.com/the-taqwacores>); this film is published in Eastern Oregon Film Festival 2010 (<https://www.eofilmfest.com/the-taqwacores>) and nominated in Sundance Film Festival in the same year (<https://www.sundance.org/blogs/behind-the-scenes-of-the-taqwacores>).

The researcher finds a character in this movie who is called Rabeya who sounds violate women language's feature that is described and explained by

Robin Lakoff. In this movie she uses *burqa*, so she closes her body completely. In conversation, she speaks like a man, even she uses *fuck* in straight way, which is commonly used by men. These utterance are shown below.

RABEYA: “Well that ayat advises men to beat their wives so what I do need that for.”

YUSEF: “No, you can’t do that. And most translators say that it means to beat lightly and their’s a story of Job where he used a blade of grass.”

RABEYA: “Yeah Yusef, I know. I have read what all the scholars said okay, even the progressives. I did all the tap dancing around that verse that a desperate Muslim could do. And in the end, you know what I said? I said *fuck* it and now, I feel a whole lot better about the Qur’an.”

(*The Taqwacores*, 2010: 00:23:21 – 00:24:16)

Based on Lakoff’s theory, *fuck* becomes on of the swearing words that is used by men in common (2004: 44). If women use this word, they will be described as “unfeminine” and will be scolded in wide society, because women are taught to be more polite than men, especially in speaking (2004: 51). When women can use their language just like how they were taught, which become soft and kind, they are not rewarded like men. So women are in dilemma situation when they use their language (Lakoff, 2004: 40-41). With those facts, women become aware with how they use their language in order to emphasize or maintaining the politeness norms in conversation.

In conversation between Rabeya and Yusef, the main character, Rabeya crosses and thinks that she does not need Surah An-Nisa verse 34 because she believes that husbands can beat their wives, even though Yusef explains that

ulama's interpretation in the same Surah and the same verse can be meant that wives can be beaten by their husbands with a blade of grass; the conversation is happened in long time and Rabeya is in angry feeling because she is annoyed by Yusef's argument which uses ulama's interpretation.

Based on the example and the explanation above, the researcher takes Rabeya's utterances in *The Taqwacores* movie as the research that needs to be analyzed because she rejects many aspects of women language, especially in Robin Lakoff's *Language and Woman Place* book and her women language's features, which are lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation or uptalk (McConnell-Ginet and Eckert, 2003: 173-174), 'empty' adjective or particle, more precise naming colors, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. To analyze Rabeya's utterances, the researcher also needs Hymes' SPEAKING acronym of speech event theory in answering the factors beneath her utterances. The researcher states that the SPEAKING's speech event theory has a comprehensive way in describing context and achieves the conversation's goal (Wardhaugh and Fuller, 2015:232). This theory supports the researcher to analyze the research. For the readers, this theory helps them to understand what happens and why Rabeya is speaking something.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based from background of study subchapter above, the researcher draws some problem statements that answers the violations of women language feature from *The Taqwacore* movie. Those problem statements are:

1. What are kinds of violations in women's language feature as happened in *The Taqwacores*?
2. What are the factors of violations in women's language feature in *The Taqwacores*?

1.3 Objectives of Study

In this subchapter, the researcher develops some objectives for this study. Those objectives of study are:

1. To identify and understand what kinds of violations in women's language feature as happened in *The Taqwacores*.
2. To identify and understand what factors that happen in violations in women's language feature as happened in *The Taqwacores*.

1.4 Significance of Study

This research gives both theoretical and practical contribution in analyzing violations in women's language feature. From theoretical contribution, this research aims for expanding the women's language feature and its violations in real life. Practically, this research is useful for next researchers who wants to analyze women's language feature and its violations in their next researchs and their future time.

1.5 Literature Review

There are some researchers who analyze women's language and its violations. For the movie *The Taqwacores* had been analyzed and studied by some researchers. The first research is a journal from Karen Beckwith with "The Concepts of Gender: Research Implications for Political Science" from The College of Wooster in 2005. This research discusses about how gender is connected with politics, especially how women and politics interact. This research's conclusion is about suggestion on enlarging gender studies to the race and racialization, until researching about gendered politics in some country.

Second research is a journal which is written by Victoria L. Bergvall with "Toward a Comprehensive Theory of Language and Gender" from Michigan Technological University in 1999. This research focuses on describing of Communities of Practice or CofP approach that is proposed by Janet Holmes and Miriam Meyerhoff. This research is ended with two results about understanding about language and gender. The result is the study of gender not only needs many perspectives and thoughtful theories, but also cannot be generalized easily when talking about study of gender. CofP theory or Communities of Practice itself can be used for studying language and gender, but cannot be used to generalize language and gender, like the sentences above.

Third research is a journal from A.B. Sri Mulyani with "Language and Gender: toward a Critical Feminist Linguistics" from Sanata Dharma University in 2014. This research describes about how language and gender develops each

time, and discusses about feminist perspectives about language and gender. This research's result is shifting view from essentialist to non-essentialist become trending issues in language gender studies, because newer frameworks like heterogeneity, non-fixity, specificity, and reflexivity have been added in rethinking and redesigning about language and gender to the better study and research in future time. In addition, the perspective of this critical feminist linguistic has entered ESL and EFL in many ways like language teaching strategies, motivating, interacting with students, tools for lecturing, or anything that is related as seen in some researcher like Sunderland, Micciche, Pavlenko, etc.

Fourth research is *Arabian Knights: Punk Islam and Selected Works of Michael Muhammad Knight* by Kurosh Amoui Kalareh in 2013 from The University of British Columbia. This research focuses on critics of Punk Islam that is described in Michael Muhammad Knight's novels, including *The Taqwacores* novel. This research is in thesis format.

Fifth research is an article which is titled *Women are Warmer but No Less Assertive than Men: Gender and Language on Facebook* by Gregory Park in 2016 from PlosOne. This research discusses about how men and women use the language in Facebook and compares it. This research concludes that women use their language slightly more assertive than men, especially in interpersonal warmth degree. In addition, women in this research are warmer, friendlier, and focused on people whereas men in this research are socially distant, disagreeable, and and focused on object.

For the sixth research, this thesis is written by Asger Andersen with *Looking for Cultural Space Discourses of Identity Formation on the Case of Taqwacore* in 2010. This research focuses on how taqwacore bands such as *The Kominas*, *Secret Trial Five*, *Omar Waqar*, *Al-Thawra*, *Vote Hezbollah*, *Omar Majeed* identifies themselves to the society. This research concludes that the taqwacore bands can be accepted or rejected in certain context. It means, the taqwacore bands faces two opposite sides; if they keep themselves as the different punk bands and Muslims in general, they will be identified as the different sect or bands, so the taqwacore bands are classified as the different bands. However, if they reject the difference or the exclusivity that is written previously, they will be forgotten because they will be counted as the same punk rock bands.

The researcher concludes that *The Taqwacores* movie is analyzed by some researchers, and the women's language is discussed by some researcher, but no researcher who is using same theory to analyze the movie. So, the researcher chooses to analyze the movie with the theory to find its violations and the factors beneath the utterance that is spoken. In conclusion, the researcher recommends this theory to be used in this movie in order to gain the knowledge about women language feature in general and the facts of the violations of women language features in real life.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

Lakoff's women language theory has some features such as lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation or uptalk (McConnell-Ginet and Eckert, 2003:

173-174), 'empty' adjective or particle, more precise naming colors, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress (Lakoff, 2004: 78-81).

The researcher wants to analyze the factors why the girl violates her own language with Dell Hymes' SPEAKING speech event theory, which is the acronym from Scene, Participants, Ends or purpose, Act Sequences, Key or the tone, Instrumentalities, Norms, and Genres (Wardhaugh and Fuller, 2015:232).

1.7 Methods of Study

1.7.1 Type of Study

The researcher uses qualitative descriptive method. This means, the study will describe about the violations of women language in *The Taqwacores* movie. The researcher also applies library method, which means the researcher collects the data from *The Taqwacores* movie.

1.7.2 Data Sources

Rabeya's utterances in *The Taqwacores* movie is used as the primary data source for this study. The supporting data for this study will be taken from the movie's subtitle, which is from <https://www.subtitledb.org/subtitle/the-taqwacores> internet sources for subtitles.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

The researcher uses documentation technique to collect data. It means the researcher watches Rabeya and her utterances and writes or types it to the

paperwork as the data for this research. The procedures for researching her utterances are: first, watching the movie in comprehensive way. Second, identifying and typing which the dialogues that violate the women's language. For the last, the researcher will describe the utterance's situations in *The Taqwacores* movie

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

The researcher will analyze the data after collecting it. This research uses referent equivalence method that is taken from equivalence method and analyze the referent from the data (Sudaryanto, 2015: 15-16). The steps to analyze are identifying Rabeya's utterance in the movie for the first steps. Step two, the researcher will classify the women's language feature according to Robin Lakoff's theory. Third is listing and classifying the kinds of violations. For the last step, the researcher will analyze the violations in women's language in the movie with Robin Lakoff's women language theory and the utterance's factors with Dell Hymes' SPEAKING speech event theory.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. First chapter discusses about introduction which consists of background of study, research questions, objectives of study, significants of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. Second chapter consists of theoretical background that discusses about Robin Lakoff's women language feature and Dell Hymes's SPEAKING theory of speech event that support the data of this research.

Third chapter is research findings and discussion which focuses on analyzing data that has been collected. Fourth chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.



Chapter IV

Conclusion and Suggestion

4.1. Conclusion

In this research, the researcher concludes that women language feature from Robin Lakoff in 1975 is violated by one woman named Rabeya in *The Taqwacores* movie because she speaks something that violates or rejects the usage of lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation or uptalk, empty adjective or particle, more precise naming colors, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress, even though in the movie, she has never talked about colors. It means, she violates the nine of ten women language features from Robin Lakoff in this movie from her words, until the sentences she talks.

Furthermore, the researcher finds that Dell Hymes' SPEAKING speech event theory to analyze the factors beneath Rabeya's utterance in the movie, which is divided into Scene, Participants, Ends or purpose, Act Sequences, Key or the tone, Instrumentalities, Norms, and Genres, exists in her utterances all along the movie. The researcher finds various factors that happens in the utterances like her relationship with other character, her way of speaking, and her thoughts about something that appears before her, so the factors of her utterance in the movie is answered.

4.2. Suggestion

After finishing the research, the researcher considers for every reader in the world that:

1. This film can be analyzed with representation about Islam like how the characters' personal thinking about Islam.
2. The main character in this movie, Yusef, seems different or violates how men use their language in general. So, another researcher can begin the analysis on him and compare with another characters in the movie.
3. The theories can be used to explore women language features or characterizations all over the world, even for more media like comics, songs and the others, to make a newer theory about the relationship between women, language and its effect in personal and / or wider life.

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