

**FEATURES, FUNCTIONS, AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S  
LANGUAGE IN *THRONE OF THE CRESCENT MOON* NOVEL**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

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



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**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 researchers' opinions or findings included in this research are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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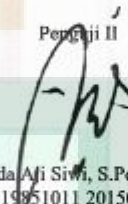
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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, saya ucapkan terima kasih.

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**FEATURES, FUNCTIONS, AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S  
LANGUAGE IN *THRONE OF THE CRESCENT MOON* NOVEL**

By: Renita Amara Sasti

**ABSTRACT**

Zamia Badawi is a female main character in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel written by Saladin Ahmed. This novel tells about a story of ghul hunter. The researcher used this novel as an object of study because the female main character, Zamia Badawi, has a man's title as a Protector of The Band. This research focuses on analyzing the women's language features, functions of women's language, and feature changes of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi. It is used the theory of women's language features by Lakoff and functions of women's language by Holmes. This research uses descriptive qualitative method because this research is done in order to analyze the women's language features, functions, and feature changes by describing words. After analyzed the data, it can be concluded that Zamia Badawi used eight women's language features in her utterance. They are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, and emphatic stress. There are six functions of women's language in Zamia's utterance. They are to express uncertainty, to get response, to soften the utterance, to start discussion, to express feeling, and to emphasize the utterance. Furthermore, there are three feature changes that have been found in Zamia's utterance. They are slang word, vulgar word, and strong swear word.

**Keywords:** *women's language, features, functions, feature changes, Throne of The Crescent Moon.*

**FEATURES, FUNCTIONS, AND FEATURE CHANGES OF WOMEN'S  
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Oleh: Renita Amara Sasti

**ABSTRAK**

Zamia Badawi adalah pemeran utama perempuan dalam novel *Throne of The Crescent Moon* karya Saladin Ahmed. Novel ini menceritakan tentang seorang pemburu *ghul*. Peneliti menggunakan novel ini sebagai objek studi karena pemeran utama perempuan, Zamia Badawi, memiliki gelar yang seharusnya hanya bisa dimiliki seorang laki-laki, yaitu sebagai seorang Protetor dalam kelompoknya. Penelitian ini fokus pada analisis tentang ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan, fungsi-fungsi bahasa perempuan, dan perubahan ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan yang dituturkan oleh Zamia Badawi. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan yang dicetuskan oleh Lakoff dan fungsi-fungsi bahasa perempuan oleh Holmes. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, karena penelitian ini digunakan untuk menganalisis ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan, fungsi-fungsi, dan perubahan ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan dengan mendeskripsikan kata-kata. Setelah menganalisis data yang ada, dapat disimpulkan bahwa Zamia Badawi menggunakan delapan ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan dalam tuturannya. Ciri-ciri tersebut adalah *lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, dan emphatic stress*. Terdapat enam fungsi-fungsi bahasa perempuan dalam tuturan Zamia Badawi. Fungsi-fungsi tersebut adalah *to express uncertainty, to get response, to soften the utterance, to start discussion, to express feeling, dan to emphasize the utterance*. Selanjutnya, terdapat tiga perubahan ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan pada tuturan Zamia. Perubahan ciri-ciri tersebut adalah *slang word, vulgar word, dan strong swear word*.

**Kata Kunci:** *bahasa perempuan, ciri-ciri, fungsi, perubahan ciri-ciri, Throne of The Crescent Moon.*

## MOTTO

“Language uses us as much as we use language.”

- Robin Lakoff -



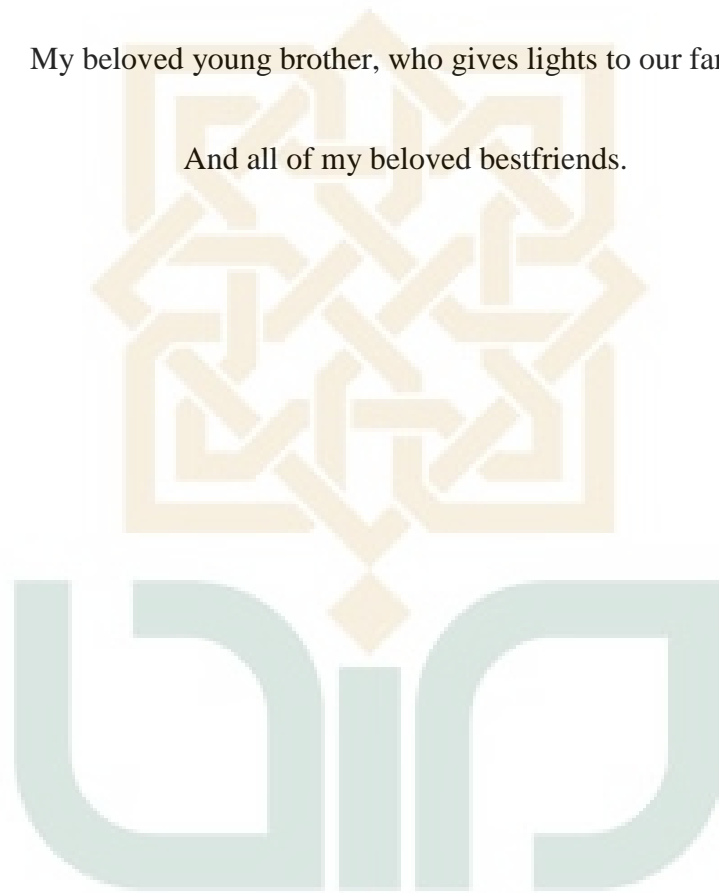
## DEDICATION

The researcher dedicates this graduating paper to:

My beloved parents, who loves me unconditionally,

My beloved young brother, who gives lights to our family,

And all of my beloved bestfriends.





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Lastly, I believe that the perfection is belong to Allah. I realize that this graduating paper is far from perfect because of my limited knowledge. I need critics and suggestions to make this graduating paper better. Moreover, I hope that this paper will be useful to the readers.

Yogyakarta, 11 May 2020

The Researcher,

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

People believe that there are many differences between women's and men's language. Lihong Gu (2013: 248) says that women usually speak indirectly, implicitly, and mildly. While men are usually speak directly because men are concerned with power and desire to be leaders. The differences between women and men also can seen in the terms of socialization. Women have to be more careful, they have to be aware and sensitive of using language or people will judge them. While men have to be strong, tough, and independent (Yule, 2010: 275). The differences above, sometimes make women look inferior in society.

Lihong Gu (2013: 251) says that language and behavior are created by different cultural background. As noted by Lakoff (1973: 46), women's experience of linguistic discrimination is found in the way they are taught to use language and in the way general language treats them. Women that grow in the general society will normally talk as the general rules in their society. If women break the rules, they will be judged by having a bad attitude.

Language affects the women's attitude, based on the way they speak (Lakoff, 1973: 46). In society, women are "forced" to talk as a lady, they have to talk soft and polite. If women talk rough or impolite, they will easily judged by people. Women should have control over the manner of speaking, if they do not want to judged by society. Yet, there are many women that having problem of using language.

There are many cases about the problems of women's language that can be found in society, such as using bad language, using strong swear words, talk roughly to others, and so on. Those cases are not only found in 'real' society, but also in many forms, such as in a movie, novel, social media, and others. Novel is one of the most popular media to represent the real life in a book. There are many novels that have parts of the women's language in it. As in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel.

In this research, the researcher uses one of the main character in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel as an object of study. *Throne of The Crescent Moon* is a novel written by Saladin Ahmed, an American poet and writer. This novel tells a story about ghul hunter. Doctor Adoulla Makhslood is the last ghul hunter in Dhamsawaat. With his young assistant, Raseed, Adoulla try to find a ghul that has killed the family of his friend's niece. In their journey, Doctor Adoulla and Raseed meet Zamia Badawi, a Protector of The Band of Nadir Banu Laith Badawi and they were became allies. Together, they tried to find the mysterious and dangerous ghul in their city. (Ahmed, 2012).

The researcher chooses this novel as an object of study because there are some interesting things in this novel. First, this novel contains the Islamic element. It can be seen that the novel are often mentioning the Names of God, such as: *Merciful God*, *Beneficent God*, etc. Second, in this novel, the female character, Zamia Badawi is special because she has a man's title. She also has some problems of using language.



Zamia Badawi is a female main character in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel. She is the Protector in her band, while Protector is a title that normally given to a man. This title sometimes makes her alienated by people in her band. They think that the Protector are only for the man's title. Even though she has a man's title, she still using language that appropriate with women's language features. But sometimes Zamia uses impolite language like talk roughly to others and using strong swear words. As noted before, in society, a woman has to watch over her language, but Zamia sometimes are not like that.

Lakoff (1973: 49) says that women have some language features that differs them from men's language. As noted by Holmes (2013: 302-303), there are 10 women's language features by Lakoff. They are lexical hedges or fillers, rising intonation, tag questions, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Moreover, Holmes mentions some functions of women's language. According to Holmes (2013: 304-317), there are 6 functions of women's language: to express uncertainty, to get response, to soften the utterance, to start discussion, to express feeling, and to emphasize the utterance. Meanwhile, the feature changes in this research is opposed from Lakoff's theory of women's language features.

In this novel, some Zamia's languages are contradiction with some of women's language features.

Example:

“. . . Even with this trace of blood, his trail will be impossible to find without the aid of an alchemist. Praise God, I happen to know one of

the best in Dhamsawaat. She does not work on the road anymore, but she'll help us nonetheless. We'll return to town tomorrow.”

The girl's eyes flashed, and Adoulla saw all his progress fly away. “Tomorrow!? Why do we not return now? I am looking for the **dog** that murdered my band, you **fat old fool!**” The little Badawi's expression was petulant and murderous. (2012: 75)

Based on the text above, Zamia used strong swear words in her utterance. They are “**dog**” and “**fat old fool**”. Zamia used strong swear word because she is angry to Adoulla. She wants to return town as soon as possible, but Adoulla suggest them to take a rest. Zamia's utterance is impolite because she talked using strong swear words to an older man.

Even though there is an asymmetry between Zamia's language and women's language features, sometimes Zamia's language is appropriate as women's language features.

Example:

“. . . Even with this trace of blood, his trail will be impossible to find without the aid of an alchemist. Praise God, I happen to know one of the best in Dhamsawaat. She does not work on the road anymore, but she'll help us nonetheless. We'll return to town tomorrow.”

The girl's eyes flashed, and Adoulla saw all his progress fly away. “**Tomorrow!?** Why do we not return now? I am looking for the dog that murdered my band, you fat old fool!” The little Badawi's expression was petulant and murderous. (2012: 75)

According to the paragraph above, Zamia used exclamation point and question mark to show her intonation in the utterance “**Tomorrow?!?**”. Not only that, the rising intonation also can be seen from the sentence *The girl's eyes flashed*, showing that Zamia is shocked with Adoulla's words. As the function,

Zamia's utterance is categorized as **to get response**, it showed by the question mark in the utterance and the following question uttered by Zamia.

From the cases above, the researcher wants to analyze Zamia's language including the women's language features, women's language functions, and the feature changes of women's language. The researcher believes that the cases can be solved by using Lakoff's and Holmes' theory.

## **1.2 Problem Statements**

In this reseach, the problems are formulated in the following questions:

1. What are the women's language features and its functions uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel?
2. What are the feature changes of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel?

## **1.3 Objectives of Study**

Based on the problem statements, the objectives of study are:

1. To identify the women's language features and its functions uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel.
2. To identify the feature changes of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel.

## **1.4 Significances of Study**

The significance of study is to understand about women's language, especially women's language features, functions, and feature changes uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel. Theoretically, this research is hopefully can be used as a reference in sociolinguistics study, especially in

language and gender. Furthermore, this research can be contributed as a source of women's language features analysis.

Practically, this research has two contributions. First, the researcher hopes the reader will know more about how women are talking in daily life. Second, the reader will know the functions of women's language in daily life.

### **1.5 Literature Review**

This research focuses on women's language features, functions of women's language features, and feature changes of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel. The researcher found some researches that have similarities and differences with this research. The researcher cannot find the research that used *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel as an object of study. The researches below help the researcher to finish this research.

The first research is a journal from Robin Lakoff from Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley. This journal entitled "Language and Woman's Place" and published in 1973. In this journal, Lakoff claimed that in society, there are inequities between men and women's language. Language can affect the attitude from the way they speak. Moreover, Lakoff established 10 women's language features that women should have. Those women's language features are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

The second research is a journal "Language and Gender: Differences and Similarities" and published in 2013. This journal is written by Lihong Gu from

Foreign Language Teaching Department, Hebei Finance University. The journal discusses about the differences and the similarities between the language of both genders, male and female. This journal also used Lakoff's theory as one of the referees, who considers that women's language are inferior than men's language. In this journal, the writer found that the similarities have the same important part as well as the differences.

The third research is a student journal written by Maissarah Aryana Rubbyanti, student of Yogyakarta State University. The journal entitled "Women's Language in Sense and Sensibility BBC Miniseries: A Sociolinguistics Study" and published in 2017. This journal identify about features of women's language, functions of women's language, and the characteristics of the society that is reflected through the use of language by the main female characters in *Sense and Sensibility* BBC Miniseries. This journal found 121 data, including 9 women's language features, 5 functions of women's language features, and 3 characters of the society.

The fourth research is a graduating paper entitled "Features and Feature Changes of Women's Language Found in Amira and Sam Movie" and published in 2019. This paper was written by Norlaili, student of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta. The paper is examining about the features and feature changes used by the female character in the movie, Amira. The writer identify about the women's language features, feature changes, and the factors of language. This writer found 9 of women's language features, but the writer does not mentions the total amount of the data. She only mentions the percentage of

women's language features. The writer found 19 feature changes of women's language in this paper. Moreover, the factor of languages are influence 100% in this research.

The fifth research is a graduating paper "Features and Functions of Women's Language in Anna's Character of Anna Karenina Movie" and published in 2016. This paper was written by Laila Nur Aflah from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta. This paper examined about the features and its functions of women's language in Anna's Character of Anna Karenina movie. This paper uses Lakoff's theory to identify the women's language features. The writer found 9 women language features and 6 functions of women's language in this research.

From the researches above, there are some similarities and differences with this research. The researcher uses the first journal as the main theory, but in addition, the researcher also examines about the functions of women's language features and feature changes of women's language. The second research also used Lakoff's theory as its theory, but this journal focuses on the similarities and differences of male and female.

The third research have some similarities with this research, both of the researches used Lakoff's theory as its main theory. The researchers of the third research also define about women's language features and its functions, but it does not mention the feature changes of women's language. The feature changes of women's language can be found in the fourth research. It also used Lakoff's theory as its main theory, but the fourth research does not mentions the functions

of women's language features. The last research is similar with the third research. The fifth research examines about women's language features and its functions, but it does not mentions about the features changes of women's language.

According to the similarities and differences with researches above, none of them are exactly same with this research. Even though all of them are using Lakoff's theory as their theory, there are still some differences that can differs this research with others. Furthermore, none of them are using written object as their object of the study. So, the researcher can conclude that the result of the research will be quite different because have the different types object of study.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

According to Lakoff (as cited in Holmes, 2013: 302), there are ten (10) women's language features: (1) Lexical Hedges or Fillers, (2) Tag Questions, (3) Rising Intonation, (4) Empty Adjectives, (5) Precise Color Terms, (6) Intensifiers, (7) Hypercorrect Grammar, (8) Superpolite Forms, (9) Avoidance of Strong Swear Word, (10) Emphatic Stress.

According to Holmes (2013: 304-317), there are 6 functions of women's language features: (1) To Express Uncertainty, (2) To Get Response, (3) To Soften The Utterance, (4) To Start Discussion, (5) To Express Feeling, (6) To Emphasize The Utterance.

## **1.7 Method of Research**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. A qualitative method is a research method that gathers non-numerical data. This method is appropriate for

this research because this research is analyzed about the women's language features, functions, and feature changes.

### **1.7.2 Data Source**

The data source in this research is *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel (pdf version). The writer is Saladin Ahmed. The novel published in 2012 by DAW Books in New York.

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

The researcher uses a library research to collect the data. The steps of this technique are library reading, collecting, noting, and analyzing. The first step, the researcher reads the *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel. Then, the researcher collects all Zamia's utterance and its context. Last, the researcher makes some notes in the data and analyze it.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

To analyze the data, the researcher uses the pragmatic identity method. There are the following steps to analyze the data:

- a. Identifying the women's language features, functions, and feature changes uttered by Zamia Badawi.
- b. Classifying the women's language features, functions, and feature changes uttered by Zamia Badawi.
- c. Explaining the women's language features, functions, and feature changes uttered by Zamia Badawi.
- d. Concluding the analysis.



## **1.8 Paper Organization**

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction, to explain the background of study, problem statements, objectives of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter is theoretical background, to explain the theory that used in this research. The third chapter is research findings and discussions. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussions, the researcher has some conclusions. Firstly, there are eight women's language features uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel. They are *lexical hedges or fillers*, *tag questions*, *rising intonation*, *empty adjectives*, *intensifiers*, *hypercorrect grammar*, *superpolite forms*, and *emphatic stress*. The researcher cannot find precise color terms and avoidance of strong swear words in Zamia's utterance. Zamia used 6 *lexical hedges or fillers* (7.41%), 1 *tag questions* (1.23%), 15 *rising intonation* (18.52%), 10 *empty adjectives* (12.34%), 13 *intensifiers* (16.05%), 1 *hypercorrect grammar* (1.23%), 4 *superpolite forms* (4.94%), and 21 *emphatic stress* (25.93%).

Secondly, the researcher finds six functions of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel. They are 4 data of *to express uncertainty* (4.94%), 7 data of *to get response* (8.64%), 2 data of *to soften the utterance* (2.47%), 1 datum of *to start discussion* (1.23%), 18 data of *to express feeling* (22.22%), and 39 data of *to emphasize the utterance* (48.15%).

Thirdly, the researcher finds three feature changes of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi in *Throne of The Crescent Moon* novel. They are 2 data of *slang word* (2.47%), 5 data of *vulgar word* (6.17%), and 3 data of *strong swear word* (3.71%).

According to the percentages above, it can be concluded that the highest percentage of women's language features uttered by Zamia Badawi is emphatic stress (25.93%). The highest percentage of the functions of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi is to emphasize the utterance (48.15%). And the highest percentage of feature changes of women's language uttered by Zamia Badawi is vulgar word (6.17%).

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

After finishing this research, the researcher realized that there are many things that can be analyzed more detail about both the object and the theory. For example, the researchers can write a research about women's language based on the newest theory and the latest condition in this era. Many researcher used Lakoff's theory as the main theory of women's language, especially in women's language features, but her book was published in 1973 which the condition of the society was far different from now. It will be much better if other researchers try to examine the research according to the newest theory of women's language.

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