

## ABSTRACT

***Mulyaningtias, Kurnia.*** A Study of Women's Linguistic Features Found in the Dialogues of Gilmore Girls TV Series. A thesis submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Degree of the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Airlangga University, Surabaya, 2004.

Language and gender have always been an interesting issue both in academic fields and everyday life, especially when it is claimed that men and women differ in their linguistic behavior. Men are often thought of as being dominant speakers, while women are placed in a subordinate role during the conversation process. Men also tend to be more competitive and less supportive of others, while women are considered cooperative conversationalists. An American linguist, Robin Lakoff, identified a number of linguistic features which she claimed were used more often by women than by men. Those linguistic features are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. She said that those linguistic features expressed uncertainty and lack of confidence. This phenomenon can be found in the dialogues that are uttered by the characters of Gilmore Girls TV series, an American TV drama series, which tells about mother-daughter relationship in a small town named Stars Hollow. Because the main characters of this series are female, the writer decided to analyze the use of the women's linguistic features that are uttered by the characters of Gilmore Girls TV series using Lakoff's theory. The data were taken by finding the transcript of Gilmore Girls TV series season four episode one entitled Ballroom and Biscotti in the Internet. Then, the data were analyzed by identifying and classifying the types of women's linguistic features defined by Lakoff. The results show that not all types of women's linguistic features occur in the dialogues. There are only nine types of women's linguistic features occur in the dialogues, they are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise color terms), intensifiers, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words (the use of expletives), and emphatic stress. One feature which did not occur in the dialogues is 'hypercorrect' grammar, whereas the feature which occurs the most is lexical hedges or fillers, with 35.46 % appearances. Female characters also show higher percentage in the use of women's linguistic features. They use 48.74 % of women's linguistic features in their utterances, whereas male characters only use 42.42 %. In conclusion, this study has proven Lakoff's theory that women use women's linguistic features more often than men.

***Keyword:*** *women's linguistic features*

# **CHAPTE I**

# **INTRODUCTION**