

## ABSTRACT

The relation between language and gender has become an interesting issue in sociolinguistics, especially in women's language. The aim of this study is to identify women linguistic features used by female judges and female contestants in a reality show, *Project Runway*. The data are taken from the transcript of utterances produced by Heidi Klum and Nina Garcia as female judges as well as Alexandria von Bromssen and Dominique Streater as female contestants in *Project Runway* Season 12. The data are analyzed by using women's language theories proposed by Kitzinger & Frith (1999), Lakoff (1975), and Spender (2013). The results show that there are seven women linguistic features used by female judges including lexical hedges, empty adjectives, intensifiers, fillers, avoidance of strong swear word, softening remark and acceptable reason, and tag question. On the other hand, six women linguistic features are found in female contestants' utterances including lexical hedges, empty adjectives, fillers, intensifiers, avoidance of strong swear words, and precise color term. It is found that the frequency of women linguistic features used by female judges is higher than that of female contestants due to the fact that female judges are more talkative to deliver their opinions than the female contestants. The judges show significant use of lexical hedges more frequently because they still would like to soften their judgment and express their politeness. On the other hand, the female contestants used significantly high frequency of fillers which signal that they hesitate to deliver their opinion due to the fact that they often get spontaneous questions.

**Keywords:** *Language and gender; Power and solidarity; Reality show; Women linguistic features*