

Women Linguistic Features Used by Oprah Winfrey in Same-Sex and Cross-Sex Communication

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Abstract

This study focused on analyzing women linguistic features used by Oprah Winfrey in same-sex and cross-sex communication in a talk show namely Oprah Winfrey Show. Lakoff's theory which stated that there are ten characteristics of woman language was used in this study. This study used descriptive qualitative approach because it did not involve numeric data. The data were collected by transcribing three episodes of Oprah Winfrey Show which had women as the guests and three episodes of Oprah Winfrey Show which had men as the guests. Then, the writer found each features in the dialog and analyzed it using Lakoff's theory. The finding shows that there are six women linguistic features which exist in the same-sex communication including lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, intensifiers and avoidance of strong swear words while the absent features are precise colour term, hypercorrect grammar, and superpolite forms. Moreover, in cross-sex communication, there are six women linguistic features which emerge including lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, intensifiers and superpolite forms while the absent features are precise colour term, hypercorrect grammar, and avoidance of strong swear word. It is found that the frequency of emergence of women linguistic features in cross-sex communication is higher than the frequency of emergence of women linguistic features in same-sex communication. Since women linguistic features are closely connected with tentativeness, it implies that women are less confident when they are in cross-sex communication or when they are talking to men.

Keywords: *language and gender; women linguistic feature; talk show; same-sex communication; cross-sex communication.*