

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GENDER LANGUAGE IN *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* AND *FRANKENSTEIN* NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with the similarities and differences of gender language expressed in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* Novels. The object of this study is to find out the similarities and differences of gender language which are expressed in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels .This study used descriptive qualitative research. The data were collected by documentary technique and the instrument of collecting data was documentary sheet. The data were analyzed by descriptive comparative. The findings indicated that there were some similarities and differences found between those two novels. The similarities were found in three features: a) Politeness; all the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels used polite sentences b) Grammar; all the characters in novels used hypercorrect grammar c) Precise color terms; there was no found the using of this feature in novels. The differences were found in the other seven features: Lexical Hedges, Tag Question, Intensifier, Swear Words, Empty Adjective, Emphatic Stress, Rising Intonation on Declarative. In *Pride and Prejudice*, these seven features of gender language dominantly used by women, while in *Frankenstein* novel they dominantly used by men. It is hoped that the result of this study will be useful for anyone who wants to study about literary, especially gender language.

Keyword : *prose, novel, gender language*

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INTRODUCTION

The Background of the Study

Literature is a mirror of human life. It is a creative creation of human imaginations, wishes, though, feelings and all the reality of life. A literary work exists because of society. In other words, the existence of literary work is influenced by the condition and phenomenon in society either in politic, social, religion, economy, and culture. As Wellek (1987: 94) stated, literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society.

One of literary works is novel. There are so many things that can be analyzed in novel. One of them is language. It is interested to be analyzed of how the writer expressed the beauty of the language in their novel and how they describe the characters of the actor through the language itself.

This study analyzes the gender language in two novels from different authors. They are *Pride and Prejudice*(1813) by Jane Austen and *Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818) by Mary Shelley. They were published in eighteenth century. Both of the authors are the British novelists.

Pride and Prejudice is one of the greatest novels of the eighteenth century. *Pride and prejudice* novel talks about the rank and status and the equality that was truly faced in the Regency England Era (1811-1820) when the novel was written.

In this era the social status was determined by family connections and on a smaller scale, how one earned money. This situation clearly shows in this novel by the ambitions of parent (Mrs. Bennet) that want her five daughters to marry the rich men. She believes that her five daughters will have high social position when they get marriage with rich men. (Situmorang, 2013: 10).

Bringing the same theme with different genre, Mary Shalley in *Frankenstein, or, the Modern Prometheus*, also explore the status of women and their role in society as well as in the family. It seems that the daughter of such distinct parents should follow in their footsteps or at least try to voice her mother's beliefs in women's rights to be treated as equals to men in society and their right to education. However in *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley chose to write from three different perspectives, using three narrators – all male. The women are represented, solely, through the male gaze and perception.

Women's role and status in the contemporary society, or lack thereof, did not only affect women on a personal level, it restrained them from having a career other than that of a housewife as well. The female sex was believed to be weaker, less intelligent and inferior to the male sex, which had the natural consequence that women were thought less capable than men when it came to activities categorized as masculine, (Knutsen, 2012:18).

There are two reasons of choosing these two novels as the subject of this study. First, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels were written in the same period, namely in the eighteenth century. Second, they were written by two different authors but from the same country, England. Both of them were born and died in England. This study inspired by the previous studies of gender language. There are some studies of gender language that has analyzed gender language itself. They analyzed the differences of gender language in social network, daily interaction and television show. But, they only focused on one subject. So, this study tries to make a new study of gender language by comparing two literary works, novels.

RESEARCH METHOD

In conducting the research, this study used descriptive research. This study intended to describe the similarities and differences of gender language as expressed in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels. The sources of the data were *Pride and Prejudice* novel by Jane Austen and *Frankenstein* novel by Mary Shelley.

The object of the study was the gender language which was expressed in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* Novels. And the data of this study is the linguistics utterances of gender language in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels which were showed the features of gender language. The data were collected by doing documentary technique. And the instrument for collecting data was documentary sheet.

In this study, the data were analyzed by descriptive technique. And the steps are: identifying data in line with feature of gender language which used by the characters in novels and then reducing them in line with the 10 features of gender language, classifying the data used by men or women and the last Analyzing and interpreting the data which has been classified including the differences and similarities from the dialogues of the actors in the novels.

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS

Data Analysis

The data of this study were the linguistics utterances of gender language in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels. The utterances were taken from the dialogues of the actors in novels. Each utterance was classified to ten features of gender language. This study found 187 linguistics utterances of gender language. 118 (63, 10%) utterances found in *Pride and Prejudice* novel: 74 utterances used by women and 44 utterances used by men, and 69 (36, 89%) utterances found in *Frankenstein* novel: 54 utterances used by men and 15 utterances used by women.

◆ *Similarities*

The similarities of the two novels were found in three features of gender language. They are: the using of politeness, the using of hypercorrect grammar, and the using of precise color term.

- Politeness

Almost all the utterances of characters in the two novels showed polite term.

Mrs.Bennet: “*My dear MrBennet, have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?*”(*Pride and Prejudice/* chapt.1/ pg. 3).

Justine: “*Dear sir, you are very kind to visit me. .* .”
(*Frankenstein/* chapt.8/ pg. 73)

- Hypercorrect Grammar

All the utterances of characters: men and women, in the two novels used hyper correct grammar in their dialogues.
Elizabeth: “*if I have, I shall be the last person to confess it*”.
(*Pride and Prejudice/* chapt.56/ pg.296).

Monster : “*Pardon this intrusion. I am the traveler in want of a little rest; you would greatly oblige me if you would allow me to remain a few minutes before the fire*”
(*Frankenstein/* chapt.7/ pg.116)

- Precise Color Term

There is no found the using of this feature in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* Novels.

- ♦ *Differences*

Differences found in the using other seven features of gender language. They are lexical hedges, tag questions, intensifier, swear words, empty adjective, emphatic stress, and rising intonation on declarative. In *Pride and Prejudice*, they are dominantly used by women, while in *Frankenstein* they are dominantly used by men.

- Lexical Hedges

There are 22 linguistics utterances of lexical hedges found in *Pride and Prejudice*: 16 (72, 72%) utterances used by women and 6 (27, 27%) utterances used by men. Total linguistics utterances of lexical hedges in *Frankenstein* novel are 10 utterances: 8 (88, 88%) of them used by men and only 2 (11,11 %) used by women.

- Tag Questions

There are 8 linguistics utterances of tag question found in *Pride and Prejudice*: 5 utterances (62, 15%) of them used by women and only 3 utterances (37, 5 %) used by men. And it is not found the using of this feature in *Frankenstein* novel.

- Intensifier

There are 14 utterances of intensifier found in *Pride and Prejudice*: 11 utterances (78, 57%) used by women and 3 utterances (21, 42 %) used by men. While in *Frankenstein* there are 6 utterances found and all of them used by men.

- Swear Words

There are 9 linguistics utterances of swear words found in *Pride and Prejudice*: 7 (77, 77%) utterances used by women and 2 (22, 22%) utterances used by men. Total linguistics utterances of swear words in Frankenstein novel are 12 utterances: 11 (91, 66%) of them used by men and only 1 (33, 33 %) used by women.

- Empty Adjective

There are 10 linguistics utterances of empty adjective found in *Pride and Prejudice*: 50 % utterances used by women and another 50 % utterances used by men. Total linguistics utterances of empty adjective in Frankenstein novel are 3 utterances: 2 (66,66%) of them used by men and only 1 (33,33 %) used by women.

- Emphatic Stress

There are 18 linguistics utterances of emphatic stress found in *Pride and Prejudice*: 17 (94, 44 %) utterances used by women and 1 (5, 55%) utterances used by men. Total linguistics utterances of emphatic stress in Frankenstein novel are 11 utterances: 8 (72, 72 %) of them used by men and only 3 (27, 27 %) used by women.

- Rising Intonation on Declarative (RID)

There are 11 linguistics utterances of RID found in *Pride and Prejudice*: 8 (72, 72%) utterances used by women and 6 (27, 27%) utterances used by men. Total linguistics utterances of lexical hedges in Frankenstein novel are 4 utterances: 3 (75 %) of them used by men and only 1 (25 %) used by women.

Research Findings

From the data analysis above it is found that the linguistics utterances that expressed in *Pride and Prejudice* novel proof the theory of Robin Lakoff. It says that women usually use lexical hedges, tag question, intensifier, swear words, empty adjective, emphatic stress, rising intonation on declarative, and precise color more than men. But, the linguistics utterances found in *Frankenstein* novel expressed the opposite of Lakoff's theory. In *Frankenstein* novel, all of the linguistics features that usually used by women are used by men.

The similarities found in the using of politeness and hypercorrect grammar. Lakoff's theory says that women usually use polite sentence in communication while men usually use impolite sentence. And it also says that women usually use hypercorrect grammar while men less in using correct grammar. But, in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* novels, found that women and men used hypercorrect grammar and also used the polite sentences in communication.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

After analyzing the dialogues that expressed gender language used by all characters in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein* Novels, it can be concluded that:

Similarities are found between the two novels. They are; all the characters, men and women, in each novel expressed polite sentences and also used hypercorrect grammar in their dialogues and also there is no found the using of precise color terms in the two novels. Differences; In *Pride and Prejudice*, women usually use lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, intensifier, swear words, and emphatic stress. While in *Frankenstein* novel, most of them were used by men.

Linguistics utterances of gender language found in *Pride and Prejudice* proved the RobinLakoff's theory, while the linguistics utterances found in *Frankenstein* novel expressed the opposite of this theory. In *Pride and Prejudice* novel, all the features of gender language dominantly used by women, while in *Frankenstein* novel, they dominantly used by men.

Suggestions

After doing this study it is hoped that this study can be useful for all the readers. It is hoped that this study can be further continued by other researcher by using different approach. It is also hoped that this study can be useful as the references in doing the research to conduct in depth researchers and to make the detailed analysis of gender language in other object. For the researcher, who wants to compare gender language in literary work, it is suggested to develop the analysis by using other object.

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