Research Article

Language Features Used by Main Female Character in the Movie *Redeeming Love* (2022)

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Abstract

The research focuses on identifying and describing specific women's language features utilized by Angel as the main female character in the movie *Redeeming Love*. The research also aims to examine the functions of these language features employed Angel with theories of Coates and Holmes were used for these purposes. This descriptive qualitative research utilized purposive sampling to collect data from the *Redeeming Love* (2022) movie and *Redeeming Love* movie script. Then, the data were examined by determining and classifying the types of women's language defined by Coates and supported by using Holmes's theory as a social factor that influences language. The results of the analysis revealed that the main female characters use all varieties of women's language features, including minimal responses, lexical hedges, tag questions, questions, commands and directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments. Additionally, Angel's utterances are mainly used for expressive functions among others. The study also shows the social factor that Angel mostly used is participant.

1. Introduction

Language has an important role in human life, both men and women certainly want to communicate well. According to Wardhaugh (1977: 3), Language is defined as a system of vocal symbols used for human communication. Everyone has a different way of communicating. Every person born directly has their own language. Gender is one of the determinants that impact language use. Men and women possess unique language traits when they communicate. Gender representation in the form of language is essential to analyze because it can be utilized for stereotypical interpretations of gender, especially in literary works (Wulandari, 2019). Gender representation is often associated with language (Lakoff, 2003). According to Coates' book Women, Men, and Language (2013), society takes advantage of women's attitudes about language in how they learn to use general language and how it represents women. Coates (2013) examines the usage of linguistic attitudes in women's speech as they relate to gender and conversational strategies. According to Coates (2013), seven characteristics are proposed: minimal responses, lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, questions, commands and directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments.

Redeeming Love movie is based on Francine Rivers' book of the same name. The main character of this movie, Angel (played by Abigail Cowen), is a prostitute who has endured years of trauma and abuse. Because of her terrible past, Angel wants to escape her current circumstance and begin a new life. Finally, she met Michael Hosea who was a farmer. The movie *Redeeming Love* shows a phenomenon in women's language features. This movie describes the characteristic of Angel and shows the language features used by Angel in detail. In this study, the writer wants to investigate the

language features used by female characters in the film *Redeeming Love*. This study uses Coate's (2013) women's linguistic features as the main theory. The author proposes analyzing language features by using the descriptive qualitative method.

2. Methods

This present study uses descriptive qualitative research. Type of research that focus on the personal observations of individuals or groups and the understanding of social interactions is known as qualitative research. (Creswell, 2013). This research is compatible with descriptive qualitative methods because this research aims to understand the context and features of language used by Angel. This study examines the language features used by Angel as the main female character in the movie *Redeeming Love* to explore the characteristics of language features, function and the factors that influence. This study incorporates relevant literature from various sources, such as books, journals, and articles as references.

The main data of the research are the utterances of Angel as the main female character in the movie *Redeeming Love*. Population of this study is composed of utterances spoken by the main female character in the movie *Redeeming Love*. In the sample, the author does not use all the utterances, but only utterances that show language features. The purposive sampling applied to Angel's speech shows the features of the female language. Turner (2010) defines purposive sampling as a sampling technique used when researchers have specific goals in research and want to select the most relevant and appropriate sample for that purpose. In purposive sampling, the researcher selects a sample from Angel utterances that show language features.

According to Talbot (1995), collecting data is an important phase in the research process and should be performed systematically with careful consideration. Talbot argues that the researcher must initially determine where and from whom data will be collected before gathering information. In this research, the researcher chose non-participant observation. The data collected in this research used the non-participant observation. The researcher used the non-participant observation method because the researcher's position was only as an observer and does not participate at all in the object being observed. The researchers started by observing the utterances used by Angel in the movie *Redeeming Love* by watching the movie and observing the existing movie script and the researcher transcribes using dialogue transcription to make it easier to classify the data, and checks the data.

In this research, the study employed referential techniques to analyze the collected data and investigate the language characteristics of the utterances used by the female main character. The following are the steps of data analysis in this research: First, the writer will be taking note of words that contain language features and classifying data that contain language features according to Coates' theory. Then, the writer will describe function of language features used by main female character in the *Redeeming Love*. The last, the writer will describe social factor that influence language features used by main female character in *Redeeming Love*.

3. Results

The results found that Angel as the main female character used all of the women's language features based on Coates (2013). Based on the data collected by the researcher, it was found that Angel produced 95 utterances that contained women's language features. The researcher's findings from the data analysis are presented in the tables below:

Table 3.1 Language Function and Women's Language Features in Angel Utterances in *Redeeming Love* Movie

Women language Features	Factor	Function						Total
		Exp	Ref	Dire	Met	Poet	Phat	
		48	7	11	2	0	27	95
Minimal responses	The participants	3	-	-	-	-	6	
	The setting or social context	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	The topic	3	-	-	-	-	-	13
Lexical Hedges	The participants	11	-	-	-	-	-	
	The setting or social context	2	-	-	-	-	-	
	The topic	3	-	-	-	-	-	16
Tag Question	The participants	2	-	-	-	-	-	
	The setting or social context	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	The topic	1	1	-	-	-	-	5
Question	The participants	7	5	3	-	-	16	
	The setting or social context	2	-	-	-	-	-	
	The topic	5	1	-	2	-	5	46
Coomand and directives	The participants	-	-	4	-	-	-	
	The setting or social context	-	-	4	-	-	-	
	The topic	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Swearing and Taboo Language	The participants	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	The setting or social context	3	-	-	-	-	-	
	The topic	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Compliment	The participants	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	The setting or social context	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	The topic	2	-	-	-	-	-	3

In Table 3.1, the dominant language feature used by Angel is question. In this movie, Angel makes a lot of questions for her partner of speech. She asks 45 questions. This is connected to Coates' theoretical framework. Coates (2004: 93) suggests that powerful participants in unequal situations use this particular aspect of questions to their benefit. Additionally, in various scenarios, women who find themselves in less influential roles also employ this strategy to sustain the conversation. Angel is weak in interactive situations so she tends to use questions to keep the conversation going. Angel also used this feature to get information about many things she did not know yet. She used this feature to convey her emotions, gather information, introduce new topics, and keep the conversation going.

The most dominant language function used is the expressive function. Angel uses this function in lexical hedges and fillers, tag questions, question, swearing or taboo language and

compliment. The use of expressive functions used by Angel, as shown in Table 3.1, shows that expressive functions are extremely high where they are used 48 times. The expressive function is seen in the form of speech the speaker conveys. At the same time, the referential function is used by Angel 1 times in features of tag question and 6 times in question features. In using the metalinguistics language function, Angel used these language features 2 times in question. The following function used is the phatic function. In table 3.1, Angel uses these functions on the features 6 times in minimal responses and 21 times in question. Then, angle uses directive function 3 times in question and 8 times in command and directive language features. Lastly, Angle didn't use poetic function in her utterances.

The writer also found that there are some factors of Angel used women language features. According to Holmes (2013) there are 4 important factors that always influence the way people utilize language: Participants, setting or social context, topic, and function. The researcher analyzed the function factor more deeply with Jacobson theory. There are 95 data with the occurrences of data in this research. The participant is influenced in minimal responses, lexical hedges, tag question, question, command and directives, swear and taboo language and compliment. The other factor is setting. The setting is a factor that influenced minimal responses, lexical hedges, tag question, question, swearing and taboo language. Additionally, a factor that influenced the use of women's language is topic. Topic is a factor that is influenced in minimal responses, lexical hedges, tag question, question and compliment.

4. Discussion

4.1. Minimal responses

Minimal responses play a role in understanding topic changes or acquiring new knowledge in a conversation (Coates, 1986).

Data 1:

Michael   : "Will you marry me?"

Angel   : "**Sure.**"

Michael   : "We'll get the preacher."

Angel   : "**Yeah.**"

The conversation above is between Michael and Angel after Angel was beaten by Magowan. This conversation takes place in Brothel. Angel's condition is very bad. Seeing Angel's condition, Michael finally asked Angel to marry. Finally, Angel also agreed to Michael's proposal and she left the prostitution place with Michael. During the conversation, Angel responds briefly to the statements made by her speech partner. This indicates that Angel is utilizing a language feature commonly associated with women's speech, namely a minimal response. Angel demonstrates this by using phrases like **"sure"** and "yeah" to reply to her speech partner's question. In this context, instead of using lengthy sentences, Angel opts for minimal responses. These minimal responses include expressive function. By saying "**sure**" and "**yeah**," she expresses agreement and lends support to Michael's proposal. In the conversation above.

In the conversation above, the influent factor of used expressive function is the topic being discussed. The topic of their marriage is sensitive and important to both Angel and Michael. Michael had visited the brothel several times to meet with angels, then he asked Angel to marry him. Angel's minimal responses may indicate that she is not fully enthusiastic, but she is choosing to go along with it. The topic of their marriage, its significance influences factor Angel's expressive function in this conversation.

4.2. Lexical Hedges

According to Lakoff (1975), lexical hedges are explicit indicators of a lack of confidence. He posited that women employ hedging devices to convey uncertainty, while also using intensifying devices to persuade their listener to take them seriously.

Data 2:

Angel   : "**Well**, Michael came to the Palace, he paid for my time and then he begged me to mary him."

Paul   : "That's a lie. I know Michael and Michael would neverstep foot inside of a whore house."

Angel   : **"Well,** the whore is here now."

The conversation above occurred between Paul and Angel. Paul comes to visit Michael's house. Michael informs her that he is married. Paul went into Michael's house and he was surprised that Michael's wife was a famous prostitute. He didn't expect that Michael the best man he knew, was married with a prostitute. Paul also asked why this could happen. In this case, the inclusion of the word "**Well**, Michael came to the Palace" as a hedge reflects Angel's doubts and insecurities. She also reinforces her uncertainty by stating, "**well,** the whore is here now." The repeated use of "**well**" intensifies her sense of doubt and highlights her profound uncertainty about the statements she makes. In Data 2, Angel openly expresses her discomfort during the interview and reveals her uncertainty about the reasons behind Michael's decision to marry her.

In this case, the influent factor of used expressive function is the Participant. Angel's lower status influences her expressive function. In this case, her perceived lower position with Paul may contribute to her expression of lack of confidence, uncertainty, and discomfort during the interview.

4.3. Tag question

Similarly, the tag question might be seen as a hedging strategy that impairs the speech of women. The tag has come to hold the status of paradigmatic women's language feature among all the linguistic forms first defined by Lakoff (Coates 1989:67). According to Lakoff as cited by Cameron (1990), a tag question its utility and grammatical form, is midway between a definite declaration and a yes or no inquiry.

Data 3:

Michael   : "It was my business the minute saw you on the street."

Angel   : "Yeah, love at first sight, **right**?"

Michael   : "Right."

Data 7 is taken in this situation when Michael visited Angel again in the brothel and Michael is asking Angel if she wants to stay in the brothel for the rest of her life. Angel replied that it wasn't Michael's business whether she stayed or not. But michael said it was his business since seeing him on the street. Angel then asked if Michael fell in love at first sight. In the given context, the statement **"right?"** contains a tag question. From these utterances, it can be observed that the speaker is seeking agreement or confirmation regarding the statement they made. In this context, Angel is asking Michael to validate the truth of her claim, as indicated by the inclusion of the question tag **"right?"** at the end of the sentence. The function used by Angel utterances is a referential function, indicating that she already knows of the truth of her statement.

In this case, the factor that influences Angel to use the referential function is the topic they are discussing. Since they are talking about Michael falling in love with Angel at first sight, Angel's use of the question tag serves to confirm or emphasize her knowledge of this fact. The referential function focuses on conveying information or referring to known facts. In Angel's case, she already knows that Michael fell in love with her at first sight, and she utilizes the referential function to reaffirm this understanding using question tags.

4.4. Question

According to Coate's (2013) women's use questions is linked to their vulnerable position in social situations.

Data 4:

Angel : "Mm-hmm Well you can take this back. Marriage is over. **Where did you get a ring so fast?"**

Michael : "It, uh......belonged to my mother."

Angel : "**Y-You gave me your mother's ring?"**

Michael : "Yeah."

The conversation above occurred when Angel's condition began to recover after several days at Michael's house. In this conversation, Angel briefly stopped her marriage with Michael after she came to Michael's house. She wanted to return the ring that was in her hand. Angel asked Michael **"Where did you get a ring so fast?"** when she tried to get information about where Michael got the ring so quickly. In this conversation, Angel employs her questions to keep the conversation going. These features include phatic function. She is using it to engage with Michael and to keep the conversation flowing. This aligns with Jacobson's theory (1960: 5) which states that the primary purpose of the phatic function is to stabilize or prolong communication, regardless of the content. By asking a question, she aims to reinforce, sustain the ongoing conversation, and strengthen communication.

In explanation above, factor that influenced Angel used phatic function is topic. In the given scenario where they are discussing the ring given by Michael to Angel, Angel uses questions to keep the conversation going. This utilization of questions serves as a phatic function, as it helps to maintain social interaction and keep the conversation flowing. Angel employs the phatic function to engage with Michael and show her interest in the topic they are discussing.

4.5. Commands and directives

Montgomery (2008) defines a command as an utterance intended to convince someone to carry out a certain action. According to Arista and Murni (2014:85), directives are meant to encourage the addressee into taking a particular action. Coates (2013) stated that there exists a distinction in the way men and women express commands and directives. Men typically utilize explicit commands, employing phrases like *"gimme"* or *"get off."* In contrast, women tend to employ implicit commands, using expressions such as *"let's gonna," "can," "could,"* and *"maybe".*

Data 5:

Angel : "Dinner first"

Michael: "That was delicious"

Angel : "Mmm. **Let's** go to the hiltop where you first showed me the sunrise. You know, I never paid attention to sunrises and sunsets till you brought me here"

The conversation above occurred between Angel and Michael. After the arrival of the Mirriam family to her family, Angel thought that Mirriam was the right woman to be Michael's wife because she could have children. Then she wanted to leave Michael again, but she prepared a farewell for Michael. Angel prepared dinner and invited Michael to go to the hiltop where they visited to see the sunrises and sunsets. In the data above, Angel use type of women language features namely commands and directive. Angel said "**lets**", this sentence is a kind of explicit directive. Angel ordered Michael directly by using the words "**let's**" which showed that it was an explicit directive. The reason Angel uses the typical language is to command Michael to immediately do what she is told, that to go with her to hiltop. Angel used expressive function in command and directives because of participant. Angel used expressive function in command and directives because of participant. Angel and Michael have an intimate relationship that's why she gives direct to Michael to go hiltop.

Angel's use of the expressive function in giving a command to Michael to go to the hilltop can be seen as an expression of comfort and their close relationship. However, Angel's use of the expressive function in giving a command to Michael can be understood as a reflection of their close connection and her ability to communicate directly with him.

4.6. Swearing and taboo language

Women prioritize expressing their utterances in a manner that is as polite as possible, particularly when it concerns profanity and taboo words. Consequently, the use of swearing and taboo language is infrequent among women (Lakoff, 2004; Wulandari, et.al., 2023)

Data 6:

Magowan   : "What's so funny?"

Angel   : "You. You're just...You're just one of Duchess's **lapdogs.** he rings a bell and you just come running. And she owns you, too. You're no different than all of us. You're just one of Duchess's...girls."

This conversation was set at a time when Magowan was punishing Angel on the orders of the duchess. Magowan continued to beat Angel. Angel also mocked Magowan by laughing. Magowan then asked what was so funny because Angel kept laughing. Angel responded by telling him "You're just one of the Duchess's **lapdogs**". In this conversation, Angel conveyed her anger and frustration using swear words "**lapdogs**". She expresses her strong negative feelings after being assaulted by Magowan. These taboo words employed by Angel didn't indicate aggression, but rather reflect her strong dislike for the man. Based on the explanation, it is evident that these utterances include the expressive function, as they specifically pertain to emotional reactions in response to information.

In this statement above, the social factor that influenced Angel used expressive function is setting. Magowan is Duches servant who can punish her anytime. Magowan's act of violence has triggered emotional upset in Angel, leading her to express her feelings. In Angel's case, she is using the expressive function to express her upset feelings in response to the violent act committed by Magowan.

4.7. Compliment

According to Tsui (1994), a compliment is a type of evaluation that involves the speaker expressing positive sentiments towards the recipient. According to Coates (2013), women receive and give more compliments compared to men. Both genders use praise in a comparable manner, but women tend to elaborate more on their compliments while men prefer to use more straightforward patterns. However, compliments from female speakers are often not acknowledged.

Data 7:

Angel   : "Miriam is……. She is **beautiful** girl"

Michael: "Mm, she is"

The conversation above occurred when Michael helped the Mirriam family who needed help. Michael took them to his house and spent some time there. Angel realized that she would not be able to have children, so Angel wanted Michael to be with a woman who could give Michael children. Angel utterances "**beautiful**" are used to compliment Miriam. This statement is Angel's expression to Mirriam that she is beautiful and Michael must be liked. In this context, Angel used these utterances to Miriam because she tries to make Michael like Miriam.

In this case, the factor that influences the use of expressive function in compliment is topic. In this topic of conversation, angel feels not suitable to become Michael wife because she cannot have children. This factor influenced Angel's use of the expressive function in complimenting Miriam. The topic prompted Angel to express her thoughts and feelings through a compliment directed at Miriam. This influenced her choice to express her sense of inferiority through the compliment to Miriam.

5. Conclusions

The researcher discovered that Angel made a total of 95 utterances. The women's language features proposed by Coates (2013) are present in Angel utterances. The results showed that the main female characters used all language features. The result shows that the most common feature used by Angel is question. Angel used this feature to get information about many things she did not know yet.

In this reserarch, she primarily uses the expressive function. Angel uses the expressive function in minimal response to express agreement and to express understanding. Angel also uses the expressive function in lexical hedges and fillers, which shows to express uncertainty, and feeling, toward something. Additionally, Angel uses an expressive function in the tag question to express uncertainty and to confirm the assumption, because of the doubts about something. At the same time, the question is used by Angel to effectively convey her emotions and feelings. Meanwhile, swear words are used in expressive functions to express personal emotions such as anger, and frustration. Another thing contained in the expressive function is a compliment for the expression of admiration about something.

Another language function used by Angel is the referential function. This language function is found in utterances containing tag questions uttered by Angel to confirm the speaker's opinion when the speaker already knows that the statement is accurate. In addition, the referential function is also found in the question to provide information, confirm the spoken statement, and provide facts about something. The directive functions in command and directives are to request and command other speakers. The following language function is phatic and metalinguistics. The focus of the metalinguistics function is paying attention to the actual code or on explaining and negotiations. Only in question, Angel use the metalinguistics function. Angel also uses phatic function in women's language in questions and minimal responses. Angel uses this function to build solidarity and maintain relationships.

Factors that influence the uses of women's language features in Angel utterances are participant, setting, or social context and topic. The participants influence the use of women's language features when Angel talks with a person who has a higher status than Angel and talks with her friend. The setting factor or the social context experienced by Angel is also important factors that influence the use of language. Angel in a certain situation, tends to change her way of speaking. The topic being discussed can also influence Angel's language use. Depending on the topic, she might adapt her language to match the social norms or expectations related to that topic.

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