

THE LINGUISTIC STRATEGIES DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN POST GRADUATE STUDENTS OF ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM OF UNDIKSHA SINGARAJA

Komang Trisna Dewi
IHDN DENPASAR
Email: trisna_dewi92@yahoo.co.id

ABSTRACT

This study focused on the analysis of linguistic strategies differences between men and women which was to investigate the linguistic strategies applied by male and female post graduate students of the English Education Program of UNDIKSHA Singaraja. This study was designed by using descriptive qualitative approach in which the data collected were analyzed qualitatively. The researcher acted as non-participant observer in which the data were gathered by recording the conversation done. The result of the data analysis showed that the data show that during the daily conversation, it can be found that the linguistic strategies applied by both male and female speakers. They use this kind of strategy in order to express their opinion or feeling. Moreover, from those conversations, the data which was related to the strategies was got. Based on data, it can be concluded that male and female post graduate students of the English Education Program of UNDIKSHA Singaraja, differ in applying linguistic strategies during their daily conversation. In having a conversation, men interrupt more than women and women show their silence response more often in their conversation rituals. Moreover, in raising the conversation topic, both men and women have different topic to be talked about. Men tend to speak about something which can put them in competitive situation, such as game whereas women tend to speak about something that can make them stand in the middle of solidarity, such as feelings. Besides, men also use indirectness to convey something that can low their status but women use indirectness because they felt they had lower status than men and they wanted to get pleasant experience of getting one's way not because one demands it (power) but because the other person wants the same thing (solidarity).

Key terms: *Linguistic strategies, Male, Female, Language Function*

INTRODUCTION

Communication and interaction may happen anywhere and at any time. People can communicate in the classroom, canteen, at home and in many other places. They also can share their ideas or opinions in many occasions. In addition, in expressing their ideas, opinion or feelings, people use different way in order to be understood by the listener. These differentiations occur due to some factors. One of those factors is the influence of the gender.

Every gender has their own way to communicate and interact with other people. It happens because each

gender has different language which they usually use in the conversation. In order to know more about the linguistic strategies used by men and women, a study which was related to this phenomenon was conducted.

Research Question

On the basis of this reflection, the description of the problems can be stated as follows:

What are the linguistic strategy differences used by male and female post graduate students of the English Education Program of UNDIKSHA Singaraja?

Scope of the Research

The focus of this study is to analyze the linguistic strategies applied by male and female post graduate students of the English Education Program of UNDIKSHA Singaraja?

Purposes of the Research

This research aims at investigating the linguistic strategies applied by male and female post graduate students of the English Education Program of UNDIKSHA Singaraja

Significance of the Research

This research is expected to give an enhancement of perspective and scientific framework in the domains of language and gender. In addition, this study is conducted to investigate the differences of linguistic strategies which are applied by male and female post graduate students of English Education Program of UNDIKSHA Singaraja whilst conducting conversational interaction

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this research, the theory which was chosen was the linguistic strategies theory. There are five linguistic strategies which are proposed by Tannen, being indirectness, interruption, silence, topic raising and adversative.

Indirectness

According to Lakoff (in Cameron, 1998: 268) there are two benefits of indirectness. Those are defensiveness and rapport. Defensiveness refers to a speaker's preference not to go on record with an idea in order to be able to disclaim, rescind or modify it if it does not meet with a positive response. The rapport benefit of indirectness results from the pleasant experience of getting one's way not because one demands it (power) but because the other person want the same thing (solidarity).

However, many researchers are more concerned with the defensive rather than rapport.

Indirectness is commonly used by women. This is due to the reason that indirectness shows lower power. Conley et. al. (in Cameron, 1998: 268) claims that women's language is really powerless language. Therefore, it means that the reason why women use indirectness is because women have lower power.

Interruption

Zimmerman and West (in Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, 2003: 111) state that interruption violates turn-taking conventions, specifically by taking place at other than transition-relevant — for example, during the final syllable of what could be a complete sentence place.

Holmes (2001: 294) states that in same-gender interactions, interruptions are pretty evenly distributed between speakers. In cross-gender interactions, almost all the interruptions are from males.

Wodak (1997: 83) reports studies on comparisons of how often professional women and men interrupt, or are interrupted. Men professionals may interrupt clients more frequently, and women professionals may be interrupted more often than men in the same position. Eakins (in Wodak, 1997: 84) found that, in meetings, men spoke more often and for longer than the women, and that each of the men interrupted more often than each of the women. From those explanations above, it can be concluded that men interrupt more than women in every situation and condition.

Silence

Spender (1980) and Coates (1986) (in Tannen, 1993: 276) claim that men dominate women by silencing them. Moreover, from this statement, silence can be categorized

to show powerless. However, the situation is not always like that. According to Komarovsky (in Cameron, 1998: 271), women talk more than men in a marriage, but those husbands are still dominant in their marriage. Therefore, it means that silence does not always mean powerlessness but it can be the instrument of power. In other words, silence, in this case, is the style of speaking. In short, it can be said that the meaning of silence is based on the context where it is used.

Topic Raising

Shuy (in Cameron, 1998: 273) assumed that the speaker who raises the most topics is dominating a conversation. However, Tannen (in Cameron, 1998: 273) has a different argument. Tannen states that speaker who raises the most topics is not always dominant. A speaker who uses shorter pauses might think that the other person has nothing more to say on the topic and might contribute by raising another topic. But a speaker with the intention to say more, and who is waiting for the appropriate turn-exchange pause, can feel dominated.

The topics which are spoken by men and women are usually different. According to Aries (in Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, 2003: 122), males are engaged in dramatizing and storytelling, jumping from one anecdote to another, and achieving a camaraderie and closeness through the sharing of stories and laughter. Females discussed one topic for a half hour or more, revealing more feelings, and gaining closeness through more intimate self-revelation.

Adversative

Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2003: 126) argue that boys tend to become extremely competitive about a range of things, and on the other hand, girls move away from those

forms of competition. The girls' conversation is not competitive but consists in a set of activities such as discussion, arguments and dramatic friendship incidents. This consideration is based on the culture where the context of speech is taking place. In a nut shell, some factors should be considered in order to be able to interpret this aspect of linguistic strategy. The factors are context, time and place, and participants.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study was a qualitative research which uses case study as the research design. This kind of study was a study which observes a phenomenon in its real-life context. Moreover, in this research, the study observed phenomenon of different linguistic strategies which was used by men and women.

Data Collection

In order to collect the data, there were three steps which were conducted as follows:

- Observation
The conversations' process of male and female students in daily conversation was observed by the researcher, whilst becoming involved in their conversation, without being one of the research subjects.
- Recorded Conversation
In this case, the researcher recorded the utterances as how they originally occurred. It was done in order to get the natural and trusted data which will be analyzed further. The data which were recorded was the spoken utterances which were occurred in the classroom daily conversation and the

written conversation which was conducted in *WhatsApp* Group Conversation.

- Note Taking
The researcher would also take notes on several important and relevant things that might have occurred during the observation.

DATA ANALYSIS

After collecting the data, the data was transcribed. Then, the analysis process was conducted in order to get the conclusion of the data result.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The data show that during the daily conversation, it can be found that the linguistic strategies applied by both male and female speakers. They use this kind of strategy in order to express their opinion or feeling. Moreover, from those conversations, the data which was related to the strategies was got. The following was the discussion about the data.

Based on the data, it could be seen that interruption commonly came from men. They do the interruption in most conversation. The examples could be seen as follows:

This first conversation occurred in the middle of presentation.

Female : Apabila anda ingin menjadi guru yang baik, anda harus ikhlas. Jenis guru yang
If you want to be teacher good, you have to sincere. Kind teacher
bisa dikatakan seperti ini sebagai pahlawan tanpa tanda jasa
like this can be said as pahlawan tanpa tanda jasa.

If you want to be good teacher, you have to be sincere. This kind of teacher can be said as *pahlawan tanpa tanda jasa.*

Male : (interrupting) tapi saya perlu gaji
but I need salary.

Female : (silence)

The second example was taken at break time.

Male : Teman-teman, setelah istirahat ini kita tidak akan ada kelas karena jadwal sudah
Guys, after break this, we not will have class because schedule already diubah menjadi hari selasa jam 4 sore. changed into Tuesday 4 p.m.
Guys, after this break, we are not going to have class because the schedule has been changed into Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Female : tapi kenapa ga kamu diskusikan dulu sebelum mengganti jadwal?
But why not you discuss before change schedule
But why don't you discuss it with our friends before changing the schedule?

Male : (interrupting) tapi dosennya ga kasi pertanyaan. Beliau langsung memutuskan
(interrupting) but lecturer not give question. He just decide

waktunya. Jadi kita tidak perlu diskusi apa-apa.
The time. So we not need discuss anything.

(interrupting) but the lecturer didn't give a question. He just decided the time. So we didn't need to discuss anything.

Female : (silence)

Both conversations conveyed that men often interrupted women. It happened in different situation. Men might do it in formal and informal situation. Besides, this interruption may influence the response which was conducted by the women. In those two examples, women remained silence rather than gave any comment to the men's utterances. They didn't want to make any conflict after they got interrupted. Therefore, they decided to be silence and end the conversation.

In addition, the application of other aspects of linguistic strategies was also found in daily conversation. The examples were:

The first example was the conversation among women.

Speaker 1 : Sudah bikin tugas
Already make assignment

Have you already done the assignment?

Speaker 2 : Aku belum selesai. Kamu gimana?
I not yet finished. You how?

I haven't finished it yet. How about you?

Speaker 1 : Aku juga. Aku masih bingung tentang ini. Pas lagi ngerjain ini kemarin, tiba-tiba

I too. I still confused about it. When again do this yesterday, suddenly aku sakit kepala. Mungkin gara-gara aku harus baca banyak sama ngetik banyak. I headache. Maybe because I must read a lot and type a lot.

Me too. I'm still confused about it. While I was doing it yesterday, suddenly I got headache. Maybe it was because I had to read a lot and type a lot.

Speaker 2 : Yah. Kadang aku pusing waktu nyelesaiin tugasku.
Yeah. Sometimes I headache when doing assignment my.

Yeah. Sometimes I got headache while finishing my assignment.

The second example was the conversation among men.

Speaker 1 : Hey, yuk main game. Siap?

Hey, come on play game. Ready?

Hey, let's play game. Are you ready?

Speaker 2 : Tunggu. Aku masih loading amunisi.
Wait. I still loading ammunition.

Wait. I'm still loading my ammunition.

Speaker 1 : Oke. Aku mau tidur. Abis itu, kita battle.

Okay. I want sleep. After that, we battle.
 Okay. I'm going to take a nap. After that, we will have battle game.
 Speaker 2 : Okay. Deal.

By looking at those two examples, it could be seen that both men and women raise any topic in the conversation. However, the type of the topic that they talked about was different. Men tend to speak about competitive thing such as game, sport and many other things which could make them in the competitive but fun situation. However, women tend to speak about something that could lead them to solidarity such as feelings and it made them stand on the same situation with their friends.

The last examples were the application of indirectness which was conducted in the daily conversation.

Conversation 1

Female : Berapa kita bayar buat kertas fotokopinya?
How much we pay for paper copied?

How much should we pay for the copied paper?

Male : Saya kopinya untuk 18 siswa. Tiap lembar 150 rupiah.
I copied for 18 students. Every page 150 rupiahs.

I've copied it for 18 students. Each page costs 150 rupiahs.

Female : Bisa ngasi aku harga totalnya?
Can give I cost total?

Can you just give me the total cost?

Male : Itung aja 18x3x150
Count just 18x3x150

Just count it. 18x3x150

Female : Oh tolong je. Bilang berapa kamu bayar buat ini.
Oh please. Say how much you pay for these.

Oh, please come on. Just say how much you pay for these.

Male : Cuma delapan ribu
Just eight thousand

Female : Okay

Conversation 2

Female : Yah, motorku ga bisa dikeluarin. Gimana aku bias pulang ya?
Yah, my motorcycle not can got out. How I can go home ya?

Yah, I cannot get my motorcycle out. How can I go home?

Male : Kamu mau dibantuin? Kenapa ga bilang langsung?
You want helped? Why not say directly?

Do you need help? Why don't you say it directly

Female : Ya kan malu nyuruh. Tolong bantuin ya.
Ya shy ask. Please help ya.

I feel shy to ask. Please help me.

In that first conversation, it could be found that a man spoke indirectly to the women in order to keep his status. He didn't want to say the amount of money that he spent for

copying the paper directly because if he said the amount of money that he spent, he would feel that he lost his power in front of the women. The reason was because, commonly, man who gave the money to women not in vice versa. That was why he spoke indirectly. However, in the second conversation, it can be seen that female also spoke indirectly. In that case, the woman actually wanted to ask for the man's help but she felt shy to do it. In other words, it can be said that the woman spoke indirectly because she felt that she had lower power than the man to ask someone to do something. It also included as rapport benefit of indirectness which proposed by Tannen. The woman wanted to get pleasant experience of getting one's way not because one demands it (power) but because the other person wants the same thing (solidarity).

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the findings of this study, it can be concluded that male and female post graduate students of the English Education Program of UNDIKSHA Singaraja, differ in applying linguistic strategies during their daily conversation. In having a conversation, men interrupt more than women and women show their silence response more often in their conversation rituals. Moreover, in raising the conversation topic, both men and women have different topic to be talked about. Men tend to speak about something which can put them in competitive situation, such as game whereas women tend to speak about something that can make them stand in the middle of solidarity, such as feelings. Besides, men also use indirectness to convey something that can low their status but women use indirectness because they felt they had lower status than men and they wanted to get pleasant experience of

getting one's way not because one demands it (power) but because the other person wants the same thing (solidarity).

In relation to the foregoing conclusion, the suggestion that can be given to the readers is that they should be more aware of the linguistic strategies that may be happening during communication in their daily life. For example, if the speaker proposes indirectness, the reader, as the interlocutors, should be more careful and sensitive in understanding what is meant by the speaker. This is because if the interlocutor cannot convey the real meaning of the indirectness, it may cause misunderstanding amongst them.

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