CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL

FRAMEWORK

2.1. Literature Review

Lakoff (1975: 45-80) provides views on the existence of women's language. Her journal, *Language and Woman's Place* has provided a reference for other studies on this topic, she examines the connections between language, gender, and power, asking who has power and how they utilize it. She contends that language is crucial to gender inequality and may contribute to women's lack of power in two ways: language on women and language used by women.

Lakoff thinks that some aspects of women's language generate the impression that they are weaker and less assured than men. She claims that these linguistic features distinguish women's speaking. In her journal, she clearly considers women's language to be inferior to men's language, which she describes as direct, clear and succinct.

2.1.1. Women's Language Features

In her theory, Lakoff specifies 10 features that define women's language.

a. Lexical Hedges

According to Lakoff in Speer (2005:23), women's use of hedging is indication of reluctance, making them look less forceful than males. As a result, they avoid making direct remarks. Hedges are used to apologize for not saying anything, while filler is used when a speaker is pondering about what to say. Examples of lexical hedges or fillers include *you know*, *I think*, *I guess*, *well*, *yeah*, *sort of*, *maybe*, *perhaps*, *in my opinion*, and so on.

b. Tag Question

Tag questions are questions that are attached to an utterance. Tag questions are grammatical constructs in which a declarative is followed by an appended interrogative clause or 'tag'. According to Lakoff (1975), women have a tendency to transform a statement into a question in order to weaken the statement's power. Tag questions are used when the speaker is unclear about the issue being addressed, such as "don't you think so?", "haven't we?", "did you?", "really?", "isn't it?", and so on.

c. Rising Intonation on Declaratives

At the end of a question, raising intonation is employed to convert a statement into a question, weakening its impact and

making the speaker appear doubtful. Rising intonation on declaratives, according to Lakoff (1975), indicates tentativeness. Raising intonation on declaratives is employed when the speaker needs confirmation, even though the speaker is the only one who knows the right information.

d. Empty Adjective

In conversation, an empty adjective suggests a special and literal meaning. Empty adjectives provide the same function as regular adjectives that describe the noun. In this example, the empty adjective is solely found in women's vocabulary. Empty adjectives include "divine," "charming," "cute," "big," "small," "fast," "lovely," and "fantastic."

e. Precise Color Term

Women have their own terminology for describing colors. According to Haas (1979: 621), women describe things in terms of pattern and color more than men. As an example of a color description, "mauve," "turquoise," "mustard," and so on. Color words are used by women because they are interesting to them.

f. Intensifier

Intensifiers are features that are used when combined with other phrases to show an attempt to heighten the meaning of the term that they alter. Women are more likely than men to employ intensifiers like really, absolutely, genuinely, definitely, and incredibly. It indicates what women say truly. Intensifiers include the words "very," "just," "so," "really," and "extremely."

g. Hypercorrect Grammar

The usage of standard verb forms is referred to as hypercorrect grammar. According to Lakoff, hypercorrect grammar entails avoiding terminology considered vulgar or harsh, such as 'ain't,' as well as using exact pronunciation, such as sounding the last 'g' in words like 'going' rather than the informal 'goin'.

h. Super-polite Form

In women's language, super polite forms are utilized to make their language more polite. According to Lakoff (1975:53), hyper-polite expressions are often in the form of indirect requests and euphemisms.

Lakoff divides super-polite forms in three categories: (a) the avoidance of swear words, (b) the wide use of euphemism (the

indirect expression used to say taboo words in conversation), and (c) the inclusion of additional particles in a request phrase.

i. Avoidance of Strong Swear Word

Swearing is seen as a statement of extremely intense emotion in response to a specific circumstance that the speaker likes or dislikes. Swearing is a type of interjection that can be used to communicate harsh statements. According to Lakoff, women are not allowed to speak harshly. Women generally avoid using curse words because they consider them impolite.

j. Emphatic Stress

Emphatic is also a word used in women's language to highlight something. When women wish to signal instead of speaking, they apply tension. Women prefer to employ words that highlight or strengthen the meaning of a speech. For example, "that was a *fantastic* performance!"

2.1.2. Women's Language Functions

Women utilize sentences to convey indirect meaning. According to Pearson (1985:187), there are six functions of women's languages that explain what the women were saying. Women's language roles include

expressing   uncertainty,   *asking   responses*,   *softening   utterances*,
starting conversations, *expressing feelings*, and *emphasizing the utterance*.

a.   To Express Uncertainty

According   to   Eckert   and   McConnell-   Ginet   (2003:167),
women's language is often seen as expressing uncertainty or an
unwillingness to take an opinion. When women communicate, they
employ women's language to indicate any hesitancy.

b.   To Ask Responses

According to Pearson (1985:188), women are more prone than
men to use more words when asking people to perform things for
them. Unlike men, who frequently communicate their intentions
explicitly. Women frequently ask indirectly what they want. They
wish and hope that the listeners can understand them.

c.   To Soften Utterances

When women are considered lower in society and may be
drowned out by men, they tend to be more polite though not too so,
by softening when they speak. They employ super-polite forms of
speech that may soften what they say. Furthermore, when they
speak, they modify their voice tone in order to become more
respectable as decent ladies.

d. To Start Conversations

When women are preparing to start a discussion, they regularly utilize lexical hedges like *you know*, *sort of*, *well*, *you see*, *maybe*, *perhaps*, *in my opinion*, *I think*, and so on. These hedges are considered basic phrases in women's language and can be used in any conversation.

e. To Express Feelings

Women, in general, easily express their feelings to others. Women will talk about their feelings, relationships, and people in order to build chemistry and connection. They want others to use more emotional aspects in their talks as well. They may utilize emphatic stress to highlight their words when conveying their feelings.

f. To Emphasize the Utterances

Emphasizing utterances is a linguistic phenomenon that involves giving certain words, phrases, or parts of a sentence a special significance or significance in order to convey specific meanings or emotions. This can be achieved through various linguistic elements,

such as stress, intonation, pitch, volume, and even specific words or phrases.

2.2.   Previous Studies

Many researchers have been analyzing women's language features since years ago. In this section, the researcher cites four of them as sources of information for this research. Because of certain differences in the object and method, the outcomes of the following studies varied. A journal article will be used in the research.

1. Women's Language Used by Characters In "Brave" Movie (Ananda Sinta Ramadina et al, Udayana Univeristy, 2022). This research focuses to analyze the types of female language used by the characters in Brave movie. The researcher chose the movie because there are several types that occur during character interactions. The goal of this research was to look into the many sorts of women's language and how they were employed in the film Brave.

    Using a note-taking approach, the research findings were extracted from the film's transcript. Based on an analysis of the female language employed by the characters in the film "Brave," it is possible to determine that the film has five types of female language. The film Brave has just five forms of figurative language: increasing intonation, intensifier, empathic stress, lexical hedges, and super-polite form.

2. NICKI MINAJ'S COMMENTS IN AMERICAN IDOL SEASON 12: AN ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES (Diana Chandra et al, Sanata Dharma University, 2018). This research focused on women's speech in general. This phenomenon is reflected in Nicki Minaj's choice of language as one of the judges on American Idol Season 12, whose speech stands out above the rest of the women. According to the research, the features of women's language that emerge in Nicki Minaj's comments include intensifier, emphatic emphasis, filler, rising intonation, and lexical hedge. The remaining features, which include tag questions, 'empty' adjective, precise color term, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'super-polite' form, and avoidance of strong swear words, do not present in her speech. The lack of these characteristics can be explained by four different explanations. These are the father's voice, ethnicity, practicing community, and many social psychological perspectives.

3. The Use of Women's Language Features by Kamala Harris in the Vice-presidential Debate (Britney C. Joseph et al, State University of Surabaya, 2021). The goal of this study is to analyze Lakoff's women's language features utilized by Kamala Harris in the 2020 vice-presidential debate to illustrate how she, as the first American woman-of-color senator, maintains a powerful speech through her language

choice. The qualitative research technique is used with a discourse analysis approach to investigate how language usage and context create meanings of social reality. Data is gathered from two primary sources: the vice-presidential debate transcription from rev.com and the vice-presidential debate video from NBC News on YouTube. The results suggest that Kamala Harris employed five out of ten women's language features in the vice-presidential debates, including 11 (16%) lexical hedges, 8 (11%) empathic stress, 23 (33%) hypercorrect grammar, and 1 (1%) super polite form, and 27 (39%) intensifier as the most dominant feature. However, there are no tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, precise color terms, and avoidance use of swear words.

4. WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES FOUND IN FEMALE CHARACTER'S UTTERANCES IN THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA MOVIE (Tika Oktapiani et al, Mulawarman University, 2018). The goal of this research is to identify women's language characteristics based on Lakoff's theory, as well as language functions performed by women's language features identified in the film The Devil Wears Prada based on Jakobsen's theory. This study used the descriptive qualitative approach, with data collected by watching the movie several times, reading the screenplay movie, and emphasizing female character utterances including women's language features. The researcher discovered nine

features of women's language utilized by the female character in The Devil Wears Prada. These are as follows: lexical hedges or fillers (7), tag questions (3), increasing intonation on declarative (2), empty adjectives (3), precious color term (1), intensifiers (10), super polite form (4), hypercorrect grammar (0), avoidance of strong swear words (3), as well as emphatic stress (3). Intensifiers are the most often utilized women's language features by female characters in the film The Devil Wears Prada because they aim to highlight or reinforce their utterances thoroughly in order to draw the attention of the addressee. However, hypercorrect grammar did not emerge in this study because the female characters employed casual language in their dialogue to bridge the gender gap.

To summarize, four of them are concerned with the theory of Women's Language Features. It's fascinating to look at the same theory using diverse methods and objects. The researcher can show multiple results as different contexts by employing different objects. It has increased the scope of discovering Women's Language Features fields through movie.

2.3. Theoretical Framework

Lakoff's (1975) theory is used by researchers because it may address the phenomena of women's language concerning how women communicate totally and particularly in their society. This demonstrates that the Lakoff theory gives a

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comprehensive and precise explanation of female speech features. The purpose of this research is to identify the female main characters' language utterances in the movie "Enola Holmes 2" which are then examined using the women's language features theory.

Another reason the researcher chose it was because she found functions, social factors and social dimensions as well that may impact women's language conversation. As men and women behave psychologically differently, from how they communicate to how they try to influence others. Gender differences in communication and influence methods have consequences for the leadership styles of men and women (Merchant, 2012). As a result, the researcher wishes to determine if gender disparities influence women's language features in such conversations.