

WOMEN'S LANGUAGE STYLE OF UNDERSTANDING USED IN *PITCH PERFECT* MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

The title of this article is Women's Language Style of Understanding Used in Pitch Perfect Movie. The article focuses on the language style used by women in movies, specifically understanding, and the function of understanding applied in the movies. This article uses Tannen's theory about women's language style of understanding that was presented by the main characters in Pitch Perfect movies as the data, also the function of understanding that using Holmes's theory. This study discusses the language style that is used by women in movies, especially understanding, and also the function of understanding applied in the movies. This article used the movie script of Pitch Perfect movie as the main data, and findings showed that women characters often show their understanding towards each other. The data was collected using documentation and note-taking methods from the script and movie website. The study uses the descriptive qualitative method to analyze the types of women's language styles and their functions. The results are presented in a descriptive way. The result found three (3) findings on women's language style of understanding. The language function used to express understanding were expressive and directive. The women characters in the movie used verbal and nonverbal communication to express their understanding toward each other. This study provides insights into how women use language to express their emotions and the different functions of the language they use to communicate with others.

Keywords: Women's Language Styles, Language Function, Understanding, Movie

INTRODUCTION

In social life, every human being, both men and women, certainly wants to communicate well. One of the ways of communication that have been used for a long time is language. Language has an important role in interacting and communicating. Peoples have their way to use their language, it depends on their social status, gender, where they come from, age, and educational background. In a social context, the language styles used by women and men are different. Language style is defined as the choice of words that are used by a specific group of people when they speak in a place and in one condition. It is very important for some people to express their ideas. The language style is used depending on with whom people speak and where they are speaking too.

Men tend to speak loudly and clearly while women choose the appropriate words to say. This is what makes the language difference between men and women. Women frequently use adjectives more; such as adorable, sweet, and lovely particularly in introducing the language, women are somewhat timid if discussing their bodies more than men. Women have their own style of speech and are generally more polite than men, even if they want to convey the same message but have different indications in terms of delivery. Women's language can be classified as a distinct language because, in reality, women have their way of communicating and socializing with their surroundings. According to Tannen (1990), there are six types of women's language, which are support, intimacy, understanding, feelings, proposal, and compromise. There are many ways of knowing what language style is applied in our society, one of the best ways is by watching movies. According to Holmes (2001), a language function is called a speech function, and there are several ways of categorizing the functions of speech. There are six women's language functions expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic, and phatic.

Based on the explanation, this study discusses the language style that is used by women in movies, especially understanding, and also the function of understanding applied in the movies. This study used the movie script of Pitch Perfect movie as the data. Pitch Perfect is one of the American trilogies of musical comedy movies that contains many conversations applied by women that can be used as analysis for what kind of women's language styles are used in "Pitch Perfect" movies.

DATA SOURCE

In this part, the main data was collected from the script of the movie and to make it clear research data was also supported by the movie of the American trilogy of musical comedy movies entitled "*Pitch Perfect*". Kay Cannon created "*Pitch Perfect*", which was loosely based on the non-fiction book Pitch Perfect: Mickey Rapkin's The Quest for Collegiate a Cappella Glory. The 112-minute movie was released on 24 September 2012. *Pitch Perfect* is a movie about some girls teenagers in Barben University's acapella group named The Barben Bella that compete with another college a cappella group to win Nationals. The movie was chosen because as the subject there were many conversations about women's language styles that were applied by women found here based on the theory proposed by Tannen (1990), especially understanding. Besides that, this movie the main conflict of this movie also is based on problems that often occur to women, resolving conflicts in this movie requires understanding which is very much highlighted in this movie as women's language in daily life.

METHODS

a. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

In this article, the data was collected using documentation and note-taking methods. In order to get all the data the techniques are divided into several steps, firstly is downloading the data from the script and movie website, and secondly is watching the movie extensively while taking notes on the women's language styles used by the female in Pitch Perfect that would be analyzed. Thirdly step

is reading the script and focusing on conversations that contain women's language styles while highlighting the script and matching it with the note-taking result.

b. Method and Technique of Analysing Data

In this part, the data was analyzed by using the descriptive qualitative method to get the women's language styles. The descriptive qualitative technique of analyzing data was done in two steps. Firstly, analyzing the types of language styles used by the women in the movie based on the theory proposed by Tannen (1990) to find that understanding is the type of women's language style that is used in this movie. Then analyzing the function of understanding women's language style was used in the movie based on the theory proposed by Holmes (2001).

c. Method and Technique of Presenting Analysis

The analysis of the data was presented in a descriptive way which produce the data that are described within the text to get a clear explanation. The first analysis presented the women's language style that is used by women in movies, especially understanding. After that, the second part will also the function of understanding applied in the movies.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

a. Women's Language Style

Women were using language that made it seem like they were second-class citizens by their language, they were "conniving in their own subjection". Thorne and Henley (1975) state that women's speech is more correct than men's, women laugh at men's jokes more often than men laugh at women's, and so on. An American linguist Lakoff (1975) argues that women use language that reinforces their subordinate status, they agree to subordinate themselves through the way they speak. Women have their own style of speech they are generally more polite than men, even if they want to convey the same message but have different indications in terms of delivery. Women are more adaptable in expressing how they feel, whether it's anxiety or things that are upsetting to them.

Tannen (1990) compares language styles between men and women. She developed a theory of women's language that suggests that women and men have different communication styles due to their socialization and cultural norms. According to Tannen, women's language is often characterized by the use of rapport-talk, which focuses on building connections and maintaining relationships. She categorizes men's and women's language styles into six types; status vs support, independence vs intimacy, advice vs understanding, information vs feelings, orders vs proposal, and conflict vs compromise. However, this study only used the women's language style theory, since this study only focused on women's language. The six types of women's language styles described by Tannen (1990), are support, intimacy, understanding, feelings, proposals, and compromise. Tannen (1990) represents the use of male and female language in a series of six contrasts to show this difference.

b. Women's Language Style Of Understanding

Women will show compassion and understanding to a given circumstance differently from men and will offer answers for an issue through their language. Tannen (1990) states that rather than advice, women are looking for the gift of understanding. They are often frustrated by the masculine tendency to offer solutions. Women are more likely to understand the feelings of other people. When men try to reassure women by telling them that their situation is not as bad as it appears, the women hear their feelings dismissed or lowered. Women also more understanding in choosing topics when they are talking, they usually avoid the sensitive topics and more often talk about their lives. Women also are more careful when expressing something.

c. Language Function

Language must be analyzed in all of its functions, usually, people use language to give and receive messages between themselves. When people discuss language functions, they are referring to the purpose of using language. Language functions are also used to express the purpose or goal of speaking by adapting to the situation and location. It means that language functions have the ability to convey meaning to the listener in order for them to comprehend what the speaker has said. According to Holmes (2001), there are six women's language functions as follows: expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic, and phatic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Synopsis

The movie is about a girl named Beca who is a freshman at Barben University that has no interest in college life that forced to join a student club by her father. Beca started joining a girl acapella group named The Barben Bella. The Barden Bella is an acapella singers group at a college where all there are female. The group thrives on women's pop songs and their perfect performance. After failing miserably in the big competition in last year's final round, they were forced to reconvene. At first, Beca won't participate with the group but after she met Jesse, of the acapella group "the Troublemakers" she changes her perspective and takes the initiative to help the Barden Bella discover their new look and voice and return to the competition. A lot of obstacles and conflicts on Beca's and Barben Bellas' journey to be able to compete again at the national level championship, but all the conflicts that occurred could be the best way for Barben Bella to find their new identity.

b. The Analysis of Women's Language Styles of Understanding in Pitch Perfect Movie

Women are more likely to understand the feelings of other people, they will show compassion and understanding in a given circumstance. Women are more understanding when choosing a topic when they are talking like avoiding the sensitive topic, they usually talk about their lives and prioritize cooperation in conducting conversations. This means that when women carry out conversations, they use deep feelings and understanding more when responding to the other person while the conversation is in progress.

Data 1

Chloe : Wait! There's one more. Chloe excitedly waves her in. Beca walks up on stage.

Beca : I didn't have time to prepare the song.

Chloe : **It's okay!** Sing anything! (Kay Cannon, Jason Moore, 2012, 35)

The data above is a dialogue between Chloe and Beca where Beca when Beca has an audition for the acapella group and Chloe is the judge for The Barben Bella. The dialogue takes place in the hall where auditions took place for several clubs on campus, specifically for the acapella club. The dialogue "**It's okay!**" shows Chloe understands that Beca has a problem and fighting herself to join this audition so she shows her understanding by letting Beca sing whatever song she prepared, Chloe also let Beca use her things as an instrument for Beca's little performance.

The understanding of this data is presented by Chloe who is showing her understanding to Beca when auditioned to become a new member of Barben Bella. Chloe showed her understanding by saying that is okay to sing any song for the audition because Beca had not prepared the song which should be an audition requirement. Chloe also tries to reassure Beca to still join the audition even though Beca had thought to cancel joining the audition. Chloe tries to understand what Beca feels and reassures her because Chloe knows that Beca having a problem and pressure herself to join this audition, and when she is not prepared for the audition she feels embarrassed but Chloe is there to understand her to keep joining the audition.

Data 2

Beca : I know... Okay, here goes. I blew it. What I did was a dick move. I should never have changed up our set without asking the group, and I should never have walked out. I let you guys down, and I'm sorry. Aubrey, if you'll have me, I want back in.

Aubrey : **Wait. Beca turns around.**

Beca : Thank you. That would have been embarrassing.

Aubrey : I know I've been hard on you, Beca. On everybody. But I'm my father's daughter. And he always said, "If at first, you don't succeed, pack your bags."

Beca : **I get it. Mine gets on me, too.** (Kay Cannon, Jason Moore, 2012, 113-114)

The dialogue above is a dialogue between Beca and Aubrey that takes place in the hall where The Barben Bella practiced. This is their first practice after the summer break and in this situation, they are not on the good term because before they start their practice for the second opportunity to the national competition they have a fight where Aubrey decides to kick Beca off from the group during summer break after all Aubrey thought Beca was the one who made them lose before. The dialogue "**Wait. Beca turns around**" shows that Aubrey seems to understand Beca's feelings by asking her to wait and turn around because Aubrey knows Beca must feel embarrassed after her apologies. Aubrey understands what Beca feels so she tried to explain to Beca what she feels by showing her guilty emotion in the dialogue. The dialogue "**I get it. Mine gets on me, too**" shows that Beca also understands what Aubrey feels by saying she also had an ambitious father who completely understands what Aubrey feels. Beca tries to show her caring emotion by saying that is totally fine

and that she understands Aubrey, Beca did not want to make Aubrey feels guilty about her pressure during the time.

The understanding of this data is presented by Aubrey and Beca when they had an argument. This part started with Beca who is kicked out of the Barben Bella by Aubrey and seems to convey her farewell messages to the other members. Aubrey seems to understand what Beca feels and that Beca is feeling guilty about what she has done at their last performance so Aubrey calls Beca to wait and turn around, Aubrey knows Beca feels embarrassed because of her confession. The next sentence is Beca shows her understanding of Aubrey's confession about her ambitious father that always demands Aubrey to be perfect every time. Beca shows her understanding by saying that she had the same problem too, Beca did not want Aubrey feels alone and guilty about what she had done to her lately.

Data 3

Aubrey : I've been in love with Unicycle for four years now.

All : What?!

Aubrey : I never acted on it because of the oath. But I've wanted him ever since we met at Clown Camp.

Beca : **Aubrey! You and Uny should be together if that'll make you happy. And forget that stupid oath.**

Aubrey : But –

Chloe : **Aubrey, let it go.** (Kay Cannon, Jason Moore, 2012, 115-116)

The data above is a dialogue between Aubrey, Beca, and Chloe that takes place in the hall where The Barben Bella practiced. They still have their confession session, and this time Aubrey confesses her secret to the other members. Beca shows her understanding by saying “**Aubrey! You and Uny should be together if that'll make you happy. And forget that stupid oath**”. Through this dialogue, Beca shows her understanding of Aubrey's feelings toward Uni. Beca said Aubrey should make a move to Uni and confess her feeling because they are meant to be together. Chloe also shows her understanding to Aubrey by saying “**Aubrey, let it go**” when Aubrey trying to refute beca about the oath. Chloe shows her understanding of Aubrey's unpleasant feeling about the “oath” because she knows Aubrey put herself in the role of the group leader and she is the one who is always strict about that “oath”.

The understanding of this data is presented by Beca and Chloe who understand what Aubrey feels about her confession. Beca and Chloe understand that the “oath” that they take at the first time they joined Barben Bella is not relevant nowadays. Beca said that what Aubrey feels should be expressed and she should take action on that feeling. Aubrey should confess her feeling to Uni and they should be a perfect couple. On the other hand, Chloe also understands what Chloe feels by reassuring her that the “oath” is not relevant anymore.

c. The Analysis of Language Functions That Are Used to Express Understanding in Pitch Perfect Movie

There were findings of **expressive function** where Chloe tried to express her calming emotion towards Beca. Chloe tries to ensure Beca keeps auditioning even though Beca is still unprepared. Chloe tries to understand the pressure Beca had for joining the audition. As the data follows:

Data 1

Chloe: It's okay!....

From the dialogue above language function used to express women's language style of understanding in this data is the expressive function. The expressive function is a suitable function of language because it is clearly used for expressing understanding in this movie. From the data above can be concluded as the expressive function is the language function in its usefulness and is able to help the speaker to express their feelings according to what they want to express. Since this is a movie, the use of the expressive function is also can help the speaker to say out loud about their feeling through their expression and their body language.

There were also findings of **directive function** in the situation where Beca and Chloe tried to give a suggestion to Aubrey because at that moment Aubrey felt sorry for herself for breaking the "oath" they had made. Beca and Chloe try to give her suggestion to just follow her heart and forget about the "oath". As the data follows:

Data 2

Beca : Aubrey! You and Uny should be together if that'll make you happy. And forget that stupid oath.

Chloe : Aubrey, let it go.

According to the dialogue above the language function that is used to express understanding in this data is the directive function. The directive function is used to convey someone to do something or to do some suggestion. The function of language in this part is to give suggestions to someone and do some commands. In addition to giving commands in this part, the function of language as an intermediary is seen so that the hearer does the suggestion or command made by the speaker in a certain way so that what they want to convey can be conveyed properly and correctly without setting aside the speaker's intention of the understanding the context of the situation.

CONCLUSION

The result found three (3) findings on women's language style of understanding. The language function used to express understanding were expressive and directive. The women characters used shows their understanding through their daily conversation as well as when they are fighting and must solve their problems. They often show their understanding towards each other because it can be expressed through verbal and nonverbal communication. Women may show their understanding by using words to describe how they feel. The women characters in this movie also used facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice as their way to show their understanding. Women often

use language that shows their emotions just to make the person who is they are talking to understand their feeling. The language function used to express the understanding in this movie was expressive function and directive function. The expressive function is a function of language to express the women characters feeling in this movie, they are using this function of language in their conversation as presented in data 1. The directive function which is showing the women characters in this movie to convey someone to do something is presented in data 2.

The research looked into the women's language style of understanding used in the *Pitch Perfect* movie. The research included the analysis of understanding presented by women in *Pitch Perfect* movie also the function of language that is used to express understanding. Based on the research that has been carried out, there are some recommendations are made to some relevant parties for additional studies that have not been clearly covered in the study. Therefore, it is hoped that this study, especially for students in English Department for gain deeper. In order to understand better, especially to get a deeper understanding of the topics discussed in this research. This can be done by using various other data sources with the purpose of discussing women's language style. Many media are suggested as further research material not only analyzing it in the script with the help of movies, but also in other media such as music, novels, or any social media.

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