

## Women's Language Features Used By Transgender In The Movie *Anything's Possible*

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### Abstrak

Ciri-ciri berbahasa perempuan merupakan kajian linguistik yang berfokus pada penggunaan bahasa perempuan dan dikaitkan dengan kesetaraan gender dalam berbahasa. Lakoff mengusulkan sepuluh ciri bahasa yang digunakan secara eksklusif oleh perempuan. Ciri-ciri tersebut antara lain penggunaan lexical hedges, tag question, intonasi tinggi pada deklaratif, kata sifat kosong, istilah warna yang tepat, intensifier, tata bahasa yang sangat tepat, bentuk yang sangat sopan, penghindaran kata-kata makian yang kuat, dan tekanan yang tegas. Selanjutnya penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Berdasarkan teori Robin T. Lakoff, dalam penelitian ini ditemukan bahwa 9 dari 10 bahasa perempuan yang digunakan Kelsa bersifat trans, meliputi 49 leksikal lindung nilai, 3 tag question, 1 kata sifat kosong, 34 penguat, 3 tuturan super sopan , 1 penekanan tegas, 8 penghindaran kata makian yang keras, 1 istilah warna yang tepat, dan 3 intonasi tinggi. Kesimpulannya, Kelsa yang merupakan seorang transgender lebih berhati-hati dalam berbicara seperti wanita pada umumnya. Kelsa sering menggunakan ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan untuk menunjukkan bahwa dirinya benar-benar perempuan

**Kata Kunci :** *Bahasa, Bahasa Wanita, Ciri-ciri Bahasa Wanita*

### Abstract

Women's language features is a linguistic study that focuses on the language usage of women and is associated with gender equality in language. Lakoff proposed ten characteristics of the language used exclusively by women. These characteristics include the use of lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Furthermore, this research uses a descriptive qualitative method. Based on the theory of Robin T. Lakoff, in this research it was found that 9 out of 10 women's language feats used by Kelsa were trans, including 49 lexical hedges, 3 tag questions, 1 empty adjective, 34 intensifiers, 3 super polite speeches, 1 emphatic stress , 8 advoidance of strong swear words, 1 precise color terms, and 3 rising intonations. In conclusion, Kelsa, who is a trans person, is more careful when speaking like a woman in general. Kelsa often uses women's language features to show that she is really a woman

**Keywords :** *Language, Women Language, Women Language Features*

### INTRODUCTION

Women's language features is a linguistic study that focuses on the language usage of women and is associated with gender equality in language. According to Aries (1996), gender stereotype is one of the most influential factors in shaping the behavior of society, with the ability to dictate how women and men should conduct (Eka Putri et al., 2021). The manner in which women and men deliver their discourse and the words they employ differ. A portion of their vocabulary is deemed women's language. Then, their intonation is also distinct, such as when expressing pleasure or sadness (Daristin et al., 2020). As a result, women's language

characteristics include concepts related to efforts to overcome gender bias in ordinary communication language and as a means of promoting inclusive language use.

A number of elements, including the language used and the manner it is presented, can have an impact on the way language is used in communication and how it is conveyed. The fact that men and women are different in terms of the traits that influence how they use language explains why there are differences in the ways in which men and women use language (Nafarozah et al., 2022). According to Lakoff, the inequalities in language that exist between men and women can be traced back to a number of different factors. A male uses roughly 7,000 words each day, while a woman can use about 20,000 words in a single day. In addition, the subjects that are discussed during conversations between men and women are typically very dissimilar. Women are more likely to chat about their families, food, and lifestyle choices, whereas men are more likely to discuss topics such as sports, politics, and technology. According to Savitri (2012), women prefer cooperative and supportive communication styles, whereas men prefer competitive styles. The use of language in daily life will vary depending on factors such as location, circumstance, and culture (Nafarozah et al., 2022).

Every kind of media has the potential to embody women's language, either verbally or in written form. It's possible that a movie, film, or play is the spoken form of women's language, whereas the written form can be found in books, novels, and other forms of literature (Rahadiyanti, 2020). According to Rahmawati (2019), the intonation, form, and expression used by women speakers, on the whole, give the impression of being more polite than those used by men speakers. To be more specific, the speech of women can be characterized as having tag questions, rising intonation, whiny, breathy, or high-pitched voices (Nuringtyas & Navila, 2022)

The first linguist to begin research on characteristics of women's language, Robin Tolmach Lakoff was the pioneer in this field. According to her assertion, women were using language that served to reinforce their inferior status; more specifically, they were "colluding in their own subordination" through the manner in which they communicated (Holmes, 2013). As described by Eckert and McConnellGinet (2003), is categorized as "powerless." This gives the impression that women are just stating what the addressee anticipates them to say. Lakoff proposed ten characteristics of the language used exclusively by women. These characteristics include the use of lexical hedges, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

In this research, the writer will focus on women language features. One of the movies that is interesting to discuss is the movie *Anything's Possible*. The writer focuses on the analysis of the Transgender named Kelsa. In this movie tells the story of love and friendship of high school teenagers who have a spirit of enthusiasm, courage and confidence. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the women's language features used by the transgender in this movie with the aim of being able to find out how women's language features are used by transgender. In this research, the writer uses Lakoff's theory which is very suitable for this discussion.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative method and is conducted in the subject of sociolinguistics. Because the end purpose is to explain what types of women's languages exist and discuss how the transgender uses women's language features in the movie *Anything's Possible* 2022, this section will explain and describe women's language using Lakoff's theory. the writer uses a descriptive analysis method in developing this research. To analyze the data, the steps are as follows: first, reading and understanding women's language features theory from Lakoff's theory. Second, identifying the selected data based on what features of women language are used by transgender. third, analyzing the selected data to find out how a transgender uses women language features in the film. And the last, concluding the collected data that has been analysis and displaying the result.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this descriptions data, researchers found 9 out of 10 women's language features used by a transgender named Kelsa in the film *Anything's Possible*. Based on the theory of Robin T. Lakoff, in this research it was found that 9 out of 10 women's language feats used by Kelsa were trans, including 49 lexical hedges, 3 tag questions, 1 empty adjective, 34 intensifiers, 3 super polite speeches, 1 emphatic stress, 8 avoidance of strong swear words, 1 precise color terms, and 3 rising intonation. The author did not find hyper correct grammar because Kelsa did not use it. Of the 103 data found by researchers, only 9 data will be analyzed in this chapter.

**Table 1. Women's Language Features Findings in Anything's Possible Movie**

No	Utterance	Classification of Features
1.	<b>Yeah. Yeah. Um... you know</b> , Em told her to never talk to me again and Chris was like, "That's stupid."	Lexical Hedges
2.	And this is true for humans. We're a part of the animal kingdom, too, <b>aren't we?</b>	Tag Question
3.	No, no. umm... well, from my mom. But if one person finds my videos and comes to understand themselves better, that's <b>awesome.</b>	Empty Adjective
4.	You <b>really</b> did that in front of Em? If you're trying to prove you're not nice, congratulations.	Intensifiers
5.	<b>Thanks, thanks</b> for everything today, but you didn't have to.	Super Polite Speech
6.	Whatever it is, I'm here for it. What's cool is survival is <b>creative.</b>	Emphatic Stress
7.	<b>Oh, my God.</b> Go away!	Avoidance of Strong Swear Words
8.	Can I borrow some of that <b>millennial pink?</b>	Precise Color Terms
9.	<b>What?</b> Mom, law of averages.	Rising Intonation

### Lexical Hedges

Data 1:

**Khal** : So, how are things with Em?

**Kelsa** : Not good. **Uh**, I actually broke out in hives just from feeling so guilty.

**Khal** : Well, at least Chris took your side.

**Kelsa** : **Yeah. Yeah. Um... you know**, Em told her to never talk to me again and Chris was like, "That's stupid."

The data above is the conversation between Khal and Kelsa. Khal asks Kelsa about how Kelsa's relationship with Em is. Em was previously Kelsa's best friend, but their relationship broke down after Kelsa and Khal started a relationship. Em is jealous and decides to distance herself from Kelsa as her best friend.

In this study, the use of words such as "uh," "well," "you see," "sorta" and "sort of," "like," "you know," "kinda" and "kind of," "I guess," "I think," and "it seems like" are all examples of hedging that are common in women's speech (Ketut et al., 2021). In the conversation above, Kelsa, who is a trans person, answers Khal's question using the Women's Language feature, lexical hedges. Using the words "uh", "yeah. Yeah. Um... you know" and "was like" show that Kelsa is still unsure about her friendship with Em. Kelsa seemed to need time to think before answering Khal's question and was still unsure about her own answer. It's different from men, when men speak they will seem more assertive than women. Therefore, Kelsa uses lexical

hedges when answering to cover up her distrust of her answer.

### Tag Question

*Data 2:*

**Kelsa** : And this is true for humans. We're a part of the animal kingdom, too, **aren't we?** Take my mom. She's got this whole mother elephant this going on. Mess with her baby and she'll trample all over you. I think it's a little extra.

The data above was obtained when Kelsa was making a video for YouTube. Kelsa is a YouTube creator who often shares her story about being a trans person in high school. In the data above Kelsa uses the Women's Language Feature, Tag Question. Kelsa uses the words "aren't we?" as a form of doubt about her statement. Kelsa made a statement that humans are also part of the animal world. Just like her mother is like a mother elephant, who will happily trample on anything that could hurt their child.

Tag questions, are used by women to keep the peace and foster positive conversation (Lakoff, 2004). When in doubt, the speaker will appear to need a response. The speaker usually uses Tag Questions when she wants confirmation from the listener, or sometimes she can predict the answer but still needs confirmation.

### Empty Adjective

*Data 3:*

**Kelsa** : So, did you find anything else?

**Khalid** : Yeah, your videos.

Were they supposed to be secret or something?

**Kelsa** : No, no. umm... well, from my mom. But if one person finds my videos and comes to understand themselves better, that's **awesome**.

**Khalid** : But no one at school has seen them.

**Kelsa** : No, cause that's, like my trans stuff. It's different in real life.

In the conversation above, Kelsa asked what Khalid knew about herself, and Khalid answered that Khalid knew about Kelsa's video that Kelsa shared on YouTube. When she heard that, Kelsa felt sad. Khalid, who knew about Kelsa's change in attitude, asked again whether the video Kelsa shared on YouTube was a secret? Kelsa answered that she kept the video a secret from her mother.

In the data above, Kelsa uses the Women's Language feature, Empty Adjective. When employ empty adjectives, it's a sign that they wish to convey how their emotional expressions relate to the listener. Women frequently communicate their emotional responses rather than providing particular facts using empty adjectives (Pebrianti, 2013). The word "that's awesome" used by the transgender character above is an expression intended to express her emotions because someone can understand themselves better by watching the video made by Kelsa.

### Intensifiers

*Data 4:*

**Khalid** : So, did you like the flowers?

**Kelsa** : What the hell, Khal?

**Khalid** : What?

**Kelsa** : You **really** did that in front of Em? If you're trying to prove you're not nice, congratulations.

**Khalid** : I'm not trying to prove anything.

**Kelsa** : Khal, Em likes you.

The data above explains the debate between Khal and Kelsa. The debate above was triggered when Khal intended to give flowers to Kelsa. When asked by Otis who the flowers were for, Khal answered that the flowers he brought were intended for Em. And after Em found

out that Khal would give her flowers, Em felt very happy, but in reality Khal gave the flowers to Kelsa in front of Em. Felt betrayed by Kelsa, even though Kelsa didn't know anything at that time. Em gets angry and leaves Kelsa. Kelsa really couldn't believe what Khal had done.

In the data above, Kelsa as a transgender is seen using the Women's Language feature, Intensifiers. Kelsa used the word "really" in her speech to emphasize the truth of the sentence. Kelsa emphasized that she really didn't believe what Khalid did. Therefore, the word "really" which is one of the characteristics of the use of women's language features, is spontaneously used by Kelsa as an intensifier. There is evidence that suggests that women employ more intensifiers than males do in order to emphasize what it is that they wish to say (Pan, 2011).

### Super Polite Speech

*Data 5:*

**Kelsa** : **Thanks, thanks** for everything today, but you didn't have to.

**Kelsa's Mom** : All I wanna do is be here for you.

**Kelsa** : I get that, but I don't want you to feel like you have to protect me, just because Dad refused to.

The conversation above is when Kelsa thanked her mother for defending her in the head master's office. Kelsa's fight with Em meant that both of their guardians had to come to the head master's office. Previously, Kelsa also had an argument with her mother because of a video uploaded by Kelsa on YouTube.

The sentence that Kelsa said in the conversation above contains the feature of Women's Language, namely super polite speech. The word "thanks" in the data above is one of the characteristics of super polite speech. Even though the words that followed contained Kelsa's rejection of her mother's help, Kelsa sincerely expressed her politeness by saying thank you. Kelsa shows her politeness to her mother by using super polite speech. In a conversation, women are more aware of the facts, including where and with whom she converses. And it also reflects a person's social status or upbringing in society, as well as their level of education (Lakoff,2004).

### Emphatic Stress

*Data 6:*

**Kelsa** : Whatever it is, I'm here for it. What's cool is survival is **creative**.

The data above is Kelsa's statement while making a YouTube video. Kelsa explains in the video that every living creature has its own style and method to survive. The data above shows that Kelsa's friends, Em and Chris, also have their own ways of surviving.

In delivering the sentences in the data above, Kelsa, who is trans, uses one of the features of women language, namely empathic stress. The word "creative" in the sentence spoken by Kelsa is a characteristic of empathic stress. According to (Holmes, 2013), Lakoff explained that men tend to use terms very rarely and women have more terms that they use in their use of language to express the feelings they want to express. Even though Kelsa is trans, Kelsa uses Emphatic Stress to emphasize her statement that all living creatures have creative ways of surviving.

### Avdoidance of Strong Swear Words

*Data 7:*

**Chris** : Yo, bitch. Why aren't you answering my texts? Hello!

**Kelsa** : **Oh, my God**. Go away!

**Chris** : Okay, I'm sorry! Did I interrupt something? I just saw your mom on the street, so you're getting nasty already?

**Kelsa** : Go, get out!

When Kelsa and Khal were kissing in Kelsa's house. Suddenly at the window Chris



came and shouted at Kelsa. Chris screams why Kelsa isn't answering her messages. Kelsa and Khal were surprised by Chris' sudden arrival as well as Chris who was surprised by what Kelsa and Khal did when Kelsa's mother had just left the house.

Lakoff explained that women tend to use more polite versions of strong rant words, such as oh dear, my dear, my goodness, goodness, and good heavens, but males like to use stronger language (Lakoff, 2004). In the data above, Kelsa uses the Women's Language feature, avoidance of strong swear words. Kelsa uses the words "oh, my God" instead of using the words "oh, shit" or "oh, damn" as a response to her surprise at Chris' behavior. She favors weak swear words even when she uses loud ones. She is demonstrating that Kelsa's statement does not appear to be harsh language. Kelsa utilizes subtle profanity despite being a swearer because she doesn't want to lose her reputation as a kind and considered person. Even though she is a trans person, the data above shows that basically, women are people who have soft speech and polite language.

### **Precise Color Terms.**

*Data 8:*

**Kelsa** : Hey.

**Khal** : Um, yeah? Yes, yes.

**Kelsa** : Can I borrow some of that **millennial pink**?

Kelsa and Khal first met during a painting class. The professor gave orders to his students to find painting partners. And it just so happens that Kelsa and Khal become a couple. Khal painted Kelsa and Kelsa painted Khal's face. Kelsa started the conversation by borrowing painting paint from Khal.

In the data above, Kelsa uses the Women's Language feature, namely precise color terms. Kelsa uses the word "millennial pink" which is a characteristic of precise color terms. Millennial pink is a light pink color, which has a cooler undertone or is like a blush pink color. When naming colours, women are significantly more specific than males. Men laugh at discussions about colour terminology because they don't think it has any bearing on the real world (Lakoff, 2004).

Kelsa is a transgender, a man who transforms himself into a woman. Men might call millennial pink the color ordinary pink or pink in general. This is different from women who are more detailed when mentioning colors. From the data above, it can be seen that Kelsa uses the women language feature precise color terms to name the color she wants to borrow from Khal.

### **Rising Intonation on Declarative**

*Data 9:*

**Kelsa's Mom** : Are you wearing a bra?

**Kelsa** : **What?** Mom, law of averages.

Kelsa's mother asked Kelsa if Kelsa went to school wearing a bra. And at that time, Kelsa wasn't sure about her mother's question, which she thought was a little taboo. Kelsa felt uncomfortable answering such a question even though it was her own mother's question. Therefore, Kelsa used rising intonation on declarative when answering her mother's question.

The Rising intonation women language feature used by Kelsa is to confirm the questions asked by her mother. The word "what?" in the data above shows that Kelsa increased her intonation when answering her mother's question. Kelsa perfected her response by using a high tone because she didn't want to appear rude, because women must have a polite and friendly attitude. The use of rising intonation on declaratives makes women's speech sound more "polite" than men's speech because it does not impose the speaker's position on the addressee; instead, the speech continues to be open to discussion after it has been delivered (Eka Putri et al., 2021).

## CONCLUSION

*Anything's Possible* is a film which tells the story of the love and friendship experienced by Kelsa, who was a trans person during high school. This research emphasizes how a transgender person uses features of Women's Language, which functions to overcome the gender bias that exists in the language. Based on the theory of Robin T. Lakoff, in this research it was found that 9 out of 10 women's language feats used by Kelsa were trans, including 49 lexical hedges, 3 tag questions, 1 empty adjective, 34 intensifiers, 3 super polite speeches, 1 emphatic stress, 8 avoidance of strong swear words, 1 precise color terms, and 3 rising intonation. The author did not find hyper correct grammar because Kelsa did not use it. Based on the data, the author concludes that Kelsa, who is a trans person, is more careful when speaking like a woman in general. Kelsa often uses women's language features to show that she is really a woman.

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