THE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF CONVERSATIONAL STYLE BETWEEN
GENDERS IN THE MOVIE
“IT’S A BOY GIRL THING“

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Abstract

This study was attempted to analyzing the characteristics of conversational style between two genders, women and men as it was reflected by the way characters in the movie It’s a Boy Girl Thing used language to express their idea. Conversation styles related to the way people speak. Different gender may use different language. Holmes (1992:150) stated that women and men from the same speech community use different linguistic forms. Based on the data analysis, it is found that women conversation style is characterized by these following features: (1) the use of super polite form, (2) the use of standard grammar, (3) intensifiers, (4) avoidance of strong swear word, (5) the use of supportive feedback, and (6) gossiping. While man conversation style is reflected on (1) the use of vernacular form and (2) the use of swear word.

Perbedaan Ciri-Ciri Gaya Bahasa Antar Gender Pada Gaya Bahasa Karakter Dari Film “It’s a Boy Girl Thing”

Abstrak

Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis gaya bahasa antar dua gender, laki-laki dan perempuan yang ditunjukkan oleh gaya bahasa karakter dalam film It’s a Boy Girl Thing. Gaya bahasa erat kaitanya dengan bahagaimana seseorang tersebut berkomunikasi menggunakan gaya bahasa tertentu. Perempuan dan laki-laki menggunakan gaya bahasa yang berbeda ketika berkomunikasi. Seperti yang telah diungkapkan oleh Holmes (1992:150) bahwa perempuan dan laki-laki yang berasal dari komunitas yang sama memiliki gaya bahasa yang berbeda. Menurut hasil analisis data terbukti bahwa terdapat perbedaan gaya bahasa antar gender. Berdasarkan temuan data dapat disimpulkan bahwa cirri-ciri dari gaya bahasa perempuan adalah: (1) penggunaan bahasa yang sangat sopan, (2) penggunaan bahasa yang formal, (3) intensifier, (4) menghindari penggunaan bahasa kasar, (5) memberikan saran dalam percakapan, dan (6) gossip. Sedangkan cirri gaya bahasa laki-laki adalah (1) menggunakan bahasa yang tidak standar and (2) penggunaan bahasa kasar.

Keywords: gender, conversation, style. It’s a Boy Girl Thing Movie.
1. **Introduction**

We live in a society in which we always interact with one another. In this case, language is a powerful tool that enables human to communicate with each other to carry on live so that they live in a harmony in their community. How close human to the language is that language really attribute to human beings, language is a part of human culture. As it stated by Wardhaugh (2006:116) language is both an individual possession and a social possession… certain individual would behave linguistically like other individuals: they might be said to speak the same language or the same dialect or the same variety (ibid.).

Besides similarities, there are also differences in the way people speak, that is the same message may be expressed very differently to different people. According to Holmes (1992:4) there are several factors that influence the use of language “the choice of language used is depend on who they are talking to, in what kind of setting, and for what purposes”. In this case there are four elements of conversation, (1) The participants: who is speaking?, who are they speaking to?, (2)the setting or social context of the interaction, (3) the topic: what is being talked about?, and (4) the function: why are they speaking?. Sociolinguistics is also interested in the different types of linguistic variation used to express and reflect social factors. Vocabulary or word choice is one area of linguistic variation but linguistic variation occurs at other levels of linguistic analysis too: sounds, word-structure (or morphology), and grammar (or syntax) as well as vocabulary. Within each of these linguistic levels there is variation which offers the speaker a choice of ways of expression. They provide us with different linguistic styles for use in different social contexts.

Furthermore, the differences in the way people speak are also exist across gender, between men and women. As it said by Holmes (1992:150) women and men from the same speech community use different linguistic forms. There are several aspects of speech differences between men and women. Though there are many theories, the writer will outline these according to the three researchers, Holmes (1992), and Lakoff (in Holmes 1992).

According to Holmes, there are four major differences: (1) women tend to use more of the standard form than men do. (Holmes, 1992:150)—men use more vernacular forms than women (Holmes, 1992:156), (2) the linguistic features
which differ in the speech of women and men in western communities are usually features which also distinguish the speech of people from different social classes. (Holmes, 1992:154) In every social class men use more vernacular forms than women, like the use of ing form at the end of words like speaking, walking. (3) women tend to be more cooperative conversationalist than men. Men on the other hand, tend to be less responsive to the speech of others and to their conversational needs. p. 166. In other words, women more flexible than men when speaking to other social class, and (4) women language is also characterized with gossiping. Based on Holmes, gossip can be defined as the kind of relaxed in-group talk that goes on between people in informal contexts. “In Western society, gossip is defined as ‘idle talk’ and considered particularly characteristic of women’s interaction” (Holmes, 1992:298). Additionally, it is also found that for both gender as people get older their speech becomes gradually more standard, and then later it becomes less standard and is once again characterized by vernacular forms,

Not only talks about women conversation style, Holmes also states that man conversational style is characterized by the so called ‘machismo vernacular’, a language which is not standard and associated with man such as the way man pronounce –ing become [iƞ] instead of [il]]. “men prefer vernacular forms because they carry macho connotations of masculinity and toughness” (Holmes, 1992:160).

Next, Lakoff (in Holmes, 1992:284) suggested that women’s speech was characterized by linguistic features such as the following:

a. Lexical hedges or fillers, e.g. you know, sort of, well, you see.
b. Tag question, e.g. she’s very nice, isn’t she?
c. Rising intonation or declaratives, e.g. it’s really good?
d. Empty adjectives, e.g. divine, charming, good.
e. Precise color terms, e.g. magenta, aquamarine.
f. Intensifiers such as just and so, e.g. I like him so much.
g. Hypercorrect grammar, e.g. consistent use of standard verb forms.
h. Superpolite form, e.g. indirect request, euphemisms.
i. Avoidance of strong swear words, e.g. fudge, my goodness.
j. Emphatic stress, e.g. it was a BRILLIANT performance.
In addition, in the way in giving supporting feedback, Holmes (1992:297) states that women are regarded as cooperative conversationalists. This is may be true because women provide more encouraging feedback to their conversational partners than men do. Men, on the other hands, tend to be more competitive and less supportive of others.

While men’s language as it defined by Holmes (1992, 293-296) is characterized by the habit of interrupting “in the same-gender interactions, interruptions were pretty evenly distributed between speakers. In cross-gender interactions, almost all the interruptions were from males”. Moreover, men in certain cases tend to be more dominant when speaking “in a wide range of contexts, particularly non-private ones where talking may increase your status, men dominate the talking time”. (Holmes, 1992:293). In this article, the writer uses the theory of Holmes and Lakoff to describe and explain the different characteristics of man and women main characters in the movie “It’s a Boy and Girl Thing”.

*It’s a Boy and Girl Thing* is a comedy romance movie that was firstly released on December, 26th 2006. It tells about the life of two teenagers, Woody Deane and Nell Bedworth. Both teenagers lived in the same neighborhood and studied in the same high school, yet they had completely different life. Woody was a popular varsity football player while Nell was a nerdy, literature loving girl. Because of different character they hated each other; they were often insulting and arguing. Below is the nature of events of the movie.

**Nature of Speech Event of the Movie**

| Characters | : women characters: Nell Bedworth, Channel, Breanna, and Tiffany and men characters: Woody Deane and Horse. |
| Age | : between 16 to 18 years old (young generation) |
| Social Status | :High social status (Nell Bedworth, Breanna) middle social status (Channel, Tiffany, Woody Deane, and Horse). |
| Settings | : High school, museum, school park, baseball field, and houses. |

2. **Methods**

The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research, since it is conducted to interpret and to devise the findings. Merriam (1988) and Creswell (1994) states that qualitative research is descriptive because the researcher is interested in processing, meaning, and understanding gained through words or pictures. The research is conducted
to describe the differences among gender in the conversation style seen in “It’s a Boy and Girl Thing” Movie

Since this study is descriptive qualitative, the main instrument of this study is the researcher herself as the key human-instrument. Latief cited in Sukerti (2009) asserts that there are two reasons why qualitative researchers have to function as human instruments. Firstly, the researcher is the one who have insights of what is being analyzed, what kinds of data are needed, and the number of data necessary to be collected. Secondly, the researchers are “instruments” capable of digesting and also understanding the implicit and hidden meanings.

Data source included one script, it was the English subtitle of the movie It’s a Boy Girl Thing. The script was used to help determine in which scene the dialog took place which also determined the numbering system in data analysis. Data collection and data analysis were done almost at the same time like what Johnson and Christensen (2004: 361) stated that data collection and data analysis are often done concurrently or in cycles in qualitative research. Therefore there were some steps of data analysis which appeared similar in data collection.

Data collection was done in several steps. First, researcher took the data from pre-climax and falling part of the movie. Second, the data were collected in a table containing the categorization of women and men conversation style and its frequency of occurrence. Third, researcher analyzed the circumstances in which the characteristics of gender conversation style appeared. Researcher collected the data only from pre-climax and falling parts of the movie because by taking the data taken from those two parts was enough to answer the general research question. The data then were identified in some more steps in data analysis.

Data analysis included three major steps. First, researcher identified and coded the data and put them in a table. Second, the data were described to answer research problems concerning the types and percentage of gender conversation style. Finally researcher summarized types, percentage of gender conversation style and drew conclusion to answer the general research question.

3. Findings

From the data analysis, it was found that woman and man speak differently. Their conversational style reflected the way they behaved and though. In this case, the discussion of the findings were divided into two parts, the description of the woman and man conversation style in the pre-climax part of the movie and the description of the
woman and man conversation style in the anti-climax part of the movie. The data were presented and summarized in the table containing the types of woman and man conversation style, the frequency of its occurrence per items as well as its percentage.

The pre-climax part of the movie lasted for about 12 minutes that was from minute 00:1:46 up to 00:12:42. It happened in the scene when Woody, the noisy neighbor played very loud music, too loud that he disturbed Nell when she was reading her favorite book of classic literature. Since that moment, Woody never stop bullying and disturbing Nell. However, Nell always acted cool as if she did not care until in the museum Woody and Nell are in the huge fight. However, anti-climax part of the movie started when Woody and Nell soul exchanged and trapped in the wrong body. Woody soul was in a Nell body, and vice versa. After they realized that, they carried on very different life and became very different person but they share feeling how it was feel like become popular guy and nerdy girl. From that moment they began to understand and respect each other. Anti-climax part of the movie lasted for about 29 minutes that was from 00:12:42 up to 00:41:23.

1. The Characteristics of Woman Conversation Style

Women conversation style, as it reflected by the women characters in the movie, like the main character, Nell Bedworth, and other major characters such as Breanna and Channel showed the women ways of speaking as it can be seen on table 3.1. The Characteristics of Women Conversation Style in the pre-climax part of the movie.

In the pre-climax part of the movie, the most frequently occurring types of women conversation style were the use of super polite form (37.5%) and the use of intensifiers (37.5%). The next most frequently occurring types were the use of standard grammar (12.5%) and the avoidance of strong swear word (12.5%).
Table 3.1. The Characteristics of Women Conversation Style Found in Pre-Climax Part

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Kinds of Women Conversation Style</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Super polite form</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Intensifiers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Avoidance of strong swear words</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The use of standard grammar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the anti-climax part, the most frequently occurring women conversation style was the avoidance of strong swear words (34.78%). The second most frequently occurring women conversation style was the use of intensifiers (26.1%). The third most frequently occurring women conversation style were the use of hedges or fillers (13.1%) , gossiping (13.1%), and giving facilitative feedback (13.1%).

Table 3.2. The Characteristics of Women Conversation Style Found in Anti-climax Part

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Kinds of Women Conversation Style</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Avoidance of strong swear words</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Intensifiers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hedges or fillers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gossiping</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Giving facilitative feedback</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The Characteristics of Men Conversation Style

Different from women, in term of the variation in the types of conversation style, men was less varied. Their conversation style was characterized by the two kinds of conversation styles such as the use of vernacular form and the use of swears words. In the pre-climax, men there was a tendency that men use more vernacular form (62%) than use swear word (37.5%).
4. Discussion

Though sociolinguists suggested many characteristics of women and men conversation style, in the movie *It's A Boy Girl Thing*, the researcher found that, in both pre-climax and falling, women and men conversation style were characterized by several speech style. For women there were five major speech characteristics including the use of standard grammar, gossiping, the use of intensifiers, the use of super polite form, and the avoidance of strong swear words. While for men, there were merely two speech characteristics those are the use of vernacular form and the use of swear word. Each item would be represented as the sample of analysis. The discussion will be broken down into two parts, the pre-climax part and the falling part.

1. The Characteristics of Women Conversation Style

The Characteristics of Women Conversation Style Found in Pre-Climax

The example of the use of super polite form can be seen in the dialogue between the main characters, Nell Bedworth and Woody Deane below:
U14NB 1: I'm trying to study but it's impossible with that racket going on!

U15WD 2: It's not racket, that's Mystical!

U16NB 3: Whatever it is, will you please switch it off?

NB = Nell Bedworth
WD = Woody Deane

The conversation above happened in the each of the character’s room. They were neighbor and they communicated through the window. In short although they were in different house they can hear almost anything their neighbor said, especially the very loud noise. At that moment, Woody was playing rap music CD very loudly while Nell was studying classic literary works. Nell felt disturbed with the noise so that she could not study properly. Here, we can infer that Nell got really angry and interestingly she used very polite (indicated by the word please) form of request instead of using direct and informal request.

According to Holmes (1992:284) “…women were status conscious, and that this was reflected in their use of standard speech forms”. Here, the female character Nell, was from the high social class family background and she appreciated much her status as well as her smart and polite way of acting and thinking. In short, in any situations and with whoever she was talking to, she was always speaking politely and using standard language.

Secondly, an example of the avoidance of strong swear words can be viewed from this following dialogue:

U18 WD 1: Alright, I turn it off!

U19 WD 2: If you flash me! Show me what girls are all about!

U20 NB 3: You are a pig!

NB = Nell Bedworth
WD = Woody Deane

The dialogue above happened in the same setting as the first example that was in both of the main character’s room. Those dialogues took place in the informal situation, a chat between neighbor as well as school friend. On that moment, Woody tried to trick Nell by asked her to do something crazy otherwise he would not follow her request. Nell refused doing that and she expressed her anger indirectly by insulting using the common word instead of using sarcasm and impolite word. She used the word pig to insult the misbehave
Woody. Pig here is connotative word which meaning was “a person who is unpleasant and difficult to deal with” (Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary-third edition).

Thirdly, the use of intensifiers such as just and so was often uttered by women when they speak. The example can be seen in this following dialogue:

U374NB 1 : A center parting is very European looking.
U375WD 2 : No, it is a dorky looking!

**NB = Nell Bedworth**  
**WD = Woody Deane**

That was still, the conversation between Nell and Woody. The setting was in the front yard of the Westdale highschool. Nell and Woody were arguing in the front yard of their school. Both of them argued about their reputations that were decrease lately because of different soul would trapped in the wrong body. Woody complained about the way his look because Nell decided to choose wearing old fashioned dress though he used to wear casual dress. Nell used the intensifier such as the word very to give emphasize that her taste on men fashion was good, yet Woody thought conversely.

Finally, the use of standard grammar can be seen in the sample of dialogue below:

U157 WD 1 : You know, you make me sick, you think you are so different to everyone else.
U158 NB 2 : Different from.
U159 NB 3 : You said 'Different to'. The correct phraseology is 'Different from'.

**NB = Nell Bedworth**  
**WD = Woody Deane**

The dialogue above happened in the historical museum when the history teacher gave lecture about Aztec heritage. In that scene the hatred between Woody and Nell was getting intense, especially when the teacher asked them to work in pair doing the project. The very different person should work and collaborate together but the fact was that they were arguing and hated each other much. Woody was a casual and an easy going boy while Nell was very smart and confident girl. Nell tried to correct the misuse of phrasal verb different from uttered by Woody. However, Woody consider that as an insult. The dialogue above indicated that women prefer to use correct grammar to
The setting of the above dialogue was in the school parking lot. In this case Woody and Nell were arguing about the misfortune that happened to both of them. The situation was that both of them in a great anger and there was big chance that they will express their anger extremely. Woody used metaphor, the direct comparison to insult Nell that she was too cruel and awful as witch lady. However, Nell expressed her feeling of anger and confused by calling God’s name instead of used swears word.

In this case, we can infer that women avoid cursing or swearing using the very impolite expression. Based on Holmes (1992:158) analysis, women were expected not to use swear word because people consider them as guardian of society’s values, they were not supposed to say impolite word. Goddard and Mean (2009:88) also noticed that “while female is often constructed and interpret in particular ways, man have freedom to define themselves in any way they want” (ibid.).

Secondly, the use of intensifier was more varied in the falling part of the movie compared to pre-climax part of the movie. The word to indicate the intensifier is the word so and very that often used women characters. Like in this following dialogue:

U 644 NB 1 : What do I know about guys?

U236WD 1 : What the hell have you done to me, witch lady?
U238NB 2 : God, you think I'm responsible for this

**NB** = Nell Bedworth

**WD** = Woody Deane

The Characteristics of Women Conversation Style in the Anti-Climax Part s

In the anti-climax part of the movie, the women conversation style was more varied and the frequency was higher than the pre-climax part of the movie. There were several features of women conversation style that did not appear in the pre-climax part of the movie appeared in the anti-climax part of the movie, that were the use of hedges or fillers, gossiping, the use of language to indicate the facilitate feedback in conversation. However, the discussion would begin from the most frequently occurring women conversation style that was the uses of word to indicate the avoidance of strong swear words. It can be seen in this following example of dialogue analysis.

The setting of above dialogue was in the western community the educated person is indicated by the use of standard grammar and women are more status conscious than men do (Holmes, 1992:284).

**The Characteristics of Women Conversation Style in the Anti-Climax Part s**

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U236WD 1 : What the hell have you done to me, witch lady?
U238NB 2 : God, you think I'm responsible for this

**NB** = Nell Bedworth

**WD** = Woody Deane
U 645 C 2 : I was so stupid. I know how Horse is

NB = Nell Bedworth
C = Channel

The Dialogue between Nell and Channel above took place in the school yard, in the break time. Channel was crying because of her crush, Horse was seeing another girl. She felt frustrated and regret for what she have done that she was too into Horse. She expressed this feeling by using the intensifier so.

Thirdly, women conversation style was also characterized by the use of lexical hedges or fillers. Hedges as according to Holmes (1992:286) is the ‘meaningless particles’ like the word well, you see, sort of, etc. while fillers is the ‘pauses filler’ such as uh, um, duh, etc. The example of the use of hedges in women conversation style can be seen in this following dialogue:

U631NB 2 : Chanel? Are you OK? What's wrong?
U635C 3 : It's about Harry. He's seeing some other girl.
U652C 4 : So, I guess I'm just afraid of feeling invisible again.
U653C 5: You know I think that a lot more people feel that way than you realize.

NB = Nell Bedworth
C = Channel

In this dialogue, Channel used the phrase I guess to hedge her feeling and her regret for what had happened to her. In this case it can be regarded as her indirect claim that she was feeling Ok. In addition to that, she also used the filler you know to express her uncertain feeling of her emotion toward something.

Maybe the most familiar women conversation style is the habit of gossiping but in this case, gossiping did not mean as the meaningless and less important conversation. It has a function. As it was noticed by Holmes (1992:298) the function of gossiping is for women “is to affirm solidarity and maintain the social relationships between the women involved. Like in the conversation between Breanna, Channel, and Tiffany below:

U304B 1 : I cannot believe Woody turned down the chance to have sex with me tonight! Am I in like bizarro world?
U306T 2 : If I had Richard Wainwright sniffing around me, I wouldn't waste my time on Woody.
U308C 3 : It's not that simple Tiffany.
U309B 4 : Today football captain, tomorrow GQ Man of the Year.
Finally, the last characteristics of women conversation style is reflected on the way they give supported feedback to the friend that had a problem, like in the sample of dialogue below:

U630 NB 1  : Oh god, she's crying.
U631 NB 2  : Chanel? Are you OK? Oh crap...What's wrong?
U635 C 3  : It's about Harry. He's seeing some other girl.
U636 NB 4  : No, he wouldn't do that.
U637 C 5  : Well, how come I saw him with his tongue stuck down her throat.
U640 C 6  : Why are guys such jerks? Why am I asking you, you know less about guys than anybody o the planet.
U642 NB 7  : I'm sorry.
U643 C 8  : I didn't mean that. You're right.

NB= Nell Bedworth
C= Chanel

The conversation between Nell and Chanel above happen in the school park. In that situation Chanel felt really sad of what just happened to her and her crush. She felt worried that if she did not go date with Harry...
she would not get any friends more. In short she might lose her popularity. This reflected in the way she spoke and express her weary. Nell, however, though she was not her close friend, she came to calm Channel and give advice.

To sum up, women conversation style were characterized by 7 features, those are (1) the use of super polite form, (2) intensifiers, (3) avoidance of strong swear words, (4) the use of standard grammar, (5) hedges or fillers, (6) gossiping, and (7) giving facilitate feedback. After analyzing the data, the researcher found that the kinds of women conversation style was getting varied and increased in the anti-climax part of the movie. It can be seen in this following figure.

Figure 3.1. The Frequency of the Kinds of Women Conversation Style Found in Pre-climax and Falling

In this figure the frequency of the use of intensifier and the use of avoidance of strong swear word (29%) was increasing. Here, we may infer that the major characteristics of women conversation style were these two kinds of conversation style. Women tended to avoid using strong swear word because according to Holmes (1992:158) they were considered as the guardian of society’s value. In this case, “society tends to expect ‘better’ behavior from women than from men. Women are designed the role of modeling correct behavior in the community” (ibid.). In other words, women speech style was influenced by the society’s value.

2. The Characteristics of Men Conversation Style

The Characteristics of Man Conversation Style Found in Pre-Climax

If women tended to use standard grammar and very polite form, conversely, men tended to use more vernacular form than women did. In the finding, it is recorded that in pre-climax part of the movie men use vernacular form for 62%. The use of vernacular form was characterized by the use of non standard language, as we can see in the dialogue below:

U57 H 1 : Yo, what's up boy?
WD : Hi, Horse!
U58 WD 3 : Nice grab, Horse! How's it hanging?
H 4 : To the floor, my friend!
U59 H 5 : What say we shift this baby into warp drive, huh?
U60 H 6 : I want you to feel the wind blowing through...
U61 H 7 : the hair of your fine muscular ass!
U64 H 8 : Well, looky here!
U67 WD 9 : She's standing dangerously close to a vast pool of water.
U68 H 10 : For a smart girl, that ain't so smart.

H= Horse
WD= Woody Deane

From the conversation above, the use of vernacular form was projected in the use of non standard language variety such as the word yo, what's up, to the floor, looky, ain't and the way to address person such as baby. According to Holmes (1992:160) “men prefer vernacular forms because they carry macho connotations of masculinity and toughness”. The men apparently wanted to sound less standard than they actually were. This suggested that men regard vernacular forms positively and value them highly, even if they don’t always openly admit to doing so” (ibid.). The use of vernacular form in the dialogue above also reflected the solidarity between men.

Besides the use of vernacular form, men conversation style was also reflected in the way they used swear word. It is widely believed that men used swear word than women did. On the pre-climax part of the movie, it is found that men use swear words as much as 37.5%.

U230WD 1 : Screw you assholes!
U231N 2 : What?
U232WD 3 : Sorry, I'm a bitch when I'm on the rag, you know what I'm saying?

WD=Woody Deane
N= Neighbor (old man)

The setting of that conversation was in the road of the neighborhood where Woody lived. In this case, he expressed his anger because he was leaved by the school bus. He used swearing word assholes to express his anger. His neighbor (the old man) was shocked of his saying and then he replaced by using another dirty word bitch to indicate his misbehave.

The Characteristics of Man Conversation Style Found in Anti-Climax

In the anti-climax part of the movie the man conversation style was the same type as in the pre-climax part of the movie. Yet, in the anti-climax part of the movie the frequency is getting increased. Below are the same of the
dialogue analysis. Firstly, the use of swear word can be seen in this following dialogue:

U665WD 1 : Oh man!
U666H 2 : Life is such a bitch.
U667H 3 : Lock target in 5 and will you check out that ass!

WD= Woody Deane
H= Horse

The setting of the dialogue above was in the party when Horse looked for some girls for date and Woody accompanied him. In this case Horse expressed his disappointment that he could not get a sexy girl by swearing Life is such a bitch and addressed woman with the word ass.

Secondly, the use of vernacular form can be viewed by this following dialogue:

U283NB 1 : What are you doing?
U284 WD 2 : What is your problem? I happen to like J-Lo! She's a hot booty!
U286WD 3 : Living American solely on the fact of a hot booty!

NB= Nell Bedworth
WD= Woody Deane

The scene was that Woody was asked to deliver speech of great living America in the classroom. Nell expected him to deliver very nice and prestigious speech as she was but in fact he gave speech about the R&B singer that was Jenifer Lopez or J-Lo. Woody was arguing Nell that J-Lo was considered as the great living America because she had fine qualities such as hot booty (sexy bottom).

Here, the used vernacular form was reflected on the use of slang word booty. Booty meant the slang word of bottom (Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary-Third Edition).

In conclusion, the frequency the kinds of men conversation style were getting increased in the falling part of the movie, as can be seen in the figure below.

![Figure 3.2. The Frequency of the Kinds of Men Conversation Style Found in Pre-climax and Anti-Climax Part.](image)

In the anti-climax part of the movie the frequency of both the use of vernacular form as well as swear words were increasing because there were many important moments happened. In this case, the setting in which require men to express themselves as a
macho person and as the part of their community (solidarity force) influence the use of language.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

Two points can concluded from the discussion of the findings. The first conclusion is that the conversation style between men and women is different. The differences exist in the way they use the standard and vernacular form of their language, the way to express their feelings through language. Women like to express their admiration by the use of intensifiers while men prefer to use vernacular form and swear word. They use swear word to express their anger and using vernacular form to express solidarity. There are also several features that only exist in certain gender that are the use of hedges and the habit of gossiping, those features posses by women.

The second conclusion is that gender is not the only factor that influence the way people use the language. It depends also on the status, setting, and the participant. In some cases like Nell, people from the high social status prefer to use polite and standard form. However, Nell uses less standard and polite form when she speaks with their close friend in the informal setting. Woody, however prefer to use more vernacular form in the situation in which it requires him to express his machismo and solidarity.

Regarding those two conclusions, it is suggested that in daily live when we communicate with other people we should also consider the norms in speaking, especially related to gender. Women, in many part of the culture are still preferable to use polite and standard language. Additionally we should also consider the setting and the participant when we speak to them. Use the language that we are comfortable with and make people also comfortable with our language to maintain our communication with others. Moreover, for the English language teachers who would like to teach sociolinguistics course they can use this journal as the materials or the learning resources as this provide the rich examples of how conversation style is and how can gender factor influence the way people speak.

References


