

## Women's Language Features Used By Female Characters In Cruella Movie

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**Abstract.** *This study aimed to identify the features of women's language used by the female characters of the Cruella movie. The types of women's language features were identified based on the theory proposed by Coates (2013). The data of this study were taken from the female characters' speech in the movie through observation and documentation methods. Screenshot and note-taking techniques were also used in the process of collecting the data in order to maintain the detail and accuracy of the data. The collected data were classified into the category of women's language features and analysed descriptively using qualitative research methods. The research findings were presented in the form of conversation from the data chosen that presented above the analyzing description. The results of this study showed that the female characters used all types of women's language in the movie Cruella, including; minimal responses, questions, hedges, tag questions, swearing and taboo language, compliments, and commands and directives.*

**Keywords:** *Features, Functions, Movie, Women's Language.*

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi ciri-ciri bahasa wanita yang digunakan oleh karakter wanita dalam film Cruella. Jenis fitur bahasa wanita diidentifikasi berdasarkan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Coates (2013). Data penelitian ini diambil dari tuturan tokoh perempuan dalam film melalui metode observasi dan dokumentasi. Teknik tangkapan layar dan pencatatan juga digunakan dalam proses pengumpulan data untuk menjaga detail dan akurasi data. Data yang terkumpul diklasifikasikan ke dalam kategori fitur bahasa wanita dan dianalisis secara deskriptif menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Temuan penelitian disajikan dalam bentuk percakapan dari data terpilih yang disajikan di atas deskripsi analisis. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa para pemeran wanita menggunakan semua jenis bahasa wanita dalam film Cruella, antara lain; tanggapan minimal, pertanyaan, pagar, pertanyaan tag, bahasa umpatan dan tabu, pujian, dan perintah dan arahan.

**Kata kunci:** Fitur, Fungsi, Film, Bahasa Wanita.

## INTRODUCTION

Language is a means of human communication between people, whether men or women, in social interaction. Men and women basically have their own language characteristics that make them communicate in different ways in their daily lives. Coates (2013), stated society is

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Received April 25, 2023; Revised Mei 30, 2023; Accepted Juni 19, 2023

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used to growing up with the thought that women are more talkative than men. Women also generally assumed and required to be more mannerism and polite in their speech including in the use of their intonation, gestures as well as their expression. Women's language is used as the characteristic reflection toward women's attitudes. Therefore, women need to use their language when interacting with others.

Holmes (2013), stated the way men and women speak differently reveals differences in their roles and power in society. Regarding workplace positions, men are more tend to be senior managers, whereas women are more tend to be assistant managers or secretaries. Women must be disadvantaged in the workplace due to their subordination and power over men. However, women and men are known to have equal status in the current era. Women at this time also have an important role in education, economy, and even politics. Furthermore, from then until now women are always still applying their language characteristics and it is important to look at how they apply their language characteristics up till now.

Those characteristics are supported by theory from Lakoff (1975) about women's language. She describes women and men are differ significantly in speaking, which are classified by women's language features. It also has inspired many researchers to examine and giving their views related to the topic of women's language features in their studies. It also leads the transformations to the "up-to-date" theories including the theory from Coates (2013). There are seven features of women's language that proposed by her, namely minimal responses, hedges, tag questions, questions, command and directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The data of this study were taken from a movie entitled Cruella, produced and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures on May 18, 2021. Cruella is an American live-action crime-comedy drama movie with 134 minutes length of time allocation. This movie was chosen as the data source of this study due to several reasons. First, there are plenty of female characters in this movie and many conversation are spoken by the female characters including the monologue and dialogue. Second, the movie itself is worldwide known and already got many award nominations which means many people are interested to this movie. Third, this movie contains women's language feature inside of its exciting story. Fourth, all of the utterances, clauses, and phrases from the conversation of the whole female characters in Cruella use simple daily English which is easy to understand.

This study used observation and documentation methods in collecting the data. In order to maintain the detail and accuracy of the data, screenshot and note-taking techniques were used in the process of collecting the data of this study. A qualitative research method was used in this study to analyze the collected data that indicates the types of women's language features. In presenting data analysis, this study selected several data to be explained in the form of description which is described by words.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This part presents results and discussions of the data from *CRUELLA* movie which has been analyzed using theory proposed by Coates.

### 1. Minimal Responses

#### Data 1

*Baroness* : “Grubby girl, get me lunch. Soy salmon, lemon-zest risotto.”

*Estella* : “**Right.**”

This data was found in a scene of lunch time, when Baroness gave an order to Estella to get her some food for lunch. Estella also used a minimal response right when she responded to Baroness. Coates (2013) stated that women sometimes used the minimal responses to show their agreement towards the topic that has been established. In this movie, the minimal responses “right” used by Estella in her response indicated her agreement towards the things that were being discussed. Moreover, when Estella was required to do something, she tended to only reply by the word “right” without any other statement. It also showed that her response hinted a straightforward answer.

### 2. Hedges

#### Data 2

*Baroness* : “How do I look?”

*Jeffrey* : “Fabulous.”

*Baroness* : “**Well**, I know that.”

In this scene, Baroness asked Jeffrey's opinion about her look when she wore her new gown for the ball. Jeffrey said that she looked fabulous with that gown. Baroness used the hedges well at first before she gave her opinion to Jeffrey's statement. In her response, she hinted that she agreed with his words. Based on the examples above, the female characters in this movie like to use the hedges “well” to start or to break before saying the next words in delivering their

opinion. It also showed that female characters were likely to use this feature in their opinion whether they feel they agree or disagree.

### 3. Tag Question

#### Data 3

*Baroness : "She really a genius". I'll read that bit again, **shall I?**"*

At the end of every successful fashion show, there is always a tradition at the Baroness Fashion house. That is the Baroness as the Boss will read out the news contained in the print media regarding all of her achievements. She will read loudly in front of all her employees. Coincidentally, on Estella's first day at work, she was also doing the same thing. Baroness seemed very happy and proud when the press praised her last show. Baroness said she would re-read her favorite words from the news. In the end of her statement, she applied the tag question "shall I?", indicating the hesitancy. The tag question used by Baroness meant that she was not really sure if she should read that part again or not. She just wanted to confirm her statement and seek approval from her employees.

### 4. Questions

#### Data 4

*Estella : "Why are you in your best dress?"*

*Catherine : "I need to make a stop on our way to the city. Just ask a friend for a little help to get us on our feet."*

*Estella : "What friend?"*

*Catherine : "Well, a friend because of the situation we're in."*

In this scene, Catherine and Estella are on their way to London. Estella wondered why her mother looked very good in a dress when they weren't going to an event. Then she asked why and her mother replied that they needed to stop for a while somewhere. Catherine would meet with her friend to ask for help because of the difficult situation they were facing at that time. From the conversation above, the questions feature was evident from the way Estella asked her mother to get the information. This was represented by the questions asked by Estella to get a clear answer and showed that she wanted to keep the conversation going until her curiosity full filled.

## 5. Command and Directives

### Data 5

*Estella* : “You **could** use tulle to puff it out, give it some body.”

*Baroness* : “That’s what I just said.”

Estella and Baroness are discussing a new design for their latest collection. In the middle of their conversation, Estella also seemed to have an idea about the design. She did not hesitate to express her opinion in front of Baroness, her boss and a very great designer as well. This conversation showed that Estella used command and directives features “could” in her speech to give a suggestion for an action. In this case, Estella was giving a statement which indicated an idea in a polite way since she was just a beginner compared to her boss, Baroness. This also indicated to avoid the impression of patronizing and persuade Baroness more politely.

## 6. Swearing and Taboo Words

### Data 6

*Roger* : “Baroness, we have that meeting at the Ritz.”

*Baroness* : “**Oh, for heaven’s sakes.**”

In this scene, Baroness was taking a break after lunch. She also wanted to take a nap for only 10 minutes. However, her lawyer suddenly came to tell her that they were going to a meeting right at that moment when she was just about to close her eyes. This made Baroness feel very annoyed because she was very tired and felt disturbed by the presence of her lawyer with the scheduled meeting. Baroness spoke the word “Oh, for heaven’s sakes” when swearing after her manager surprised her with the sudden meeting during her break time. She seemed to reflect on swearing, however she still prefers not to use the harsh words while swearing. This also indicated that her attitude in choosing a series of words is very great as a respectable woman with a high career and position.

## 7. Compliments

### Data 7

*Artie* : Welcome to Second Time Around. I’m Artie or Art, as in “work of.”

*Estella* : Wow. **You look incredible.**

In this scene, Estella saw a small dress boutique that caught her eye. She entered there and she was greeted by the owner, Artie. She was so impressed with him because he looked very fashionable as the owner of a fashion store. Artie looked very handsome with a gorgeous

outfit from head to toe even though he is a man. The data shows Estella giving a compliment to Artie as she was impressed by his fabulous look. She said that he “looks incredible”. This kind of compliment will give the other party a kind of comfort and impression on the other person. In this case, Estella praised Artie in front of him directly because she wanted to make a good impression in their first meeting.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results of analysis showed that all women's language features mentioned by Coates (2013) were used by the female characters throughout the movie. They were minimal responses (for instance; *right*), hedges (for instance; *well*), tag questions (for instance; *shall I?*), questions (*the combination of questions, for instance; why are you in your best dress?, what friend?*), commands and directives (for instance; *could*), swearing and taboo language (for instance; *Oh, for heaven's sakes*), compliments (for instance; *you look incredible*). The female characters used the features of minimal responses to listen carefully and provide supportive feedback to their addressee in a conversation. The hedges feature presented their doubts or confidence in delivering their ideas and making decisions. The tag questions feature was used in order to confirm their statement. The questions feature indicated how the female characters maintained the continuity of the conversation with the person they were having conversation with. The command and directives feature showed how to use indirect functions to order their speaking partners. Swearing and taboo languages presented how they swears implicitly to deliver their emotions. The compliments feature showed their personal admiration towards many things.

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