



# Men's and Women's Language Features in Taylor Swift's Interview with Jimmy Fallon

Indah Nuraeni<sup>\*1</sup> , R Vindy Melliany Puspa<sup>\*2</sup> , Fuji Almsari<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>*Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing YAPARI, Bandung, 40131, Indonesia*

\*Corresponding Author: [vindymellianypuspa@gmail.com](mailto:vindymellianypuspa@gmail.com)

## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 11 August 2025

Revised 10 September 2025

Accepted 26 September 2025

Available online

<http://talenta.usu.ac.id/lingpoet>

E-ISSN: 2964-1713

P-ISSN: 2775-5622

### How to cite:

Nuraeni, I., Puspa, R. V. M., Almsari, F. (2025). Men's and Women's Language Features in Taylor Swift's Interview with Jimmy Fallon. *LingPoet: Journal of Linguistics and Literary Research*, 6(3), 181-191.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International

<http://doi.org/10.26594/register.v6i1.idarticle>

## ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze men's and women's language features and their functions found in The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon's episode with Taylor Swift. A qualitative method with a sociolinguistics approach were applied to analyze the data, and to collect the data, the researcher uses the documentation technique. The researcher also utilized Lakoff's theory of women's language (2004), Coates' theory of men's language (2015), and Jakobson's theory of language functions (2013) to answer the research problems. The result of this study highlights three main findings. First, there are 80 Jimmy Fallon's utterances included in men's language features. It consists of minimal response (38.75%), compliment (28.75%), interruption (17.50%), and command and directive (15%). Second, there are 271 Taylor Swift's expressions included in women's language features, namely lexical hedge and filler (59.41%), intensifier (16.24%), emphatic stress (13.65%), empty adjective (4.43%), hypercorrect grammar (2.58%), rising intonation on declarative (1.48%), super-polite form (1.11%), question tag (0.74%) and avoidance of strong swear word (0.37%). Third, men's and women's language features found in the data serve several functions, namely expressive (72.63%), phatic (10.06%), referential (7.26%), metalinguistic (5.31%), and directive (4.75%). Accordingly, it can be concluded that not all men's and women's language feature as well as their language functions found in this study. There is no use of swear, taboo language, and precise color term. There are also no utterances that have a phatic function.

**Keyword:** Language Functions, Men's Language Feature, Sociolinguistics Women's Language Feature

## 1. Introduction

In society, there is a stereotype that says women are more polite in using language. In contrast, men's language is usually associated with swear and taboo language and uses more direct language rather than women (Coates, 2015). Men and women's language are also different in form, topic, content, and use. The reason behind these differences is that gender affects the use of language. Gender is the appropriate roles, behaviours, or characteristics of men and women constructed by society Arquilla (Aggleton, 2023). The differences constructed by gender can be seen in language features characterized men's and women's speech. Coates (2015) argued that there are five features that indicate men's language, including swearing and taboo language, command and directives, and minimal response. Furthermore, (Lakoff, 2004) proposed there are ten language features that characterize women's language. The use of empty adjectives, precise colour terms, and lots of intensifiers are examples of those features.

The representation of men's and women's language features can be seen in a talk show. A talk show itself, according to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, is a radio or television program in which well-known persons usually engage in discussions or are interviewed. A talk show does not go through an editing process beforehand like a writing and is not limited by a script like a movie. Therefore, a conversation in a talk show can present the actual characteristics or features that usually characterize men's and women's utterances, as in a talk show, the conversation between the speakers went more naturally compared to a movie, novel, or any form of edited writing. Many researchers, among others, (Noviantari, 2019), (Lubis & Bahri, 2020) and

(Sabela, 2020), were interested in conducting studies on women's language features to see what features characterize women's language. The first study by Noviantari (2019) entitled "An Analysis of Women's Language Variety in HeForShe Conversation with Emma Watson on International Women's Day 2015", focuses on analysing women's language features used by Emma Watson and explaining their function by using Lakoff's theory (2013). The result of the research shows 550 occurrences of nine out of ten of women's language features in Emma Watson's utterances except for precise colour term. They are lexical hedge and filler, question tag, empty adjective, precise colour term, intensifier, super-polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, emphatic stress, and rising intonation on declarative. The finding also shows that most of these features have function to emphasize statements. Another prior study entitled "Women Language in Indonesian Television Talk Show" carried out by (Lubis & Bahri, 2020). This study aims to analyse women's language features used by female hosts in three television talk shows by applying Lakoff's theory (2004). The findings of this research showed that there are the use of lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, intensifiers, and hypercorrect grammar by the female hosts. The last study entitled "Women's Language Features in Hollywood Celebrities Utterances in the Talk Show" by Sabela (2020) aims to analyse women's language features by utilizing Lakoff's theory (2016), and to identify the functions of these features by applying Pearson's theory (2017). The findings indicate there are several features used by Hollywood celebrities in their utterances, namely lexical hedges or filler, question tag, empty adjectives, emphatic stress, intensifiers, avoidance of strong swear words, super polite form, and rising intonation on declarative. They serve function to start discussion and express feeling. Lubis and Bahri (2020) only focus on analysing women's language features without describing the functions. While Noviantari (2019) and Sabela (2020) only focus on identifying women's language features and their functions.

In this study, the researchers chose to identify men's and women's language features and described each function of men's and women's language features used by Taylor Swift and Jimmy Fallon in their conversation by applying Lakoff's theory of women's language (2004), Coates' theory of men language (2015), and language function's theory proposed by Jakobson (2013). The researcher chose the episode of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon with Taylor Swift as a guest because 3 the gender difference between Taylor Swift and Jimmy Fallon allows mixed-gender talk, making it easier for the researcher to find and identify the men's and women's language features. The researchers utilized a sociolinguistic approach to analyse the data since this research is related to the use of language in society. Sociolinguistics is associated with how language works in casual conversation, the media people are exposed to, and the presence of societal norms, policies, and laws that address language (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2021). (Putri, 2021) also explained that this branch of linguistics is also concerned with how people with different social identities, such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, and class speak, also how their speech changes in various situations. Therefore, this approach can be used to answer the research problems of this study, namely to find the features of men's and women's language in Taylor Swift's interview with Jimmy Fallon, then describe the language functions of each feature.

## **2. Literature Review**

### *2.1 Language and Gender*

Language and gender are two different things that are interrelated. Men and women perform their gender in society, and language is a potent tool for depicting this performance in the form of signs, words, and phrases Cameron (Behl, 2021). The early study of language and gender that focused on the relation between language use and the biological category of sex has progressed to examining how language is used in relation to the social category (Paltridge & Wang, 2015). Sex refers to a biological attribute in humans, while gender can be defined as the socially constructed roles, behaviours, and characteristics that society deems appropriate for men and women Arquilla (in Newman, 2023). The theory of language and gender describes that gender influences the way people use language. Language reflects, records, also transmits differences, so it is not surprising to find gender differences 6 reflected in language, as most societies differentiate between men and women in various ways.

### *2.2 Men's Language Features*

The way men speak, according to Lakoff (2004), is more firm, mature, and on point. They also like to use falling intonation to show their level of confidence in their statements. Men are more likely to talk about things and facts which is different from women who are prefer to discuss or talk about people, relationships, and feelings. Another linguist, Coates (2015), added that there are some features that characterized men's language. These features include minimal responses, command and directive, swearing and taboo language, compliment, and interruption. The first men language feature is the minimal response. Minimal responses or

backchannels are utterances made by a listener during a conversation, such as ‘mmhmm’, ‘yeah’, ‘uh-huh’, ‘hm’, ‘okay’, ‘right’, or other similar response that is usually given by the listener when a speaker is talking. The use of minimal responses, according to Coates (2015), is a way of indicating the listener’s positive attention to the speaker and signifying the listener’s attention, understanding, or agreement rather than conveying significant information. The second feature is called command and directive. A directive is a speech used by the speaker to persuade someone to do something. According to Coates, men tend to use explicit commands, particularly when in same-sex groups, such as ‘gimme’, ‘gonna’, and ‘gotta’. The command itself is used to instruct someone to perform a particular action, but with a high chance of refusing Arista & Murni (Nisa, 2022).

Besides in command, directive speech may also be found in requesting, prohibiting, suggesting, and ordering. The next characteristics of men’s speech are swearing and taboo language. Speakers use swearing words to vent their emotions. These kinds of words can also imply that the speakers have or would like to have a close personal relationship with others. Swear words often revolve around particular topics like lavatorial matters, religion, or sex. Many studies have found that men swear and use taboo words more often than women. Generally speaking, a swear word is a word or phrase that is vulgar, rude, or in some other way offensive, such as ‘holy fuck’, ‘fuckwit’, ‘bitch’, or ‘shit’. While taboo words refer to some words, phrases, or topics that are considered to be not immoral or inappropriate. The fourth feature is a compliment. It is an expression of praise given by one person to another in order to express appreciation for something. Men and women have different patterns in giving a compliment. A compliment can serve several purposes, including expressing admiration, establishing good relationships, replacing greetings, softening face-threatening acts, starting a conversation, and reinforcing desired behaviour (Nisa, 2022). The last feature is called interruption. Actually, it is a common thing in every conversation. Coates (2015) described that interruptions happened when the next speaker begins to speak while the current speaker is still speaking, at a point in the current speaker’s turn which could not be defined as the last word. Based on the study of interruptions conducted by (Van Eecke & Fernández, 2016) and (Ghilzai, 2018) male speakers were found to initiate more interruptions than women, and they also tended to interrupt women more than women interrupt them. Interruptions are classified into four categories; simple interruption, overlap interruption, butting-in interruption, and silent interruption.

### *2.3 Women’s language Features*

Women frequently use conversational initiation to get the conversation going, like ‘Did you know that...’ or ‘Did you hear about...’. They also tend to use rapport talk or a manner of speaking that encourages emotional and social connection (Tannen, 1990). She also added that it is in contrast to how men typically communicate, which is primarily through report talks that are cantered on exchanging facts with little emotional import. Other features of women’s language explained by Harvard linguist, (Lakoff, 2004) in her work “Language and Woman’s Place”. He hypothesized that there are ten features that characterize women’s language. Those features include lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

The first women language feature is lexical hedges. These are linguistic features used by women to weaken their statements, like ‘you know’, ‘perhaps’, ‘sorta/sort of’, ‘kinda or ‘kind of’, ‘it seems like’, ‘I guess’, ‘I think’, ‘well’, and ‘possibly’. It also indicates a speaker’s lack of confidence or uncertainty during a conversation. Researchers have found out that women use up to three times as many hedges as men do (Pamikat, 2020). While filler words are the sounds or phrases that people use to fill in gaps in communication, like ‘um’, ‘err’, ‘uh’, ‘like’, or ‘I mean’. They indicate that the speaker is considering what to say next. Fillers like ‘um’, 10 ‘err’, and ‘uh’ are examples of non-lexicalized (non-words) fillers. While ‘I mean’ and ‘like’ are examples of lexicalized filler. The next feature is the tag question. It is a statement that is turned into question by adding an interrogative formula (e.g., ‘It’s hot, isn’t it?’). Like the example, a question tag that confirms to the grammar should have a subject and an auxiliary verb or verb as a tag. However, (Nordquist, 2023) explained that words like ‘okay’ or ‘right’ can also be used to make a question tag because they have the same function, namely to turn a statement into a question. In friendly conversation, women are more likely to use tag questions to elicit participation from others and to introduce new ideas, to hedge, to check the views of other participants, and to instigate stories (Coates, 2015). It also can be used to show a speaker’s uncertainty during a conversation or used by the speaker when they only want to confirm that what they say or believe is right (Pamikat, 2020). The third feature is called an empty adjective. It is an affective adjective that evokes feelings but does not have any significant meaning, such as ‘sweet’ or ‘lovely’. Women are more likely to use empty adjectives to make a sentence softer and friendlier, while men tend to use neutral adjectives. These words are called empty because women express their emotional reactions rather than providing specific

information by using these adjectives. Examples of neutral and empty adjectives can be seen in the figure below. Neutral 'cool' 'terrific' Women-Only 'adorable' 'gorgeous' 'great' 'neat' 'cute' 'lovely'. According to Lakoff (2004) a lot of adjectives that are used to express admiration or approval are clearly marked as feminine. He also added that men tend to avoid using empty adjectives because it will damage their reputation. On the other hand, women are different because they can use neutral or empty adjectives freely.

The precise colour term is also a part of women's language features. It has been studied for decades that men and women differ in how they name colours. Women use colour terms more precisely and broadly than men do (Ginarti et al., 2022). It is in line with the result of research on gender differences in colour naming by (Mylonas et al., 2012), which found out that women linguistically segment the colour spectrum more precisely; for instance, an area men named as 'orange' and 'brown' is distinguished in women's naming as 'orange', 'tan', 'salmon pink', 'beige', 'peach', and 'salmon'. The next characteristic of women's language is intensifier. Using an intensifier, according to Lakoff's theory (2004), is a way to back down from a commitment to an opinion, similar to a tag question. The difference is if women use hedges to show uncertainty, they use intensifiers to supply additional guarantees. Words that are commonly used as intensifiers include 'so', 'very', 'really', 'absolutely', 'totally', 'extremely', and many more.

The sixth feature is hypercorrect grammar. In every social class, women tend to use more standard or grammatical forms of conversation than men (Holmes & Wilson, 2022). They argued that this is due to the fact that women, on average, do not have status in society, so they use more standard speech to assert that status. By using the standard form, it means that women are more consistent in using language compared to men. Lakoff (2004) explained that hypercorrect grammar refers to the 12 consistent uses of standard verb forms like 'going to', 'trying to', 'want to', 'had not', and 'could not'. The seventh feature is called super-polite form. According to Lakoff (2004), women are more adept at euphemism and are more aware of how to speak to others. They tend to use super-polite forms like 'Would you mind...', '...if it's not too much to ask', and 'Is it okay if...?', to maintain good relationships with others. Priska et al. (2020) also explained that women tend to speak politely by using the super-polite form to show their identity as a woman and make an impression that they are more concerned with their behaviour than men. Besides the super-polite form, women tend to avoid using strong swear words. Priska et al. (2020) argued that swearing is regarded as an expression of extremely strong emotion in response to a specific condition that the speaker likes or dislikes.

Lakoff (2004) added that women generally avoid using swear words because they will be considered unladylike. Therefore, instead of using strong swear words, women are more likely to use words such as 'Oh Dear', 'Oh My God!' and 'Oh My God!'. The next feature is emphatic stress. Women tend to use emphatic stress in their speech. Emphatic stress is the placing of emphasis on a particular word used to draw attention to the most important thing in a speaker's statement (Lakoff, 2004). Women frequently use words to strengthen the meaning of their speech by emphasizing, clarifying, or reiterating them. Emphatic stress can change the meaning of a statement. For example, when someone says, 'Eat that red apple'. By emphasizing the word 'red', it implies that the speaker orders someone to eat the red apple, not the other colours. The last feature of women's language, according to Lakoff (2004), is rising intonation on declaratives. Rising intonation on declarative sentences is used by the speaker to turn a statement into question. For example, like, 'She wants to hang out with me↑?', or 'You know her brother↑?'. It is also used to lessen the impact of a sentence and give the impression that the speaker is hesitant (Priska et al., 2020). This feature is also used to seek confirmation even though the speaker itself is the one who has the proper information.

## 2.4 Language Functions

Language is used not only as a medium of communication, to convey information, or to express thoughts and feelings, but language also serves many other purposes/functions (Karmila, Rozelin, & Minsakutra, 2019). Jakobson in Holmes (2013), explained that there are six language functions, namely expressive, directive, poetic, phatic, referential, and metalinguistic functions. Functions of language by Roman Jakobson (2013), these functions are influenced by six elements of communication, namely context, addresser (sender), addressee (receiver), contact, common code, and message. The first language function, according to Jakobson (in Holmes, 2013), is the expressive function. An expressive function is related to the purpose of language as a medium to convey the speaker's feelings or emotions. People use language to deliver the expression of happiness, sadness, surprise, disappointment, anger, interest, and many more. An example of this function can be seen in the sentence, 'I'm very disappointed in you'. In this example, the speaker expresses the disappointment he/she feels toward someone. The second function is the directive function. A directive function is oriented towards the receiver because this function is associated with the use of language to get someone to do something (Holmes in Aprilia, 2021). It is feasible, in this case, to influence other people's emotions and behaviours through the use of language. The directive functions of language include commands,

advice, prohibitions, solicitations, requests, and criticism. An example of this function can be seen in the sentence, 'Clean your room!'. This example is included in the imperative sentence. The speaker, in this case, orders someone else to clean his/her room.

The third function is the poetic function. The focus on aesthetic features of language is referred to as poetic function. It is not related to the skill to write poetry, but more related to the ability to manipulate language in a creative way (Karmila, 2019). The purpose of this function is to convey the aesthetic sense of beauty, pleasure, or grace. An example of poetic function can be seen in a sentence, 'Ana's lips were as red as roses in spring'. The fourth function is called phatic function. Holmes (2013) explained that the phatic function reveals how the speakers demonstrate their sociability to the listener. It is related to how the speaker shows their empathy and solidarity toward other people. This language function includes greetings, gossip, compliments, and many more (Aprilia, 2021). Phatic expression is also used to initiate or end a conversation or check the connection between the speaker and the hearer. For example, in the phrases 'How are you?', 'How is it going?', 'Have a nice day!', and 'Sincerely yours'. The fifth function is the referential function. This language function indicates the status of the speakers who wish to share knowledge or news with the listener (Aprilia, 2021). This function of language happens when the speaker uses language to convey objective information, like to share information about the time, a speaker may say, 'It's six o'clock'. The last function is the metalinguistic function. According to Holmes (2013), metalinguistic function is when a language is used to describe or talk about itself. The metalinguistic function checks to see if the speaker and listener are communicating the same code or that they understand one another. The expressions like 'You know?', 'Let me explain', and 'What does that mean?', are examples of the use of this function. The metalinguistic function of language can also be seen in one of the examples of women's language features, namely the lexical hedge. The phrase which the researcher means is 'You know', which is usually used to refer to the topic a speaker is talking about.

### 3. Method

This study applied a qualitative method with a sociolinguistic approach to analyse men's and women's language features found in Taylor Swift's interview on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon talk show. According to (Creswell, 2003), qualitative method is a tool to explore and understand the meaning of individuals or groups ascribing to a social or human problem. (Leavy, 2022) explained that this approach is used to explore, to robustly investigate and learn about social phenomenon, to unpack the meanings people ascribing to activities, situations, events, or artifacts, or to build a depth of understanding about some dimension of social life. This method is suitable for conducting this research because the primary purpose of this study is to analyse, describe, and build a deeper understanding about men's and women's language features and their purposes found in Taylor Swift's interview on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.

Furthermore, the writers utilized a sociolinguistics approach to analyse the data since this research is related to the use of language in society. Sociolinguistics is associated with how language works in casual conversation and the media people are exposed to, along with the presence of societal norms, policies, and laws that address language (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2021). Therefore, this approach can be used to study the features of men's and women's language used by Taylor Swift and Jimmy Fallon in their conversations. The data of this study were obtained through documentation. According to (Siyoto & Sodik, 2015), documentation is a technique to collect data related to the variable in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, meeting minutes, agendas, and so on. Documentation is one of the methods used to collect the data in qualitative research. This technique allows the 18 writers to analyse documents, whether in the form of written documents, images, or electronically (Sukmadinata, 2019).

In this study, the data are in the form of two interview videos with their transcripts. The systematic procedures for collecting and analysing the data are as follows:

1. Looking for an interview video on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon's YouTube channel.
2. Choosing the most watched female guest interview video in 2022.
3. Watching the video interview of Taylor Swift on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon talk show.
4. Downloading the transcript of the video interview that has been chosen.
5. Analysing the types of men's language features used by Jimmy Fallon in his utterances by utilizing Coates' theory of men's language (2015).
6. Identifying the types of women's language features used by Taylor Swift in her expressions by applying Lakoff's theory of women's language (2004).

7. Describing the functions of men's and women's language features used by Jimmy Fallon and Taylor Swift in their conversation using the language functions' theory proposed by Jakobson (2013).
8. Drawing conclusions.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Results

#### 4.1.1 Men's Language Features

The researcher found that there is a total of 73 utterances that include in men's language features. Based on the table 1, it can be seen that minimal response is the most common feature with 31 occurrences (38.75%), followed by compliment with 23 occurrences (28.75%), and interruption with 14 occurrences (17.50%). The fewest feature found is command and directive, with 12 occurrences (15%%). Additionally, the researcher didn't find any kind of swearing or taboo language used by Jimmy Fallon.

**Table 1.** Men's Language Features found in the Jimmy's Utterances

No.	Men's Language Features	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Minimal Response	31	38.75%
2.	Command and Directive	12	15%
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	-	-
4.	Compliment	23	28.75%
5.	Interruption	14	17.50%
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.1.2 Women's Language Features

The result of this study also revealed that there are 271 utterances categorized as women's language features. The type, frequency, and percentage of each feature can be seen in the following table.

**Table 2.** Women's Language Features found in Taylor's Utterances

No.	Women's Language Features	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Lexical Hedge and Filler	161	59.41%
2.	Question Tag	2	0.74%
3.	Empty Adjective	12	4.43%
4.	Precise Color Term	-	-
5.	Intensifier	44	16.24%
6.	Hypercorrect Grammar	7	2.58 %
7.	Super-polite form	3	1.11%
8.	Avoidance Strong Swear Words	1	0.37%
9.	Emphatic Stress	37	13.65%
10.	Rising Intonation on Declarative	4	1.48%
<b>Total</b>		<b>271</b>	<b>100%</b>

As presented in the table above, the most common feature of women's language is lexical hedge and filler with 161 occurrences (59.41%), followed by intensifier with 44 occurrences (16.24%), and emphatic stress with 37 occurrences (13.65%). Other features include empty adjectives with 12 occurrences (4.43%), hypercorrect grammar with 7 occurrences (2.58%), rising intonation on declarative with 4 occurrences (1.48%), and super-polite form with 3 occurrences (1.11%). The fewest features used are the question tag with only two occurrences (0.74%) and avoidance of strong swear words with 1 occurrence (0.37%). Moreover, there is no use of precise color terms in her utterances.

#### 4.1.3 Language Functions

Men's and women's language features in Jimmy and Taylor's utterances serve several functions.

**Table 3.** Types of Language Functions found in the Data

No.	Function of Language	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Expressive	260	72.63%%
2.	Directive	17	4.75%
3.	Poetic	-	-
4.	Phatic	36	10.06%
5.	Referential	26	7.26%
6.	Metalinguistic	19	5.31%
<b>Total</b>		<b>358</b>	<b>100%</b>

Based on the table above, men's and women's language features in Jimmy's and Taylor's utterances have expressive, directive, phatic, referential, and metalinguistic function. The most frequently function is referential with expressive function with 260 occurrences (72.63%), then followed by phatic function with 36 occurrences (10.06 %), referential function with 26 occurrences (7.26%%), and metalinguistic function with 19 occurrences (5.31%). The fewest function of language in the data is directive, which has 17 occurrences (4.75%). Furthermore, after analyzing all the data, the researcher didn't find any utterances that have a poetic function.

## 4.2 Discussion

### 4.2.1 Men's Language Features in Jimmy Fallon's Utterance

#### a. Minimal Response

Taylor: "I think – I think over the years, my fans and I, we kind of have a really funny sort of -- like, they tease me a lot. And I enjoy it. "

Jimmy: "**You do, yeah.**"

The example of using minimal response can be seen in datum 19. In the conversation above, Jimmy gave a backchannel in the form of a rapport-oriented backchannel or mirror response, 'You do, yeah'. Mirror response is when the listener repeats what the speaker said but in a slightly different way. A rapport-oriented backchannel above happens during the pause of Taylor's explanation. Jimmy gave the response to indicate his attention and understanding to Taylor's view-point. By using a mirror response, Jimmy showed that he knew and understood that Taylor and her fans have had a closer relationship over the years, and she was happy because of it. He also used this mirror responses to maintain the harmony of during conversation because as mentioned earlier, when the listener constantly is giving minimal response, the speakers would be more comfortable to speak because they knew that they are being listened to. Just like the previous example of backchannel, the minimal response in datum 16 is categorized as having phatic function as in this case, Jimmy only uses the phrase 'You do' to indicate his fully attention without really communicating any meaningful information.

#### b. Command and Directive

Jimmy: "I just want to break down a couple of things. In just one day of sales, it already became the top-selling album of the year. Yeah, in just one day of sales. Of the whole year. "Midnights" broke Spotify's record for most streams in a day. Today the top 10 songs on Apple Music and Spotify are from "Midnights." **You can plug your ears because I'm going to just keep going.**"

Taylor: "No, I like it too much."

In the conversation above, Jimmy uses directive speech in the form of a suggestion. A speaker usually gives a suggestion to express his/her idea or opinion to be considered by the interlocutor. Datum 3 is categorized as a suggestion because it can be seen from the phrase at the beginning of Jimmy's utterances, namely 'You can...'. This phrase is one of the common forms to give or make a suggestion. In this case, Jimmy had talked a lot about Taylor's accomplishments so that he suggested Taylor plug her ears because he's going to keep talking about Taylor's achievements with her new album. The expression above is categorized as having directive function because it aims to make someone do or consider about what the speaker said.

#### c. Compliment

Jimmy: "By the way, I saw you received a doctorate from NYU, and **you had a very great speech**. You're a doctor. Dr. Taylor Swift. Sorry, I should have announced you earlier as doctor."

Taylor: "No, it's fine. It's fine, it's fine. I respond to many things." Jimmy: "I'm sorry. I'm just getting used to it, yeah."

Another finding on compliment can be seen in the conversation above. Same with the previous examples, in this case, the purpose of the compliment is to express admiration for someone's work. Jimmy praised Taylor because she delivered a great commencement speech at New York University's 2022 ceremony, where she was awarded an honorary doctorate. The compliment in the example above is also classified as having an expressive function as the main purpose of Jimmy's utterance is to express his appreciation for Taylor who already gave a remarkable speech.

#### d. Interruption

Taylor: "The most potent way that you can see them react is when you're looking into their faces. Do you know what I mean? I miss that a lot. I really miss that connection."

Jimmy: "They're looking at you right now. Yeah."

Taylor: "So, it's like -- I'm thinking something like, it's like this but with -- with singing. "

Jimmy: "Yeah, okay, good." Taylor:

"So..."

Jimmy: "**By the way**, I saw you received a doctorate from NYU, and you had a very great speech. You're a doctor. Dr. Taylor Swift. Sorry, I should have announced you earlier as doctor."

In the example above, it showed that Jimmy interrupted Taylor while she hadn't finished his utterance. The kind of interruption happened here is simple interruption, because Taylor is unable to finish his sentence because Jimmy has successfully taken the floor. The interruption, in this case, has the function to change the topic because Jimmy brings up a new topic after she interrupted Taylor, and it is not related to what they were talking about before. At first, they talked about Taylor's concert plan, and then Jimmy brought up a new topic regarding the honorary degree that Taylor received from New York University and praised how she delivered a very great speech. The interruption in datum 35 has a referential function, as Jimmy interrupts Taylor to brought up a new information related the doctorate degree Taylor received from New York University.

### 4.2.2 Women's Language Features in Taylor Swift's Utterances

#### a. Lexical Hedge and Filler

Taylor: "**I think – I think** over the years, my fans and I, we **kind of** have a really funny **sort of** - **like**, they tease me a lot. And I enjoy it. "

Jimmy: "You do, yeah."



In the conversation above, several hedges used by Taylor Swift are, 'I think', 'kind of', and 'sort of'. These phrases are used to show doubt or lack of confidence; also make it simpler for the listener to understand what she is saying. She also used lexicalized filler 'like' to fill the gap in her utterance so that she could have more time to think about her next utterances. Lexical hedges with a filler word in the examples above are classified as having expressive function. By using lexical hedges, and a filler Taylor expresses probability, caution, and doubt about the rest of her utterances.

#### b. Question Tag

Jimmy: "But then -- Yeah. But then you eat some of the food with this tiny fork."

Taylor: "Yeah. It was really -- It was such a blast, because we had -- We shot that in two-sized rooms, **right?** Like, one of the rooms had our actors who were at the dinner party, and it was a normal-sized room. And -

- and they had to act with, like umm, a laser pen. And I'd just be, like, "And – and a monster's coming in the room. Follow the laser pen. It's a scary monster."

In the example above, Taylor is talking about how she shot her music video in two-sized rooms; a normal and a little room. The use of a tag question here indicates her lack of confidence in her statement so that she asks the answer from Jimmy. She also used a tag question at the end of her statement to confirm that what she said was right because Taylor knew, how and where they shot for her music video because it can be seen from her next utterance which explain how they act when filming for her latest music video, 'Anti-Hero'. The question tag in the datum 157 is classified as having expressive function as by using the word 'right?', it implies that she is uncertain and cannot vouch for fully accuracy of her statement.

### 5. Conclusion

The researcher found that the result of this study also revealed that there are 271 utterances categorized as women's language features. They include lexical hedge and filler, question tag, empty adjective, precise colour term, intensifier, super-polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, emphatic stress, and rising intonation on declarative. The most common feature of women language is lexical hedge and filler with 161 occurrences (59,41%), followed by intensifier with 44 occurrences (16,24%%), and emphatic stress with 37 occurrences (13,65%). Other features include empty adjectives with 12 occurrences (4,43%), hypercorrect grammar with 7 occurrences (2,58%), rising intonation on declarative with 4 occurrences (1,48%), and super-polite form with 3 occurrences (1,11%). The fewest feature used is question tag with only two occurrences (0,74%) and avoidance of strong swear words with 1 occurrence (0,37%). Men's and Women's language features found in this study serves several functions, namely expressive, directive, phatic, referential, and metalinguistic function. The most frequently function is expressive function with 260 occurrences (72,63%), then followed by phatic function with 36 occurrences (10,06%) referential function with 26 occurrences (7,26%), and metalinguistic function with 19 occurrences (5,31%). The fewest function of language in the data is directive, which has 12 occurrences (2,71%). Furthermore, after analysing all the data, the researcher didn't find any utterances that have a poetic function because this function is usually found in poetry, quotations, and colloquial sayings as the purpose of this function is to convey the aesthetic sense of beauty, pleasure, or grace. Meanwhile, in everyday conversation, the sense of aesthetics and well-arranged words is not the main purpose. The key point in casual conversation is how the message can be delivered to the interlocutor. Last, the result of this study also revealed that phatic function of language only found in minimal response of men's language feature because this feature is used to show solidarity and to maintain the connection between the speaker and the interlocutor. The other function of language, namely the directive function, is only found in a men's language feature, namely command and directive as the purpose of this function is to get someone to do something.

### References

- Aggleton, P., Cover, R., Logie, C. H., Newman, C. E., & Parker, R. (Eds.). (2023). *Routledge handbook of sexuality, gender, health and rights*. Taylor & Francis Group.
- Aprilia, D. S. "Language functions used by the main characters in the "Little Women" movie (2019)." PhD diss., Doctoral dissertation, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, 2021.

- Behl, A. (2021). *How do language and gender impact each other? Feminism in India*. Retrieved from <https://feminisminindia.com/2020/11/18/language-and-gender-relationship/>.
- Coates, J. (2015). *Women, Men and Language: A Sociolinguistics Account of Gender Differences in Language*. Routledge.
- Creswell, J. W. (2003). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches*. Sage publications.
- Ghilzai, S. A. (2018). Conversational interruptions-analyzing language, gender and divergence in male female communication. *Research Issues in Social Sciences*, 3, 134-147.
- Ginarti, D., Nurhapitudin, I., Ruminda, R., & Iksan, H. H. (2022). Study of language features used by male and female in #SaveJohnnyDepp on Instagram and Twitter. *Az-Zahra: Journal of Gender and Family Studies*, 2(2), 127-142.
- Holmes, J., & Wilson, N. (2022). *An introduction to sociolinguistics*. Routledge.
- Karmila, R., Rozelin, D., & Minsakutra, M. (2019). *The language functions used by the main characters in white house down's film by Ronald Emmerich* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN SULTAN THAHA SAIFUDDIN JAMBI).
- Lakoff, R. T. (2004). *Language and woman's place: Text and commentaries* (Vol. 3). Oxford University Press, USA.
- Leavy, P. (2022). *Research design: Quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, arts-based, and community-based participatory research approaches*. Guilford publications.
- Lubis, F. K., & Bahri, S. (2020). Women language in Indonesian television talk show. *Asian Social Science and Humanities Research Journal (ASHREJ)*, 2(2), 37-46.
- Nisa, N. A. (2022). *Gender Differences in Language Features Found in Legally Blonde Movie: A Sociolinguistic Analysis*.
- Nordquist, Richard. (2023, April 5). *Question Tags in English*. Accessed through <https://www.thoughtco.com/tag-question-grammar-1692523>.
- Noviantari, D. T. (2019). *An Analysis of Women's Language Variety in Heforshe Conversation With Emma Watson on International Women's Day 2015* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Sumatera Utara).
- Paltridge, B., & Wang, W. (2015). Discourse analysis. *Research methods in applied linguistics: A practical resource*, 205.
- Pamikat, S. L. (2020). WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES OF EILIS LACEY IN THE BROOKLYN MOVIE SCRIPT. *UC Journal: ELT, Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 1(1), 60-79.
- Priska, N. P., Candra, K. D., & Utami, N. M. (2020). The types of women language features found in the fault in our stars movie. *Lingual: Journal of Language and Culture*, 9(1), 27-33.
- Putri R. W. (2021). *Men's and women's language in Self and Men's Health Online Magazine Articles*. Yogyakarta. Sanata Dharma University
- Sabela, R. (2020). Women's Language Features in Hollywood Celebrities Utterances in the Talk Show. Sunan Ampel State Islamic University.
- Siyoto, S., & Sodik, M. A. (2015). *Dasar Metodologi Penelitian*. Literasi Media Publishing. Sukmadinata, N. S. (2019). *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan*. Rosdakarya.
- Tannen, D. (1990). *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men. Conversation*. New York: Ballantine books.
- Van Eecke, P., & Fernández, R. (2016, January). On the Influence of Gender on Interruptions in Multiparty Dialogue. *Interspeech*, 2070-2074. Retrieved from On the Influence of Gender on Interruptions in Multiparty Dialogue.
- Wardhaugh, R., & Fuller, J. M. (2021). *An introduction to sociolinguistics*. John Wiley & Sons.