

## Investigating Women's Language Features Used by Megawati Soekarno Putri

Sri Ramadhani<sup>1</sup>, Nurul Asiah Isnaini<sup>2</sup>, Ratna Sari Dewi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Email: [sriramadhani@umsu.ac.id](mailto:sriramadhani@umsu.ac.id); [nurulasiahh04@yahoo.com](mailto:nurulasiahh04@yahoo.com); [ratnasari@umsu.ac.id](mailto:ratnasari@umsu.ac.id)

### ABSTRAK

Kajian ini membahas tentang ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan yang digunakan oleh Megawati Soekarno Putri pada Seminar Nasional BPIP: Kick-Off Pancasila dalam Tindakan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkategorikan jenis-jenis ciri bahasa perempuan yang digunakan oleh Megawati Soekarno Putri dan menganalisis realisasi ciri-ciri bahasa perempuan dalam pidato Megawati Soekarno Putri. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data diambil dari video naskah pidato Megawati Soekarno Putri pada Seminar Nasional BPIP di YouTube melalui Channel RESMI BKKBN. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara mengunduh, mengamati, menyalin, menggarisbawahi, dan mengklasifikasikan data. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan model interaktif yang dikemukakan oleh Miles et.al., (2014). Temuan menunjukkan bahwa tidak semua jenis ciri bahasa perempuan digunakan oleh Megawati Soekarno Putri dalam pidato di Seminar Nasional BPIP. Terdapat 234 ujaran dari sembilan jenis ciri bahasa perempuan yang muncul dalam pidato Megawati Soekarno Putri, yaitu 84 leksikal lindung nilai atau pengisi, 83 intonasi naik pada deklaratif, 13 penguat, 2 tekanan tegas, 17 tag question, 4 kata sifat kosong, 1 penghindaran kata-kata makian yang kuat, 7 tata bahasa yang sangat tepat, dan 23 bentuk yang sangat sopan. Kata-kata yang terdapat dalam pidato Megawati Soekarno Putri yang berkaitan dengan ciri kebahasaan perempuan adalah mmm, uhh, ah, hmm, kayak/seperti (suka), saya pikir/menurut saya (menurut saya), dan kayaknya/mungkin (mungkin) untuk Lexical Pagar atau pengisi. ya?(kanan) Dan kan?(bukan) untuk pertanyaan tag. Keren (keren), indahnya (indah), dan cantik (indah) untuk kata sifat kosong. Banget, sekali (begitu) dan banyak (sangat) untuk intensifier. Memang, mengapa, bagaimana untuk tata bahasa yang hiperkoreksi. Tolong(mohon), maaf(maaf), dengan hormat, beliau dan nyonya untuk bentuk yang sangat sopan. Ya Allah agar terhindar dari kata-kata makian yang keras. Luar biasa! dan sangat-sangat untuk stres yang tegas.

**Keyword:** Fitur Bahasa Perempuan; Realisasi; Ucapan

### ABSTRACT

*The study deals with women's language features used by Megawati Soekarno Putri at BPIP National Seminar: Kick-Off Pancasila dalam Tindakan. The aims of the research are to categorize the types of women's language features used by Megawati Soekarno Putri and analyze the realization of women's language features in Megawati Soekarno Putri's speech. This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative research. The source of data was taken from script videos of Megawati Soekarno Putri's speech at BPIP National Seminar on YouTube through BKKBN OFFICIAL Channel. The data is collected through downloading, watching, transcribing underlining and classifying the data. The data is analyzed by using interactive model proposed by Miles et.al., (2014). The findings showed that not all types of women's language features were used by Megawati Soekarno Putri in speech at BPIP National Seminar. There were 234 utterances from nine types of women's language features that occur in Megawati Soekarno Putri's speech, they were 84 lexical hedges or fillers, 83 rising intonations on declarative, 13 intensifiers, 2 emphatic stress, 17 tag questions, 4 empty adjectives, 1 avoidance of strong swear words, 7 hypercorrect grammar, and 23 superpolite forms. The words found in Megawati Soekarno Putri's speech that related to the women's language features are mmm, uhh, ah, hmm, kayak/seperti (like), saya pikir/menurut saya (I think), and kayaknya/mungkin (maybe) for Lexical Hedges or fillers. ya?(right) And kan?(isn't it) for tag question. Keren (cool), indahnya(wonderful), and cantik(beautiful)*

*for empty adjectives. Banget, sekali (so) and banyak (very) for intensifiers. Memang, mengapa, bagaimana for hypercorrect grammar. Tolong(please), maaf(sorry), dengan hormat, beliau and madam for superpolite forms. Ya Allah for avoidance of strong swear words. Luar biasa! and sangat-sangat for emphatic stress.*

**Keyword: Women's Language Features; Realization; Speech**

**Corresponding Author:**

Ratna Sari Dewi,

Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara,

Jl. Kapten Muchtar Basri No.3, Glugur Darat II, Kec. Medan Tim., Kota

Medan, Sumatera Utara 20238, Indonesia

Email: [ratnasari@umsu.ac.id](mailto:ratnasari@umsu.ac.id)



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Women's language is a term that refers to language that is specific to women, meaning that only women use it and that it characterizes women (Lakoff, 1975). According to Eckert & McConnell-Ginet (2003) Women's language seem disempowered simply because they are characterized as "powerless", and they just end up communicating what the addressee seeks them to say. Women's subservient language may be considered both powerless and as evidence of their capacity to establish interpersonal relationships. Due to the cultural perspective, there are gendered subcultures in which boys and girls develop gender-typical speaking practices (Cots & Lleida, 1992). Men and women use different language or languages in their daily conversations. According to Holmes (2001) "Gender differences in language use are only one aspect of more pervasive linguistic differences in society reflecting social status or power differences,". This shows that each person has his or her unique set of linguistic elements to express his or her social standing and strength. Women's language, for example, has distinct characteristics that indicate power and status in society. The way in which women and men use language is quite different from one to another. Lakoff (1975) said that women utilize distinct "lexical item choices and frequency; in situations in which certain syntactic rules are performed; in intonational and other suprasegmental patterns." For example, a woman might say "The wall is mauve," with no one having any particular opinion of her as a consequence of the words alone; nevertheless, if a man said it, one may assume that he was sarcastically imitating a woman, was gay, or was an interior designer. This example demonstrates that women have certain communication characteristics that males do not.

Lakoff (1975) stated that women are generally lacking status in society because they are more subordinate to men. Therefore, women are more conscious of how they speak, hedging and increasing their utterances to attract the attention of the addressee. They prefer to use particular language to emphasize their femininity rather than masculinity. Women tend to use kinds of expressions that openly show their feelings. Furthermore, in certain circumstances, women are also expected to be polite and to use standard forms of speech because they are society's guardians (Holmes, 2001). Moreover, according to Holmes (2001), it attempts to protect both their face and the face of their intended recipient.

In addition, the existence of male domination can be seen in the freedom to express anger in the form of swearing, but if swearing is done by a woman, it will be seen as inappropriate Ascalonicawati, A. P. (2020). In other words, women may express their emotions, but may not express them with insults or curses. Therefore, a woman will be blamed if she does not speak like a feminine woman who speaks softly and politely. This fact is a form of marginalization towards women through language. Lakoff (2004, p.45) mentions that women's language has the basis that women are marginalized to an important part of life, namely language. Based on the facts above, it is also increasingly convincing that there is marginality and powerlessness of women which is reflected in the way women talk and the way women are talked about.

This phenomenon is also inseparable from one of the anthropological theories from Sapir Whorf which states that language strongly influences and even determines a person's worldview. The language we use consciously or unconsciously influences our thoughts about all things in the world. Language affects how to act as a woman or as a man in society. Therefore, culture can form social stigma against the language used by certain genders (Nugraha & Prasetyo, 2022). As seen in the categorization that men's language is more free and women must be careful in using language. Indirectly, language also plays a role in determining human cultural identity, especially in terms of gender. According to Lesmana et al. (2021) the inferiority of women below men is also influenced by the patriarchal system that is entrenched in society, so that there are often restrictions on women including language restrictions. Not only in the language that is encountered in everyday life, the language in the media has also contributed to creating a social structure based on gender. In this context the media in question is social media as a representation of real life.

Regarding the general stereotypes of women above, the researcher focuses on phenomena in the society the place girls do their job which is different from their ordinary motion or role as ladies as common in society due to the fact of the have an impact on of globalization that is emancipation. In the globalization era, women's emancipation has changed the mindset of women in the world. Many women do the same as men do in daily activity. The influence of women emancipation in Indonesia might also supply effect on girls nowadays in more than a few factors such as profession or job, acknowledgment, the recreation in society. Just like Megawati who has succeeded in showing that women can and are able to occupy the highest positions in Indonesia, such as becoming the 5th President of the Republic of Indonesia who served for 3 years. and Megawati's political career is very qualified, by serving as chairman in several other political fields such as being chairman of the PDIP party and chairman of BPIP.

The politic career of Megawati Soekarno Putri, and her speech that contain characteristics of women's language make researchers interested in examining Megawati Soekarno Putri's language use to gain an in-depth understanding of women's speech. Speech is also important in politics due to the fact that many politic activist performed by politician utilized language (Cut Novita, 2020). Here is the example of the speeches by Megawati Soekarno Putri:

"Tak itungin, Ya allah paling engga 30 menit itu, itu udah paling cepet, ya kebakar kabeh". In that speech, Megawati Soekarno Putri used some of women's language feature like "Swear Words" that refe to show Megawati's annoyance at the firefighters' lack of agility in dealing with the fires. This research using women language feature has been done before by Lubis & Bahri (2020) observed Women's Language in Indonesian Television Talk Show. This study emphasized analyzing the Women's Language in Indonesia through the three television talk shows with female hosts in a different context. There are Mata Najwa in politics, Marry Riana in Social filed, and Feni Rose Widyadhari, Rumpi in entertainment. The purpose of this study was to determine what types and which types of women's language features occur most frequently, as well as to analyze the potential factors that influence the use of these features by the presenters. In short, previous studies analyzed the women's language feature in television talk show. Unlike this research, this research analyzed the women's language features in the speech that is more formal than the talk show used by Megawati Soekarno Putri as the chairman of BPIP for a comprehensive understanding of women's speech.

Based on the explanation above, this study intends to investigate women's language features used by Megawati Soekarno Putri in her speech at BPIP National Seminar: Kick off Pancasila in Action, proposed by Lakoff's theory (1973) as an instrument of analysis. Lakoff proposed ten women's language feature. These features include lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. According to Creswell (2014) qualitative research is a method for examining the significance of human problem descriptions. As stated by Bogdan and Biklen (2007) (cited in Sinurat et al., 2021) qualitative research is a research where the data are collected in form of words or picture rather than in number.

However, although this study was qualitative in nature, quantifications were also needed in order to support the qualitative findings in revealing the percentage of women's language features utilized by Megawati Soekarno Putri's speech. This research use Lakoff Theory (1975) as an instrument of analysis. Lakoff proposed ten women's language feature. These features include lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. The collected data are the statements that uttered by Megawati Soekarno Putri at BPIP National Seminar: Kick off Pancasila in Action. To analyze the data researcher use interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) with three steps, namely data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusion/ verifying.

This method is used because attempted reaching at a comprehensive definition and an understanding for examining the kinds of women's language features.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on this research, the researcher got some results. There are 9 types of women's language features used by Indonesian female travel bloggers, namely: lexical hedges or fillers, rising intonation on declaratives, intensifiers, emphatic stress, tag question, avoidance of strong swear words, empty adjectives, hypercorrect grammar and superpolite forms. The absent feature is Precise color terms.

The researcher found 154 utterances of women's language features in Megawati Soekarno Putri's Speech. In initiating Types of Women's Language Features, Lexical Hedges or Fillers 78 (50,65%), Tag Question 16 (10,39%), Rising Intonation on Declaratives 10 (6,49%), Empty Adjectives 4 (2,60%), Precise

Colour Terms 0 (0,00%), Intensifiers 13 (8,44%), Hypercorrect Grammar 7 (4,55%), Superpolite Forms 23 (14,94%), Avoidance of Strong Swear Words 1 (0,65%), and Emphatic Stress 2 (1,30%) in the data. It can be concluded that hedges or filler is the dominantly used by Megawati Soekarno Putri. It means that Megawati is lack of confidence or expressing of uncertainty in her speech.

The words found in Megawati Soekarno Putri's speech that related to the women's language features are mmm, uhh, ah, hmm, kayak/seperti (like), saya pikir/menurut saya (I think), and kayaknya/mungkin (maybe) for Lexical Hedges or fillers. ya?(right) And kan?(isn't it) for tag question. Keren (cool), indahnya(wonderful), and cantik(beautiful) for empty adjectives. Banget, sekali (so) and banyak (very) for intensifiers. Memang, mengapa, bagaimana for hypercorrect grammar. Tolong(please), maaf(sorry), dengan hormat, beliau and madam for superpolite forms. Ya Allah for avoidance of strong swear words. Luar biasa! and sangat-sangat for emphatic stress.

Megawati Soekarno Putri used "mmm" in the utterance "mengapresiasi apa yang sedang mmm direncanakan" because she forgot what she would like to say. Used the word "mmm" to fill the gap in her statement and also giving her time to remember what she would say to the audiences. The word "ya kan? (isn't it?)" in the utterance "Hanya 78, ya kan?" refers to put emphasis on ensuring that is only 78. In the utterance "kok tepuk tangannya tidak bersemangat?", Megawati raised her intonation at the end of her speech when asking the audiences about their lackluster applause. In the utterance "Saya kan lihatin bapak saya, keren, Suka niruin waktu kecil", Megawati used the empty adjective "keren(cool)" to show the audiences Megawati's admiration for her father. The use of intensifiers "banget(so)" in the utterance "saya bangga banget tau ga apa yang telah di putuskan dalam persidangan" emphasizes her sentence regarding the results of the decision from the judge which according to her were in line with what was expected. The word "memang" is also often pronounced as "emang", but Megawati still uses the standard word "memang" in the utterance "saya memang saya pernah kuliah di psikologi jadi saya bisa tahu. The utterance is an example of the application of appropriate grammatical rules. The word "maaf(sorry)" in the utterance "dengan segala maaf saya nanti hanya membacakan mereka yang hadir", shows Megawati's politeness towards the audiences that she could not name each one who was present, and only mentioned a few names that were listed on the paper she was holding. Megawati Soekarno Putri used "ya Allah" in the utterance "tak hitungin, Ya Allah paling gak 30 menit, itu udah paling cepet" refers to show Megawati's annoyance at the firefighters' lack of agility in dealing with the fires. Megawati delivered her speech "saya juga suka karena menerangkan sangat -sangat manusiawi!" using the emphatic stress "sangat-sangat" to emphasize and convince the audiences that when gynecology explaining something is very easy to understand and she likes that.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The researcher found 154 utterances of women's language features in Megawati Soekarno Putri's Speech. In initiating Types of Women's Language Features, Lexical Hedges or Fillers 78 (50,65%), Tag Question 16 (10,39%), Rising Intonation on Declaratives 10 (6,49%), Empty Adjectives 4 (2,60%), Precise Colour Terms 0 (0,00%), Intensifiers 13 (8,44%), Hypercorrect Grammar 7 (4,55%), Superpolite Forms 23 (14,94%), Avoidance of Strong Swear Words 1 (0,65%), and Emphatic Stress 2 (1,30%) in the data. It can be concluded that hedges or filler is the dominantly used by Megawati Soekarno Putri. It means that Megawati is lack of confidence or expressing of uncertainty in her speech.

The words found in Megawati Soekarno Putri's speech that related to the women's language features are mmm, uhh, ah, hmm, kayak/seperti (like), saya pikir/menurut saya (I think), and kayaknya/mungkin (maybe) for Lexical Hedges or fillers. ya? (right) And kan?(isn't it) for tag question. Keren (cool), indahnya(wonderful), and cantik(beautiful) for empty adjectives. Banget, sekali (so) and banyak (very) for intensifiers. Memang, mengapa, bagaimana for hypercorrect grammar. Tolong(please), maaf(sorry), dengan hormat, beliau and madam for superpolite forms. Ya Allah for avoidance of strong swear words. Luar biasa! and sangat-sangat for emphatic stress.

Provide a statement that what is expected, as stated in the "Introduction" chapter can ultimately result in "Results and Discussion" chapter, so there is compatibility. Moreover, it can also be added the prospect of the development of research results and application prospects of further studies into the next (based on result and discussion).

#### REFERENCES

- Adi, P. P. S., Mulyawan, I. W., & Indriyani, K. S. (2022). Women's language features used by Taylor Swift in the 2015 Grammy interview video. *Pustaka: Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Budaya*, 22(2), 114. <https://doi.org/10.24843/pjiib.2022.v22.i02.p09>
- Apridaningrum, M. C. G., & Angelina, P. (2019). Women's language features used by Sarah Sechan in her talk show. *ELTR*, 3, 108–127. <https://doi.org/10.37147/eltr.v3i2.76>

- Ascalonicawati, A. P. (2020). Fitur-fitur tuturan Emma Watson dalam wawancara The Features of Speech of Emma Watson in Interview. *Jalabahasa*, 16(1), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.36567/jalabahasa.v16i1.401>
- Badari, A. P., Setyowati, H. A., & Widisanti, N. M. (2019). An analysis of features and functions in women's speech in the talk show United States of Women Summit. *Albion: Journal of English Literature, Language, and Culture*, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.33751/albion.v1i2.1309>
- Coates, J. (2015). *Women, men, and language: A sociolinguistic account of sex differences in language* (3rd ed.). Pearson Education Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1075/ara1.16.1.09bur>
- Collinson, W. E., Sapir, E., & de Saussure, F. (1924). *Language: An introduction to the study of speech. The Modern Language Review*, 19(2), 253. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3713880>
- Cots, J., & Lleida, U. de. (1992). Tannen, D. (1991): You just don't understand. Women and men in conversation. *Sintagma: Revista de Lingüística*, 4(February), 89–91.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Desinta, L., Arjulayana, & Srikandi, C. N. (2020). An analysis of the illocutionary acts on Donald Trump's presidential candidacy speech. *Globish (An English-Indonesian Journal for English, Education and Culture)*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.31000/globish.v7i2>
- Eckert, P., & McConnell-Ginet, S. (2003). *Language and gender*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511791147>
- Gu, L. (2013). Language and gender: Differences and similarities. In *Proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Advances in Social Science, Humanities, and Management* (pp. 3188–3195). Atlantis Press. <https://doi.org/10.2991/asshm-13.2013.46>
- Holmes, J. (2001). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (2nd ed.). Longman. <https://doi.org/10.2307/416511>
- Holmes, J., & Wilson, N. (2013). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (4th ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315833057>
- Lakoff, R. (1975). *Language and woman's place*. *Language in Society*, 2, 45–80. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047404500000051>
- Lesmana, I. B. G. A. S., Udasmoro, W., & Hayuningsih, A. A. C. (2021). Konstruksi dan kontestasi kuasa perempuan pada naskah drama *Les Bonnes* karya Jean Genet. *Diglosia: Jurnal Kajian Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Pengajarannya*, 4(1), 65–78. <https://doi.org/10.30872/diglosia.v4i1.124>
- Litosseliti, L. (2006). *Gender and language: Theory and practice*. Hodder Education.
- Lubis, F. K., & Bahri, S. (2020). Women's language in Indonesian television talk show. *Asian Social Science and Humanities Research Journal (ASHREJ)*, 2(2), 37–46. <https://doi.org/10.37698/ashrej.v2i2.43>
- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldana, J. (2014). *Qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook* (3rd ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Nugraha, D. D., & Prasetyo, A. B. (2022). Karakteristik fitur-fitur kebahasaan tokoh laki-laki dan perempuan dalam komik *Detektif Conan* edisi 28. *Neologia: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 3, 29–35.
- Oktapiani, T., Natsir, M., & Setyowati, R. (2017). Women's language features found in female characters' utterances in *The Devil Wears Prada* movie. *Journal of Language and Literature*, 1, 207–220.
- Jespersen, O. (1922). *Language: Its nature, development, and origin*. G. Allen & Unwin. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/53038/53038-h/53038-h.htm>
- Pan, Q. (2011). On the features of female language in English. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 1(8), 1015–1018. <https://doi.org/10.4304/tpls.1.8.1015-1018>
- Putri, M. E., Beratha, N. L. S., & Maharani, S. A. I. (2021). Women's language features in *Emily in Paris*: A sociolinguistics study. *Humanis*, 25(3), 269. <https://doi.org/10.24843/jh.2021.v25.i03.p02>
- Rahmah, D. A., Rohmah, Z., & Milal, A. D. (2020). Women's language features of Dalia Mogahed at TedTalks in view of Islamic speaking ethics. *Alphabet*.