

An Analysis of Men’s Language Features of an Dark Action Comedy on Prime Video

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Abstract

The purpose of the research titled "An Analysis of Gender in Language of a Dark Action Comedy on Prime Video" is to identify gendered language features applied in the series. The data was collected using documentation method and was analyzed using qualitative method based on Jennifer Coates of men's language features as applied to the characters in the series "The Boys" episode 1 on Amazon Prime. The research identified several language features, including order versus proposal, swearing and taboo language, and interruptions, applied to the characters in the series. The main characters, Hughie and Hugh Campbell Sr., predominantly exhibited these features. Hughie used direct forms of address, swear words, and interruptions in his speech. Other characters in the series also displayed men's language features and differences in their language use.

INTRODUCTION

Gender has been the discussion among society. on how gender affects the way people communicate with other people. Many studies have been done to research the correlation between language and gender. It is believed that men and women bring different features when having a conversation. men more often use swear words in their conversation rather than women on how they press their point. for example the word “so fuckin high” instead “so high” the use of “fuckin” in the sentence used just to give intensifier to the meaning of the sentence. usually it comes in conversation between friends. How men talked about things and facts and women with their feelings has always been a debate over years. A lot of series with man leads contain more men language features on each conversation of characters than a series with woman leads. This phenomenon is interesting when it comes to man leads affecting the way of communication of the characters in the series. It is related to men talking more into things and facts less considering feelings which most women do. which when men talking more bringing points with facts and less care with how interlocutors would feel. Which happened in the series “the boys” when the main character talked to the other.

Gender in Language Analysis of action "the boys" is aimed to identify men's language feature and word difference and find out what the habits of men language features applied in the characters of "The Boys". Also the word difference theory applied to the characters of "The Boys". This analysis focused on the series "the boys" episode one which is shown in prime video by Amazon. The series was chosen because of the variety of men characters in the series and the use of men's language in various situation. The data collected from the conversation of the characters. The method is documentation.

Points with facts and less care with how interlocutors would feel. Which happened in the series "the boys" when the main character talked to the other. Gender in Language Analysis of action "the boys" is aimed to identify men's language feature and word difference and find out what the habits of men language features applied in the characters of "The Boys" as the urgent of the research to become understanding gendered communication happened, how it is impact the stereotypes and cultural reflect. Also the word difference theory applied to the characters of "The Boys".

Men's Language Features

Coates (2004) states in her book *women, men, and language* there are differences with language use when men and women having a conversation. Men's language feature is a theory Coates states in her book. It said when men having a conversation usually gives a characteristic of conversation like, minimal responses, command and directives, swearing and taboo language, compliments, theme, questions and interruptions.

Minimal responses is one men language feature that stated by Coates(2004), that when it comes to conversation men usually gives a minimal response that is known as backchannel. it is a response such as hmm, yeah and right. giving a minimal response with emphasized points.

Command and directives is a men language feature that stated by Coates(2004), that men usually when in same-sex groups, they use an explicit command word like, gimme, gonna and gotta. These words also directly give a point to the interlocutors what to do.

Swearing and taboo language is also one of men's language features that was stated by Coates(2004), when men having a conversation they mostly use the swearing and taboo language to emphasize the point of idea they are making. She also believed that in daily conversation men will use more swearing and taboo language than women do. words like, fuck, shit, damn, shut. often used to press an idea of a sentence. for example, "so fuckin' high" instead of "so high" the word "fuckin" used to give more press the point of the sentence. Compliments, is a men language feature when it comes to skill and possessions, there are compliments that come when it is in conversation, compliment like, that's cool, good job, and good boy.

Theme, when a conversation between same-sex usually the topic that being discussed is event phenomenon like sport or travel and also current affairs. It is related to the direct point that men usually use to communicate with each other. men usually have short conversations.

Questions, different from women. men usually use direct questions to ask about something. like "what time is it?" instead of indirect things like "could you tell me what time it is?" it is also connected with commands to give the information directly and to the point.

Interruptions, when having a conversation men usually interrupt when they have a different opinion on something that is being discussed. like in the middle of a sentence or argument with others, men would disagree in the middle of the sentence without waiting for the sentence to finish.

DIFFERENCE THEORY

Difference theory is a theory popularized by Tannen (1990) takes a non-neutral stance on genderlect differences by avoiding making value judgments about how either gender uses language to communicate. In this theory Tannen (1990) states there are six contrasts of men and women using language to communicate.

Status versus Support. According to Tannen, the world is a place where things are competitive for men, where conversation and speech are used to build their status in society, but the world is like a network of relationships for women, where language is used to ask for and provide support, advice, understanding. When it comes to problems women seek sympathy and comfort different from men who seek solutions for the problem. Information versus Feeling. When men have a conversation it means to give information to the other while for women to have a conversation means to build a relationship with each other. order versus proposals. men usually use direct imperatives to tell someone else like “Sit down, Turn off the light” meanwhile women use super polite form like “would you.., “ conflict versus compromise. men usually confront problems with words and negotiate. Meanwhile women avoid conflict with language and attempt to maintain the problems without confrontation to keep the positive relationship.

RESEARCH METHOD

The data for this analysis was taken from the Dark-Comedy action series from Prime Video by Amazon entitled *The Boys*, specifically episode one of the series. This series was released on July 26, 2019 exclusive for Prime Video by Amazon. The data was collected from the conversation between the characters that appear on the series using documentation. The conversation in the series was collected during and after watching the show. After the data was collected, the data analysis used content analysis to classify the theory of men’s language feature by Coates (2004). This analysis focuses on the characters that appear, which is Hughie, Hugh Campbell, and Butcher. all the data collected has been input into matrix. There are processes of analysing the data. (1) watch the series two times, to observe the data. (2) classify the data with Coates's theory of men's language features. (3) reread the data that has been collected. (4) verify the data of the research (check, re-check, cross check, and conclude).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The author found several data from the series that related to the theory of men language features by Coates (2004) and Difference Theory by Tannen (1990) the data including swearing and taboo language, interruptions and order versus proposals.

[1] Swearing and Taboo Language

Officer : “Look, I know you're upset, but we're just trying to help”
 Hughie : “Then say you're sorry.”
 Officer : “Excuse me?”
 Hughie : “I mean, you people say "our condolences" and "my sympathies" and

"our regrets," but nobody can look me in the fucking eye and say "I'm sorry." I'm not signing anything. Get out.

The situation above is after Hughie lost his girlfriend in an accident that was caused by one organization called Vought. One of the officers of Vought comes to meet Hughie to talk about the accident. Due to his sudden loss, Hughie lost his temper and filled with anger. When the officer comes to meet him, the officer shows no respect and only thinks about how to make Hughie forget about the accident. In this situation Hughie uses swear words to talk to the officer to express his emotion and press the meaning of his point. "I mean, you people say "our condolences" and "my sympathies"and "our regrets," but nobody can look me in the fucking eye and say "I'm sorry." I'm not signing anything. Get out.." the word "fucking" function to press the point of his word that no one "seriously" face Hughie when the problem occurred.

Hughie : "The "Capes for Christ" guy... preaches all that... "pray the gay away" shit."
Butcher : And now he's the meat in the Manwich. Fucking hypocrite.

The situation when Hughie and Butcher met and found out about the preacher's secret in the club. Hughie expressed his surprise and Hughie uses the swear word "shit" in the end of his sentence to refer to the sermon which he didn't believe and full of lies. and also butcher when he state his point he use swear word "fucking" to emphasize the point of hypocrite. The swear word is being used to emphasize their point and giving more press to the meaning of words they are saying.

Hughie : I'm, I'm sorry, who are you?
Butcher : She wasn't in the street. She was one step off the fucking curb. And you didn't take the pay-off.
Hughie : Yeah. I said, who the hell are you? How do you know that?
Butcher : Name's Butcher. Billy Butcher.

The situation is when Hughie and Butcher met for the first time. In the meeting Butcher talked about what happened to Hughie's girlfriend. Surprised, Hughie asked who Butcher was, not answering, Hughie used swear words to pressed the meaning of his words. Asking who Butcher was.

[2] Interrupts

Hugh Campbell Sr. : Aw, geez. Maybe there's a movie on-
Hughie : No, keep it-
Hugh Campbell Sr. : No, we can switch-
Hughie : Keep it

In the situation above Hugh Campbell Sr. and Hughie watch TV after visiting Hughie's girlfriend's funeral and coincidentally watch the news about it. Hugh Campbell sr. doesn't want Hughie to think about his girlfriend and move on. Hughie thinks that the accident that happened is suspicious and wants to watch the news. and hear what the news says about the accident. The dialogue between Hugh Campbell Sr. and Hughie shows the different opinion between each other. Hugh Campbell Sr. thinks

that the news is bad for Hughie and wants to switch the channel, but Hughie disagrees and wants to keep watching the news. Hugh Campbell Sr. also interrupts Hughie when he wants to keep watching the news and again Hughie disagrees with his interruption and tell to keep the channel.

Hughie : Dad, she was one step off the curb. I...I saw it!
 Hugh Campbell Sr. : Hughie, look. Look. You can't do this
 Hughie : Why not?

This situation when Hugh Campbell Sr and Hughie have an argument on how Hughie Girlfriend died. Hughie wants to investigate and spill the truth to the public. Hughie starts calling his subordinate and wanting support. He also tells Hugh Campbell Sr. to believe him that something is wrong. but in the middle of sentence Hugh Campbell Sr. interrupts hughie and shows disagreement on Hughie action. said it is useless to compete with a company. In this dialogue Hugh Campbell Sr. uses interruption to start his disagreement to Hughie point.

[3] Order Versus Proposal

Butcher : "Go into the bog, take the bug out. Peel back the plastic bit to reveal the sticky side. Put the plastic bit in the bog. Flush it. Then go back into the boardroom, sit down... big smiles...plant the bug underneath the table. Easy peasy Japanesey. Bob's your uncle. That's that."
 Hughie : That's that? That was... that was a lot.

This situation is when Butcher and Hughie are having a conversation in a car. butcher orders hughie to sneak to one of enemy's buildings to plan a transmitter. in this conversation Butcher uses direct imperatives to tell Hughie what to do. for example "go into the bog, take the bug out, etc" without asking for Hughie approval. It is like Butcher tells Hughie to do something he must do.

Hughie : Then say you're sorry.
 Lawyer : Excuse me?
 Hughie : I mean, you people say "our condolences" and "my sympathies" and "our regrets," but nobody can look me in the fucking eye and say "I'm sorry!" I'm not signing anything. Get out.
 Hughie : I said get the hell out!

This situation is when the Lawyer visited Hughie in his apartment. The lawyer tried to bribe Hughie of the case that happened to his girlfriend. Hughie in this conversation in worst mood, Hughie used direct imperative to tell the Lawyer what to do without a second thought, or having opinion from the Lawyer.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data and the discussion, the series entitled The Boys by Prime Video it can be concluded that there are three men's language features and difference theory applied to the characters of the series. It is swear word, interruption, and orders versus proposal. every feature shown in different situations and scenarios. in which the characters in the series have different reactions to a phenomenon with different language use. word "fuckin" used by the character Hughie is to emphasize his point of

the sentence when he was angry and suprised. The interruption of the characters when they have a conversation also show a disagreement that men always point out. and the order v proposals when Butcher tells Hughie what to do he doesn't wait for agreement instead he orders Hughie what he must do.

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