ABSTRACT


Keywords: Women’s language features, Formal situation, Informal situation

This research aimed at analyzing women’s language features used by Hillary Clinton in formal and informal situations. The researcher discussed three main topics in this research; women’s language features used in formal situations, women’s language features used in informal situations, also similarities and differences between women’s language features used in both situations.

The theory used in this research is from Robin Tolmach Lakoff which proposed women’s language features theory in her writing “Language in Woman’s Place” (1973) to find and analyze women’s language features used by Hillary in both situations. Furthermore, theory from Holmes which is supported by Heylighen and Dewaele are also related to this research to explain the formality of language used by Hillary in both situations.

The qualitative research is applied to describe and interpret women’s language features used by Hillary. The objects of the research are the most popular Hillary Clinton’s videos on Youtube; the videos of Hillary Clinton during her speeches, which are categorized as formal situation, and the videos of Hillary Clinton invited to The Ellen Show, which are categorized as informal situation.

The result shows that there are six features of women’s language used in a formal situation; ‘empty’ adjectives, superpolite forms, lexical hedges or fillers, intensifiers, ‘hypercorrect’ grammar, and emphatic stress. Meanwhile, there are seven features of women’s language in informal situation; ‘empty’ adjectives, avoidance of strong swear words, rising intonations, lexical hedges or fillers, intensifiers, ‘hypercorrect’ grammar, and emphatic stress.

It can be concluded that there are similarities and differences in both situations. The similarities are precise color terms and tag-questions features that are not found in both situations. Moreover, ‘empty’ adjectives, lexical hedges or fillers, intensifiers, ‘hypercorrect’ grammar and emphatic stress are found in both situations. In addition, the differences between women’s language features used in both situations are superpolite forms feature that is only found in a formal situation and avoidance of strong swear words with rising intonations feature are only found in informal situation.