

# KATNISS EVERDEEN'S LINGUISTIC FEATURES IN SUZANNE COLLINS' *THE HUNGER GAMES*

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**Abstract:** *Linguistic features become the main issue analyzed in this study since it gets much attention from numerous academics. To focus the analysis, Lakoff's theory of Women's Linguistic Features is adopted. In addition, Holmes (1992), Sandriani (2012) and Wright (2002)'s features of male's language are also utilized. In the matter of collecting and analyzing the data, the researcher selects qualitative content analysis and descriptive research designs to deeply investigate Katniss' utterances and the author's description. The researcher herself becomes the only instrument – human instrument. Reading and selecting the data from the entire text of The Hunger Games is a part of data collection steps. Then, the procedures of data analysis contain identifying, classifying and elaborating the data. Drawing the conclusion is also the last step required. 23 utterances of women's linguistic features and 45 utterances of men's linguistic features eventually become the result of this study. To conclude, Katniss is linguistically portrayed as following men's linguistic features more frequently than women's linguistic features.*

**Keywords:** *linguistic features; fillers; progressive forms; less filler*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Numbers of researchers are commonly interested in investigating linguistic features in assorted settings: academic (Schleppegrell, 2001; Kuo et al., 2010; Russell, 2014; Sallinen and Braidwood, 2014), and politic (Mothe and Tanguy, 2005). The examination of general linguistic features of female language was ever done before (Pan, 2011). Meanwhile, this present study tries to inspect more specifically into women's linguistic features, which were firstly pioneered by Lakoff (Holmes, 1992).

Several studies of women's linguistic features have been done before, such as *Tag question* studied by Cameron et al (1988); Rasekh and Saeb (2015) investigated the use of intensifiers in comparison between male and female speech. Furthermore, ten points of Lakoff's linguistic features were also examined in various objects: casual conversation (White, 2003); movie scripts (Nemati and Bayer, 2007); conversation of teacher candidates (Jakobsson, 2010); websites (Pebrianti, 2013). They found that intensifiers, hedges and tag questions were commonly used.

To make an unbiased research, the researcher analyzes the data by comparing women's linguistic features and men's linguistic features. Unlike women's linguistic features which are explicitly stated by a linguist, Robin Lakoff, men do not have certain linguistic features. Few researches tend to compare women's language and men's language. Nevertheless, those studies still use ten features of women language as the standard to compare languages produced by female and male. One of them was done by Sandriani (2012) who compared male and female students. Related to women's linguistic features, male tends to produce less fillers and to disregard hypercorrect grammar. Moreover, men also tend to be more confident than women, to do interruptions, to challenge norms of language communication.

Other researcher whose analysis is out of women's linguistic features are done in several cases: conversation (Wright, 2002) and magazines (Arvidsson, 2009). According to Wright, men are characterized as speaking sufficiently, interrupting more than women, being failed in bids. Meanwhile, Arvidsson (2009) inferred that male has more predicative function in their speech than female. Unlike those previous studies, the researcher does not repeatedly compare women's and men's utterances. This present study only takes woman's utterances. Hence, the researcher summarizes some male's linguistic features in order to be suited to the data. The majority of studies tend to answer overused question, such as "What is the women's linguistic feature most frequently used?" or "What is the men's linguistic feature most frequently used?" In sum, the comparison of women's and men's linguistic features for someone's utterances in novel is an innovative analysis to be investigated.

A science fiction novel entitled *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins is the data source which is investigated in this study. Few scholars pay attention in this American novel. In term of language, Septiani (2013) compared the original novel in English with its Indonesian translation. She investigated the linguistic forms of equivalence strategy among addition, deletion, and shift strategy in the translated version of the novel. Besides, the equivalency and non-equivalency are also considered. On the other hand, several studies are done in term of Literature. The most popular issue analyzed is political dystopian country (Sar and Murni, 2013). Therefore, to enrich the existing studies on Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*, this present study analyzes the same novel with different focus, that is, linguistic features. This becomes the new topic in examining Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*.

The aim of this present study is to know whether Katniss Everdeen more frequently follows women's linguistic features or not in her utterances. It is expected that this study could be beneficial in both of practical and theoretical terms. As it is in the field of Sociolinguistics, it might be useful to expand readers' knowledge about Sociolinguistics. In

addition, it can also enlarge their knowledge about humans' stereotype characteristics which are linguistically grouped based on gender. Moreover, this present study can be practically valuable for the readers of Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. It will be then helpful as the overview about who Katniss Everdeen is. Likewise, they can adopt the analysis of linguistic features in their real life since this major analysis can also be applied in the daily life. This idea is therefore a novel concept in every aspect – linguistic features and *The Hunger Games* itself.

To summarize, this study was conducted to analyze the nine linguistic features of women's language consisting of lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, 'empty' adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words and emphatic stress. Raising intonation on declaratives is not analyzed since this feature is available only in spoken interaction.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Lakoff in Holmes (1992:315) proposed some features of women's language. One of them is lexical hedges or fillers. Lakoff clarified that lexical hedges and fillers are generally the evidence of the speakers' timidity. In line with Lakoff's idea, Pebrianti (2013:115) strengthened that lexical hedges are generally used for expressing uncertainty and lack of confidence in a conversation. In addition to it, it also can be used to differentiate from or change one topic to another topic in the conversation, to give the speakers sequence time to think what they will say later. To greet the addressee and to lead or keep the conversation on the track are also the objectives of lexical hedges in women's language. For examples the use of these following phrases: *you know, sort of, well, you see, etc.*

The second feature proposed by Lakoff is tag question, that is a question added in the end of a sentence. It is commonly used to make sure that speaker's information is correct or to seek agreement. Lakoff in Holmes (1992:316) also implied that tag question explicitly signifies lack of confidence. Moreover, Pebrianti (2013:115) confirmed this statement by saying that tag questions are to emphasize what the speakers are talking about. It also makes the readers have more belief of what the speaker says. e.g. *She is very nice, isn't she?*

Another feature proposed by Lakoff is raising intonation on declaratives. According to Lakoff in Holmes (1992:316), declarative sentences are intended by everyone to declare something e.g. *It's really good.* Lakoff also mentioned 'empty' adjectives as one of the characteristics of women's language. Pebrianti (2013:115) inferred that the use of empty adjectives is to give more emphasize of what the speaker says. In addition, it also tends to

reveal the emotional reaction rather than to give specific information about the speaker's idea e.g. *divine, charming, cute, adorable, lovely, sweet*.

The fifth women's linguistic feature is precise color terms. Pebrianti (2013: 115) stated that the goals of precise color terms are to give more emphasizing on the speaker's utterance and to utter the emotional reaction rather than to give specific information about the speaker's opinion. e.g. *magenta, aquamarine*. The sixth linguistic feature which is preferably used by women is intensifiers. Lakoff in Holmes (1992:316) stated that intensifiers are purposed to show the anticipation. Besides, it is also regarded as specialty to be expressed or hyperbole. To attract the addressee's attention is also the idea of intensifiers. For examples the use of *so, really, just, etc.* e.g. *I like him so much*.

The seventh characteristic of women's linguistic features is *hypercorrect grammar*. Pebrianti (2013:115) claimed in her study that *hypercorrect grammar* has certain intention. In terms of utterance, the use of such feature is commonly to prevent the misunderstanding or miscommunication between the speaker or writer and the interlocutor. e.g. *the consistent use of standard verb forms*. The eighth characteristic of women language suggested by Lakoff is 'superpolite' forms. Pebrianti (2013:115) affirmed that to ask something to the addressee or interlocutor, the speaker tries to be polite. One of the ways to lead him to be polite is by using 'superpolite' forms in his speech. e.g. *indirect request, euphemisms*.

The avoidance of strong swear words is also the feature which is likely possessed by women. Pebrianti (2013:115) added that this condition is likely intended to emphasize or strengthen the expression of the speaker's thought. e.g. *fudge, my goodness*. Meanwhile, according to Lakoff in Holmes (1992:314), women also tend to emphasize some words in the form of emphatic stress. This feature is eventually capitalized in writing. e.g. *It was a BRILLIANT performance*.

### **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

The researcher adopted qualitative content analysis in this study. Hsieh and Shannon (2005:2) define qualitative content analysis as interpretation of meaning from the content of the text. It mostly uses coding categories which are directly derived from the text data. Specifically, Mayring (2000:4) also names the analysis which gives explicit definitions and examples as deductive category in qualitative content analysis. It is also firstly derived from theoretical aspects of analysis which are brought to the connection with the text. Qualitative content analysis was the most proper design to be applied in this research since it aims to deeply investigate the data from the novel. The researcher intensely analyzed the data in order

to produce the main fact whether Katniss uses and follows women's or men's linguistic features in her utterances. Since explicit definitions and examples were also the vital necessary in this study, it was concluded that this study applied deductive category of qualitative content analysis.

Likewise, the researcher also utilized descriptive research design in analyzing the data. According to Klopper (2008:66), descriptive research tends to depict the precise illustration of what the matter is. As the name implies, descriptive research deals with describing variables. It is not precisely used to examine the hypothesis between the related variables. In addition, data and theoretical triangulation were also applied.

The data for this study was taken from *The Hunger Games* novel by Suzanne Collins. This novel mostly tells about a dystopian country where the life of its citizens is pretty ironic. Panem is a country which has 12 districts and one capital city. The condition of 12 districts is really miserable, especially for district 12 where Katniss Everdeen lives. District 12 is isolated from any prosperous and sophisticated things. People mostly work in coal-mine. Katniss, a 16 years old girl tries to fulfill her family needs by hunting in the forest – an illegal activity. After the death of his father, Katniss decided to hunt in the forest with her best friend – Gale.

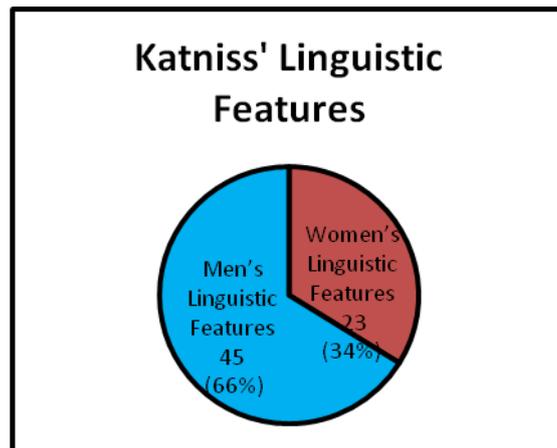
On the contrary, the capital city of Panem, Capitol, has great quantities of sophisticated things. People's life is extremely wealthy. Moreover, Capitol's despotism also occurs every year because they require each district to give two representatives for joining *The Hunger Games* program. This program requires every participant to murder each other. There is a winner who stays alive in the end of the program. He/she will get many rewards and his/her district will be given many meals.

The representatives of each district are chosen based on the lottery. They must be a boy and a girl. In that year, Prim Everdeen, Katniss' younger sister, is unexpectedly chosen. Katniss finally offers herself as the volunteer of her sister. Katniss then follows every rule in *The Hunger Games*. She struggles during the competition. At last, she ultimately becomes the winner of *The Hunger Games*. Yet, she is not the only winner because there is also Peeta Mellark who wins the program. Peeta and Katniss regularly show their love during the competition. It becomes the main reason which makes the committee change the rule of the winner.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 4.1 Results: Linguistic Features

To yield the results, the researcher collected all Katniss Everdeen's utterances and the author's description required. There were 67 Katniss' utterances and 1 author's description containing her Linguistic Features. This chart presents Women's and Men's Linguistic Features used by Katniss Everdeen in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*.

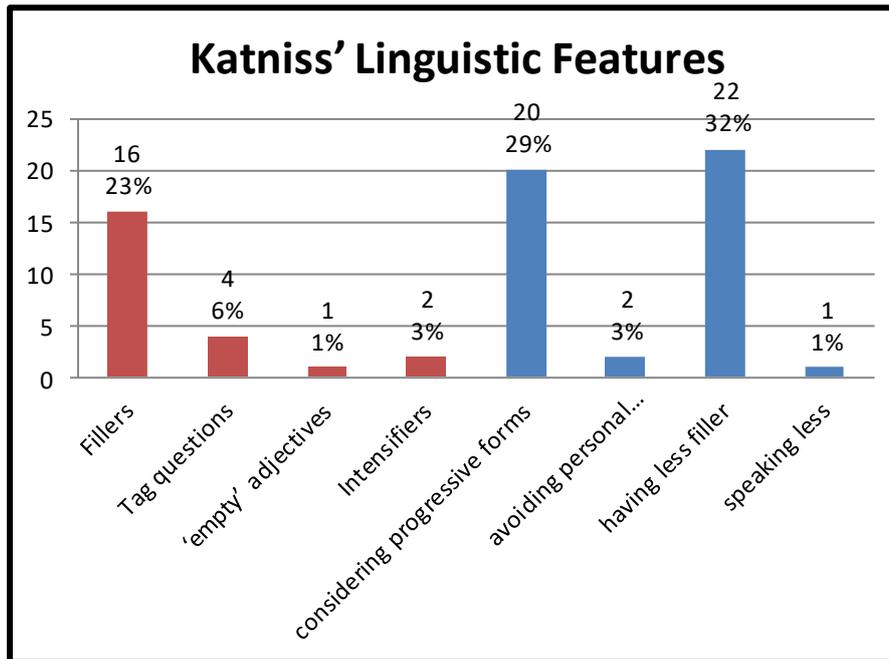


**Figure 1: Katniss' Linguistic Features**

The figure 1 above portrays Katniss' Linguistic Features in general. Women's Linguistic Features are produced for 23 times or 34%. They are fillers, tag question, 'empty' adjectives and intensifiers. Meanwhile, there are 45 utterances or 66% Men's Linguistic Features illustrated. There are considering progressive forms, avoiding personal experience, having less filler and speaking less. The frequency and the percentage of each feature are charted in figure 4.2 below.

In figure 2 above, each Katniss' Linguistic Feature is drawn. The red bars depict Women's Linguistic Features while the blue bars signify Men's Linguistic Features. 'Less filler' reaches the biggest frequency among all features. It is portrayed for 22 times or 32%. On the contrary, 'empty' adjectives and 'speaking less' become the lowest items which are only once or 1%.

'Fillers' reaches the highest frequency among women's linguistic features. It is used for 16 times or 23%. 'Tag question' is subsequently in the second level which is used for 4 times or 6%. 'Intensifiers' then follows as the third item which is used for twice or 3%. 'Empty' adjectives reach the lowest frequency. It is produced only for once or 1%.



**Figure 2: The Frequency and Percentage of Katniss' Linguistic Features**

Besides, among men's linguistic features, 'less filler' is the highest feature which exists for 22 times or 32%. It is followed by 'considering progressive forms' which stands for 20 times or 29%. 'Avoiding personal experiences and feelings' is in the third level among men's linguistic features. It is utilized for twice or 3%. The lowest item, 'speaking less', is adopted for once or 1%.

### ***Women's Linguistic Features***

Based on the data presented in the figure 1, Women's Linguistic Features become the minority in the data. It can be seen by the amount of Katniss' utterances which contain Women's Linguistic Features. Among ten Women's Linguistic Features adopted from Lakoff's theory, this present study takes nine of them to be analyzed. Furthermore, some Linguistic Features found in the data are fillers, tag question, 'empty' adjectives and intensifiers. Besides, the others are not found in the data. They are evidently elaborated below.

#### **1) Lexical Hedges or Fillers**

Fillers are found in a big number of Katniss' utterances. There are 16 Katniss' utterances which contain this feature. It is equal to 23% from the entire data of Katniss' Linguistic Features. Based on the data analyzed, the researcher does not find any 'hedges' in Katniss utterances. One of them is illustrated in the excerpt below.

## Data 1

Besides, I have this.” She pulls a necklace woven out of some kind of grass from her shirt. On it, hangs a roughly carved wooden star. Or maybe it’s a flower. “It’s a good luck charm.”

“Well, it’s worked so far,” I say, pinning the mockingjay back on my shirt. “Maybe you should just stick with that.” (P.210/L.23)

The word ‘well’ which is highlighted in **Data 1** is classified as one of the features of women’s language, called filler. It tends to fill in the blank before Katniss eventually states her utterance. According to Lakoff in Holmes (1992:315), lexical hedges and fillers aims at showing that the speaker is not confident. It is also used to express uncertainty.

The existence of fillers in Katniss’ utterances in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games* also implicitly presents that Katniss was unconfident at that time. It was due to the fact that Rue previously asked about how far the mockingjay pin worked for Katniss during The Hunger Games. Katniss was not confident enough to declare that the mockingjay pin helped her because in fact, the mockingjay pin never showed any fortunate event to Katniss. In addition, Katniss Everdeen also deliberately expressed her uncertainty through her utterances. She got confused on describing the pin in case of its luck. The followed statement “Maybe you should just stick with that” also strengthened her uncertainty at that time.

It could be concluded that Data 1 generally represents the 16 utterances found for this feature. It is due to the fact that those all 16 utterances contain fillers. There is not any utterance about hedges. The use of fillers is generally the same. It fulfills the blank of Katniss’ utterance. Specifically, it presents that Katniss Everdeen is unconfident and uncertain of what she says at that time.

## 2) Tag Questions

Few numbers of tag questions are found through Katniss’ utterances in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*. Among 68 Katniss’ utterances, there were 4 utterances which contained tag questions. It is 6% of the data. According to Azar (1999:A15), the main purpose of tag question is to make sure that the speaker’s statement is correct. This case also occurred in Katniss’ utterances. The following utterance is one of the data.

## Data 2

I had expected someone flamboyant, someone older trying desperately to look young, someone who viewed me as a piece of meat to be prepared for a platter. Cinna has met none of these expectations.

“You’re new, aren’t you? I don’t think I’ve seen you before,” I say. Most of the stylists are familiar, constants in the ever- changing pool of tributes. Some have been around my whole life.

“Yes, this is my first year in the Games,” says Cinna. (P.64/L.12)

Katniss' utterance in Data 2 is categorized as tag question. Azar (1999:A15) clarifies that tag question or question tag as the question attached in the end of a sentence. In this case, Katniss attaches "aren't you" to her original utterance "You're new" with the question mark in the end. This kind of utterance is linguistically classified as tag question because Katniss deliberately attached the tag question after her original statement.

Related to the content of the tag question, Katniss actually tried to make sure that she was correct in considering Cinna as the new stylist in The Hunger Games event. In addition, she also added her utterances in order to support her tag question. She said "I don't think I've seen you before," This statement exactly showed that Katniss said her utterances based on the fact that it was likely to be correct. She only wanted to make sure her idea about Cinna as the new stylist in The Hunger Games event.

All in all, there are actually 4 frequencies or 6% of Katniss' tag questions. From those all data, they intend to give the similar influence. Katniss' tag question is purposed to seek agreement to the interlocutor. In addition, she also used tag question to make sure that the information was correct.

### 3) 'Empty' Adjectives

As the real name of this kind of adjective, it does not really express specific purpose. The word 'empty' exactly presents the existence of this adjective. There is not any specific purpose for the use of this feature. This feature was used by Katniss only for once. From the data taken, 1 utterance of 'empty' adjective is equal to 1% of the whole Katniss utterance. In fact, this percentage does not really influence the existence of Katniss' Women's Linguistic Features. The only data of 'empty' adjective is presented below.

#### Data 3

I look more critically at the design on Peeta's arm. The alternating pattern of light and dark suggests sunlight falling through the leaves in the woods. I wonder how he knows this, since I doubt he's ever been beyond the fence. Has he been able to pick this up from just that scraggly old apple tree in his backyard? Somehow the whole thing — his skill, those inaccessible cakes, the praise of the camouflage expert — annoys me.

"It's lovely. If only you could frost someone to death," I say.

"Don't be so superior. You can never tell what you'll find in the arena. Say it's actually a gigantic cake —" begins Peeta. (P.96/L.15)

Data 3 above signifies the use of 'empty' adjective. Specifically, the word 'lovely' is considered as one of the kinds of 'empty' adjectives. In this case, when Katniss said the word 'lovely', it was not really meaningful. It also did not express new or important information of the utterance. As stated by Pebrianti (2013:115) that 'empty' adjectives were used to

emphasize what the speaker says. Indeed, Katniss did not intend to state new information through her utterances. She only desired to emphasize her statement by adding the word 'lovely'.

Katniss tended to make an 'if clause' when she talked to Peeta (the interlocutor) at that time. She strengthened that if Peeta could make someone frost in order to be passed away by using his skill, he would be lovely. Katniss emphasized her assumption by adding the word 'lovely'. She did not intend to give any specific information by the use of 'empty' adjective itself. To conclude, 'empty' adjective is not a specific linguistic feature to stand for new or important information. This feature tends to deal with Katniss' emotional reaction. Moreover, this matter is also used to strengthen Katniss' idea because it emphasized her statement.

#### 4) Intensifiers

Only a few of Katniss' utterances consist of Intensifiers. 2 utterances represent the use of Intensifiers by Katniss. This is equal to 3%. Unlike the previous features which tend to show the uncertainty or to strengthen Katniss' ideas, Intensifiers seem to express different matter. On the contrary, this feature tends to emphasize the different point of view through the utterances. One of the examples occurred when Gale and Katniss expressed their different ideas about The Hunger Games event. Katniss exactly stated this utterance:

#### Data 4

"They don't always have bows," I say, thinking of the year there were only horrible spiked maces that the tributes had to bludge on one another to death with.

"Then make one," says Gale. "Even a weak bow is better than no bow at all."

I have tried copying my father's bows with poor results. It's not that easy. Even he had to scrap his own work sometimes.

"I don't **even** know if there'll be wood," I say. Another year, they tossed everybody into a landscape of nothing but boulders and sand and scruffy bushes. I particularly hated that year. Many contestants were bitten by venomous snakes or went insane from thirst. (P.40/L.11)

The word 'even' is one of the examples of intensifiers. Intensifiers are used to strengthen the different point of view. 'Even' in Data 4 represents the different idea of Katniss. She did not really agree with what her interlocutor's statement.

Katniss' utterance showed that she had different idea from the interlocutor (Gale). Unlike Gale, Katniss believed that the arena in The Hunger Games event would not be forest. She did not really know how the arena would be but she believed that it would not be in the forest. Therefore, she emphasized her different idea by adding the word 'even'. The case started at Gale's utterances. He previously asked Katniss to use her bow as her main weapon during The Hunger Games event. Katniss tried to disagree by declaring that the committee did not

always provide bows. Gale was still in his idea. He tried to give another similar idea. That was by asking Katniss to make her own bow during The Hunger Games event. Then, Katniss obviously stated her different point of view in the statement "They don't always have bows," This indicates that Katniss actually had another thought. She therefore expressed it by adding the word 'even' in her utterance.

Furthermore, Katniss also tended to express her hyperbole through the intensifiers. The word 'even' makes her utterance sound more realistic. It never came on her mind that there would be wood in the arena of The Hunger Games event. By producing hyperbole utterance, Katniss seemed to have another intension, that was to attract Gale's attention as the interlocutor. This case also occurred in the story. Gale straightforwardly answered Katniss' doubt about the arena. He also exactly expressed his attention by making Katniss to be calm through his utterance "There's almost always some wood."

### ***Male's Linguistic Features***

Male's Linguistic Features become really significant in this present study due to the fact that even though Katniss is a woman based on her sex, her Linguistic Features indeed follow Men's Linguistic Features. From the data taken in figure 1, Katniss's utterances truly represent Men's Linguistic Features rather than her own sex as a woman. The amount of her Male's Linguistic Features are much higher than Women's Linguistic Features. It reaches 66% or 45 times of the total amount of the data. Several Men's Linguistic Features used by Katniss are obviously elaborated below.

#### **1) Considering progressive forms**

With 29% of the percentage, this feature is the second highest frequency among Men's Linguistic Features. This case also influences the amount of Men's Linguistic Features used by Katniss a lot. One of the examples of this feature is presented below.

## Data 5

“Not if you glare at them the entire time. Why don’t you save that for the arena? Instead, think of yourself among friends,” says Effie.

“They’re betting on how long I’ll live!” I burst out. “They’re not my friends!”  
(P.115/L.25)

Progressive forms occur when ‘be’ meets ‘V-ing’ form. This case linguistically happens when the speaker tells about what is happening at that time. The utterance “They’re betting” is classified as the progressive form because the event told is happening at that time. This case really occurred at that time. Some people in Capitol bet on how long Katniss would survive in the arena of The Hunger Games. Hence, Katniss was aware of this condition. She then depicted it on her utterance in the ‘progressive’ form.

Generally, men tend to use ‘progressive forms’ feature more frequently than women (Holmes, 1992:315). It means that men tend to be truly aware of the use of progressive forms in the utterances. On the contrary, women do not. Meanwhile, based on the data, Katniss is truly aware of the use of progressive form in her utterance.

### 2) Avoiding personal experiences and feelings

This men’s linguistic feature is produced in the few numbers of Katniss’ utterances. Considering the percentage, it is only 3% while the exact amount of this feature is just 2 utterances. Katniss’ avoidance of personal experiences and feelings can be seen in one of the examples below.

## Data 6

“Don’t be. We’re going to have a fabulous time,” he says, giving my cheek a reassuring pat.

“I’m not good at talking about myself,” I say.

“Nothing you say will be wrong,” he says. (P.359/L.23)

Data 6 is regarded as Katniss’ way to avoid talking about personal experiences and feelings. “I’m not good at talking about myself” becomes one of Katniss’ refusals to talk about her personal life. She intended to avoid this matter by saying that utterance. Katniss explained that she was not good at talking about herself. It implicitly means that she did not like to talk about her personal experience. This probably relates to her personal feelings. As a woman, Katniss likely applies this men’s linguistic feature because of several reasons, such as her family condition, her physical appearance, the condition of her district.

### 3) Having less filler

This feature reaches the highest frequency not only among men’s linguistic features but also among women’s linguistic features. This feature is almost the same number as the

amount of the entire Katniss' women's linguistic features. That is 22 times or 32%. Unlike women's linguistic features, fillers in men's linguistic features do not fulfill of any words. Men tend to let it be empty while they are thinking of something. Therefore, it sounds like the utterance already stops but the speaker seems to continue the utterance as portrayed in the example below.

#### **Data 7**

It's not much of a deal but still a giant step forward from ten minutes ago when we had no guide at all.

"Fine," says Peeta.

"So help us," I say. "When we get to the arena, what's the best strategy at the Cornucopia for someone —"

"One thing at a time. In a few minutes, we'll be pulling into the station. You'll be put in the hands of your stylists. You're not going to like what they do to you. But no matter what it is, don't resist," says Haymitch. (P.58/L.17-18)

Fillers tend to be fulfilled of several words which are actually meaningless. In this case, fillers are left to be blank. Data 7 shows how Katniss let the end of her utterance be empty. This case is linguistically categorized as less filler. It is due to the fact that there was not any word to complete Katniss's utterance.

Related to the story, the utterance was uttered when Katniss talked with Haymitch. When Katniss asked a question to Haymitch, she had not finished saying the question, she was still thinking to continue her utterance. But because she let her thinking time be empty, the interlocutor (Haymitch) thought that she had done with her utterance. Therefore, Haymitch directly answered Katniss' utterance. In this case, the interlocutor (Haymitch) answered the question because of several reasons. One of them was due to the fact that Haymitch could easily guess what Katniss means after the word "someone". He then did not need to wait for Katniss to continue her utterance till the end. Another reason was due to the fact that Haymitch probably thought that Katniss already finished her utterance. He then gave feedback as what the interlocutor did after the speaker said her utterance.

In conclusion, less filler feature signified that Katniss still had not finished her speaking. The interlocutor might think that Katniss already finished her speaking. Besides, the interlocutor probably also could directly guess what Katniss was talking about without waiting for her to finish the talking.

#### **4) Speaking less**

There are only few numbers of this feature. 'Less of speaking' is only produced for once by Katniss. This means 1% of the percentage. The only utterance is exemplified below.

## Data 8

Like me. Since neither of us really has a group of friends, we seem to end up together a lot at school. Eating lunch, sitting next to each other at assemblies, partnering for sports activities. **We rarely talk, which suits us both just fine. (P.13/L.2)**

The above utterance implicitly illustrated that Katniss Everdeen liked to speak less. The utterance shows that Katniss speaks less to others. Furthermore, it also strengthened that she felt suitable to have friends who were similar to her. Madge, Katniss friend, was also less in speaking. They were just speaking or talking to each other when it was needed.

This example portrays that Katniss is actually rarely talks. Even though the utterance describes the close relation between Katniss and Madge, they were both are actually less in speaking. They did not like to talk much. Katniss was portrayed as an individual who did not like to talk. Her utterance 'which suits us both just fine' represented that Katniss and Madge were the same; they did not like to talk too much. This behavior then suits both of them as friend. All in all, data 8 shows that Katniss likes to speak a little. She just speaks when it is necessary. In addition, this case makes her be suitable to her friend who is similar to Katniss in the matter of speaking.

## 4.2 Discussions

The results of this present study imply that Katniss Everdeen more frequently follows men's stereotype characteristics rather than women's stereotype characteristics. Katniss' linguistic features indicate the various ways of how she produced her utterances. Generally, 'filler' plays substantial role in Katniss' utterances. Among some linguistic features obtained, Katniss forms her less filler more often than other linguistic features. Applying 'less filler' is one of linguistic features, which are more frequently used by man (Sandriani, 2012:81). In addition, the use of 'filler' is also found frequently in Katniss' utterances which is regarded as women's linguistic features. It can be deduced that Katniss's utterances seem to be partially unfinished. She has a preference to let her utterances be blank. Besides, she also inclines toward filling in the blank remarks with fillers.

Katniss rarely produced women's linguistic features. It is even fewer than her men's linguistic features. Among the nine Lakoff's linguistic features proposed, there are 4 features found whereas the other 5 features are not found at all. Moreover, those 4 features gained do not play big role in constructing Katniss' general linguistic features. For instance, 'precise color terms', 'hypercorrect grammar', 'superpolite forms' and 'avoidance of strong swear words' are not gained at all among Katniss' utterances because Katniss does not needed to talk about those cases. Meanwhile, Katniss is not at some cases in the entire story of Suzanne

Collins' *The Hunger games*. Thus, she does not apply those features at all. Another linguistic feature, 'emphatic stress' is also not found in Katniss' utterances or the description of the author about Katniss. Katniss does not need to emphasize her utterances anymore because she already implies the emphasis by using the other linguistic features whose function is similar, such as intensifiers and 'empty' adjectives. It can be implied that Katniss as a woman tends to break Lakoff's theory of women's linguistic features. This case occurs because Katniss does not need to apply some features. Hence, Lakoff's theory is applied as long as Katniss requires it.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Pan (2011:1) noted linguistic features as the features in language which are mostly based on phonology, vocabulary, grammar and conversational topics and styles. Lakoff in Holmes (1992:314) implied that women tend to have some features - lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, raising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Besides, there are also several male's linguistic forms - considering progressive forms, disregarding politeness form, producing many interruptions, discussing activities and things, avoiding personal experiences and feelings, having less filler, disregarding of hypercorrect grammar, being really confident in public, challenging norms of communication and speaking less.

The total amount of the entire data is 68 utterances. 23 utterances are regarded as women's linguistic features. It means 34%. 'Fillers' is adopted in 16 utterances or equal to 23%. Tag question is used for 4 times or 6%. Then, intensifiers are in the third level with 2 frequencies or equal to 3%. Besides, 'empty' adjectives are applied for once or 1%. Meanwhile, men's linguistic features are constructed for 45 times or 66%. 'Having less filler' is utilized for 22 times or equal to 32%. 'considering progressive forms' is adopted in 20 utterances or equivalent with 29%. 'avoiding personal experiences and fillers' is used for 2 frequencies or 3%. 'speaking less' is only 1 utterance or 1%.

Because this present study concentrates the analysis on both of women's and men's linguistic features, the future study is consequently required to enhance the investigation of linguistic features. Further research is truly suggested to specifically analyze one linguistic feature in order to create a very deep analysis of one linguistic feature. In another matter, more than one subject of the research is also recommended in order to compare each result of

the use of linguistic features. Also, the more numerous the subjects investigated, the more various the findings gained later.

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