

## **TRANSLATION LINGUISTICS UNITS OF WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES IN THE NOVEL PAPER TOWNS**

**Firda Ayu Kusuma<sup>1</sup>, M.R Nababan<sup>2</sup>, Djatmika<sup>3</sup>**

*firdaayu996@gmail.com*

**Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia**

### **ABSTRACT**

This study discusses translation linguistics units of women's language features in *The Novel Paper Towns* by John Green. This study aimed to (1) analysis linguistic units of women's language features in the novel *Paper Towns*, (2) analyzing the translation technique in the women's language features used in the novel *Paper Towns* by John Green. This method of the study is descriptive qualitative. The linguistics data obtained from document and translation data obtained from FGD (Focus Group Discussion). The theory used to analyze women's language features is the theory by Lakoff (2004) namely, lexical hedges/filler, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, precise color terms, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. From ten languages of women, the researcher found six features used by female characters in the *Novel Paper Towns*. The result of the analysis shows that there are 127 data of women's language features found in the novel. It consists of lexical hedges 47 data (37%), empty adjective 3 data (2%), tag question 3 data (2%), super polite form 6 data (5%), avoidance of strong swearing words 14 data (11 %), intensifier 54 data (46%). Meanwhile, there are 7 techniques applied in translating the women's language features in the novel. There are borrowing, discursive creation, established equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, modulation, deletion. The most translation technique is established equivalent.

**Keywords:** *Women's language features, Female Characters, Translation Technique*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The translation is process of transforming message from a language to another language with equivalent meaning. Nababan (2008) explains translating is process of transferring message from source language to target text with grammatical and structure target text. In translating, the result of translating is very important. It can helps the reader understood by the reader. The translating is not just translating words, but also considering context, situation, and culture.

In translating, the translator use translation technique to translating a language to another language. By the translation technique that can helps translator to produce good product of translation product. Molina & Albir (2002) explains translation technique as procedure analyze and classified how translation equivalent work. Molina & Albir (2002) divide translation technique into 18 techniques. Those are variation, transposition, substitution, reduction, literal translation, borrowing, particularization, establish equivalent, discursive creation, modulation, linguistic compression, compensation, calque, generalization, description, linguistic amplification, amplification, and adaptation.

Language used by men and women have different characteristic. One of linguistics branch, sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is the study of relationship language and gender. Lakoff in her book *Language and Women's Place* (1975) explains men used to assertive, to

the point. On the hands, women used to polite. Holmes (2013:166) explains that women used standard language than men. Lakoff (2004) explains that there are ten types of women's language features consist lexical hedges/filler, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, precise color terms, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

The differences language used by men and women in literatures. One of literatures is a novel. The novel is a genre of fiction, and fiction may be defined as the art or craft of contriving, through the written word, representations of human life that instructor divert or both. Novel can be from other countries, within different languages are used in the novel. Some novels from abroad have been translated into Indonesian (Helmie, 2018). One of the novel is Paper Towns by John Green, had been translated into Indonesian.

The study about women's language features there are been researchers to analyze it. Such a study from (Oktapiani, 2017; Rahmawati, 2019; Priska, 2020; Septiari, 2022; Anjani, 2019) those study focused on women's language features used by women's characters in the movie. The other study from (Muslah, 2019; Putra, 2019; Wati, 2021; Wiprayanti, 2022; Pade, 2022) focused on comparing language used by women and men in the characters of the movie. The previous studies have not analyze about translation technique by Molina & Albir (2002).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher has gap to analyze women's language features used by women characters, analyze the translation technique in women's language features. This study focused on women's language features used by women characters in the Novel Paper Towns by John Green using the theory of Lakoff (2004) and translation technique by Molina & Albir (2002).

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

This study is qualitative descriptive method with sociolinguistics and translation approach. Qualitative descriptive using to explaining the data by words and sentences. Based on Meleong (2011) explains that the proposed of qualitative study is to explain the phenomena about subject of the study, such as, motivation, behavior, perception, holistically and in a way of description in the form of words and language.

### **Data Source & Data**

Researcher will collect the data and analyze the data obtained from the novel. The data studied are the translation technique of women's language features used by women characters in the novel entitled "Paper Towns" by John Green and it translated into Indonesia.

The study used primary data, it a linguistic data and translation data. The linguistic data is the source data text that contain women's language features in the novel, meanwhile the translation data is target text that contain women's language features in the novel. The data source in this study from document and informant or rater. The document is taken from the Novel Paper Towns and the informant is three raters including researcher. The three raters do FGD (Focus Group Discussion) to discuss the translation technique from source text to target text in the novel Paper Towns.

### **The Validity Data**

The validity data used triangulation data and triangulation method. The triangulation of data used 2 kind of data, document and raters. Document from the novel entitled "Paper Towns" by John Green and raters who discussing about technique of

translation.

Meanwhile triangulation method is how to collect data. This research used 2 method to collect data such as document analysis, and focus group discussion (FGD).

### **The Analysis Data**

Then the data analysis technique uses domain analysis, taxonomy analysis, componential analysis and cultural analysis.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

There are two types of data examined in this study. First is linguistic data and the second is translation data. The linguistic data in this study is the women's language features used by women's characters, while the translation data is the translation technique of women's language features. The data were obtained from the novel entitled "Paper Towns" and it translated into Indonesia. The results of the research and discussion will be presented as follows.

### **1. Women's Language Features**

There are 127 linguistic data obtained from this study in the novel entitled "Paper Towns". The data analyzed to find out what types of women' language features used by women's characters were found in the novel entitled "Paper Towns". The result of the data analysis are presented in the following table.

Table 1. The data of Women's language features

| <b>Women's Language Features</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Lexical Hedges / Fillers         | 47               | 37%               |
| Empty Adjective                  | 3                | 2%                |
| Tag Question                     | 3                | 2%                |
| Super Polite Form                | 6                | 5%                |
| Avoidance Of Strong Swear Words  | 14               | 11%               |
| Intensifier                      | 54               | 46%               |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>127</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

From the table above, it can be seen that of 10 types of women's language features described by Lakoff (2004), only 6 types of women's language features were found in the novel entitled "Paper Towns". Intensifier is the most widely used with 54 data. Then lexical hedges or fillers is the second most used which 47 data. Avoidance of strong swear words, there are 14 data. In super polite form there are 6 data. Then, empty adjective and tag question, each of it is 3 data. The description of each type women's language features as

follows.

### a. Lexical Hedges / Fillers

One of featured women talking proposed by Lakoff (2004: 79) is a lexical hedge. Hedging function is to indicate lack of confident, or doubt. There are some examples of hedges in women's language features such as, *you know, somewhat, like, sort of, I think, I guess, and it seems*. The following is an example of data showing the use of women's language feature used by woman character in the novel Paper Towns.

Margo : "I **think I maybe** know why,"

Quentin : "Why?"

Margo : "Maybe all the strings inside him broke,"

In the conversation above, Margo and Quentin riding bicycle around their neighborhood. They found that their neighbor, Mr. Joyner passed away under the oak tree. Margo try to find the cause why Mr. Joyner passed away. Margo does not the exactly, she just response what she assuming about the case. Margo used lexical hedges **think**, in her utterance, then she used **maybe** to express her uncertainty that she is not sure about how her neighbor passed away under oak tree.

### b. Empty Adjective

Based on Lakoff (1973) women have different views of express their feeling towards someone or something in particular situation. There are some words such as *cute, adorable, charming*, and etc. The following is an example of data showing the use of women's language feature used by woman character in the novel Paper Towns.

Ben : I've said it before and I'll say it again: I wasn't thinking about none of y'all. I.

Wanted. To. Save. My. Ass.

Lacey: You liar. You heroic, **adorable** liar.

In the conversation above, Ben, Lacey, Radar, Angela, Quentin, try to find out Margo, who missing few days. Quentin had a clue that Margo goes to Angelo. In a way to Angelo they almost had an accident because a cow suddenly show up in the street. They talking about the accident, then Ben said that he will thinking about himself than save other friend. Lacey said **adorable**, as her express to Ben. She know that Ben is liar, he will save his friends no matter what.

### c. Tag Question

Lakoff (1975) states that tag question, the usefulness and syntax form, in English, is among definite statement and question yes or no. Lakoff said that asking a question is the best example of insecurity and doubt women. The following is an example of data showing the use of women's language feature used by woman character in the novel Paper Towns.

Cassie : This party is so great, **isn't it?**

Quentin: Yeah

In the conversation above, when Quentin comes to Lacey's party. He meet Cassie, his friend who also comes to the party. Cassie and Quentin have a conversation. Then, Cassie make a statement *this party is so great, isn't it?* Because she believe with her opinion that her statement would be trusted.

#### d. Super Polite Form

Lakoff (1975) states that a request may be in the same sense a polite command, in that it does not overtly require obedience, but rather suggests something be done as a favor to the speaker.

Women prefer to use polite language than men. The following is an example of data showing the use of women's language feature used by woman character in the novel Paper Towns.

Margo: **Would you please** hand me the last fish?

The conversation above, Margo and Quentin come to Lacey, to revenge because she know that Margo's ex-boyfriend has been cheating on her, but Lacey does not tell Margo about it, even they are best friend. Margo ask Quentin to help her. They put fish in Lacey room, and her black SUV. Margo used sentences *would you please hand me the last fish?* as a form of request to Quentin to give her the fish. Super polite form that reflect to women's language features.

#### e. Avoidance Of Strong Swear Words

Swearing is kinds of interjection that can express extreme intensify. It has been widely considered as an expression of very strong emotion. Women usually use softer forms such us *Oh, Dear!* or *Darn!* while the men use stronger ones such as "*Dammit!*" or "*Shit!*"

Quentin: We're not friends. We're neighbors.

Margo : **Oh, Christ**, Q. Am I not nice to you? Do I not order my various and sundry minions to be kind to you at school?

The conversation above, Margo come to Quentin's room in the night. She ask him to lend his mother's minivan. Quentin not letting her to lend minivan, but Margo try to make sure that they are been friend for long time, but Quentin denied it. Margo used utterance *Oh, Christ*, to express her emotion.

#### f. Intensifier

According to Lakoff's theory (2004: 48), using an intensifier is a way to back down from a commitment to an opinion, more like a tag question. If women use hedges to express uncertainty about their own opinions, the use of amplifiers in women's conversations is to persuade their recipients to take them seriously and to reinforce the meaning of their utterances.

Margo: The thing is they don't even **really** care; they just feel like my exploits make them look bad. Just now, do you know

what he said? He said, 'I don't care if you screw up your life, but don't embarrass us in front of the Jacobsens—

they're our friends.

The conversation above, Margo got argue with Quentin. They argue about several friend at school and Margo's plan to revenge of some friend who hurting her. Margo used utterance *really* to express that what she said is serious, to make other believe her.

## 2. Translation Technique of Women's Language Features

There are 127 data on translation technique obtained from women's language features used by women characters in the novel entitled "Paper Towns". From 18 techniques described by Molina & Albir (2002), it was found that only 7 techniques were used by translator to translate women's language features in the novel entitled "Paper Towns". The results of data are presented in the following table.

Table 2. The Data of Translation Technique of Women's Language Features

| Translation Technique    | Total      | Percentage  |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Borrowing                | 2          | 2%          |
| Discursive Creation      | 2          | 2%          |
| Establish Equivalence    | 90         | 71%         |
| Generalization           | 3          | 2%          |
| Linguistic Amplification | 2          | 2%          |
| Modulation               | 12         | 9%          |
| Deletion                 | 16         | 13%         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>127</b> | <b>100%</b> |

From the table above, it can be seen that establish equivalence technique is the most widely used translation technique by translators, which is 71%. The followed by deletion technique as much as 13%, modulation as much as 9%, then generalization as much as 2%, then borrowing, discursive creation, and linguistic amplification as much as 2%. The description of each translation technique found in this study as follows.

### a. Borrowing

Borrowing is translation technique that uses terms from the source language to convey message in the target language. The following is an example of data showing the use of borrowing technique in women's language features used by women characters in the novel

"Paper Towns".

Margo: "**Yeah, well**, Chuck does as he's told, I guess.  
Probably trying to find out for Jase who knew."

Quentin: "Jesus, why would he hook up with Becca?"

Mago; "Yeah, well, Chuck hanya melakukan apa yang disuruh, kurasa. Barangkali mencoba mencari tahu untuk Jase siapa yang tahu."

Quentin: "Astaga, kenapa dia mau-maunya bermesraan dengan Becca?"

From the data above, it can be seen that the translator used borrowing technique to translate utterance 'yeah, well' from source language to target text with same utterance.

### **b. Discursive Creation**

Discursive creation is to establish a temporary equivalent that is totally unpredictable out of context. The following is an example of data showing the use of discursive creation technique in women's language features used by women characters in the novel "Paper Towns".

Margo: "It's **kind of** cool and everything, but there's nothing much to see. The rides aren't working.

Margo: "Me- mangseru, tapi tidak banyak yang bisa dilihat. Wahananya tidak ada yang hidup.

From the data above, it can be seen that the translator used discursive creation to translate utterance "kind of" from source language into target language "Me- mangseru".

### **c. Established Equivalence**

Established equivalence is a translation technique that uses that commonly used in the target language or expression recognized as an equivalence in target language. The following is an example of data showing the use of established equivalence technique in women's language features used by women characters in the novel "Paper Towns".

Quentin: "Interesting capitalization," I said.

Margo : "Yeah. I'm a big believer in random capitalization. The rules of capitalization are **so** unfair to words in the middle."

Quentin: "Pemakaian huruf kapital yang menarik," komentarku. Margo : "Yeah. Aku penganut fanatik pemakaian acak huruf kapital. Aturan pemakaian huruf kapital **sangat** tidak adil bagi kata-kata yang terletak di tengah kalimat."

In the data above, it can be seen that the translation for the utterance "so unfair" in the source language is "sangat tidak adil". The word "so" as well as intensifier that translated "sangat", then "unfair" translated 'tidak adil'. It can be concluded that the translator uses establish equivalent technique to translate the utterance.

### **d. Generalization**

Generalization is a technique used of a more general or natural term. This technique usually happens if there is no expression that has the same meaning with the source language. The following is an example of data showing the use of generalization technique in women's language features used by women characters in the novel "Paper Towns".

Cassie : "Everyone says you're **cuter**, but I like Ben,"

Quentin: "Okay,"

Cassie: "Semua orang bilang **lebih cakep**, tapi aku suka Ben," Quentin: "Oke,"

In the data above, it can be seen that the translation for the utterance “cuter” into target language ‘lebih cakep’. The translation used generalization technique it depends on context of the source language. ‘Cuter’ used by writer means to admire how handsome Quentin. The translation used general translation with same meaning in the target language.

#### **e. Linguistic Amplification**

Linguistic amplification is the addition of linguistic elements. The following is an example of data showing the use of linguistic amplification technique in women’s language features used by women characters in the novel “Paper Towns”.

Margo: You can’t just shut up and calm down and stop being **so goddamned terrified** of every little adventure?”

Margo: Kau tidak bisa tutup mulut dan tenang sedikit dan berhenti **ketakutan setengah mati** setiap kali menghadapi petualangan kecil?”

In the data above, it can be seen that the translation for utterance “goddamned terrified” into target language “ketakutan setengah mati”. The translator used linguistic amplification to addition the utterance from the source language “so goddamned terrified”

#### **f. Modulation**

Modulation is a shift in cognitive categories. In here, the translator changes the point of view and focus or cognitive category related to the source language. The following is an example of data showing the use of modulation technique in women’s language features used by women characters in the novel “Paper Towns”.

Mrs. Spiegelman: “**Well,**” “it seems that Margo has run away. Again. This would be—what is it, Josh, the

fourth time?”

Mrs. Spiegelman: ”**Yah,**” katanya. ”sepertinya Margo melarikan diri. Lagi.” Dia mendesah. ”Inisudah ke—berapa,

Josh, empat kalinya?”

In the data above, it can be seen that the translation for utterance “well” translate into target language “yah”. The translator used modulation technique to translate that utterance into target language.

#### **g. Deletion**

Deletion is similar with reduction. Both of these techniques require reducing some information. The following is an example of data showing the use of deletion technique in women’s language features used by women characters in the novel “Paper Towns”.

Margo: Yeah, I know. There’s school tomorrow and the day after that, and thinking about that **too** long could make a girl bonkers.

Margo: Yeah, aku tahu,” jawab Margo. ”Besok tidak libur begitu juga se- hari setelahnya, dan memikirkan itu **lama-lama** membuat

seorang cewekjadisinting.

In the data above, it can be seen that the translation for utterance “too long” translated into “lama-lama”. The word “too” had been deleting. It makes the translation not accurate, because there is some message delete.

## CONCLUSION

From the study above, it can be seen that intensifier one of women’s language features types most widely used by women’s character in the novel “Paper Towns” by John Green. For translation technique most widely used established equivalent. The translator used establish equivalent because the translator tries to translate from the source language to target language accurately. Deletion the second used of translation technique, this technique make the translation to target language not accurate, because some message from the source text is deleting. The third is modulation used by the translation, then, generalization used by the translation because the translation try to find out the close meaning to the target language. The last are borrowing, discursive creation and amplification linguistic in the same frequency the used by translator to translate into the target language.

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