

# 16a women's language features

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**Submission date:** 30-Jun-2020 05:15PM (UTC+0700)

**Submission ID:** 1351738516

**File name:** 16a\_women\_s\_language\_features.pdf (273.43K)

**Word count:** 4027

**Character count:** 20398



## WOMEN LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY FEMALE JUDGES AND FEMALE CONTESTANTS IN AUSTRALIA'S THE NEXT TOP MODEL SESSION 10: CORPUS DRIVEN APPROACH

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**How to Cite:** Fonna, M., Mursalin, & Muhammad, I. (2018). Title of article. *International Journal for Educational and Vocational Studies*, 1(1), 1-6. doi:

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 28 April 2020  
 Revised: 20 May 2020  
 Accepted: 25 May 2020

### KEYWORDS

Gender  
 Language Feature  
 Women's language feature  
 Power and solidarity

### ABSTRACT

This study was intended to describe women linguistic features used by female in different role, in this case is between female judges and female contestants in a television show, In *Australia's The Next Top Model Session 10*, which show power and solidarity. The aims of this study are to find out what linguistic features of women used by female judges and female contestants in a competition show and to determine which role is more powerful and show more solidarity. It is shown that the female judges and the female contestants In *Australia's the Next Top Model Session 10* from episode 1 to 10 are on the two first features which are put on the most rank of used. Those features are lexical hedges and Intensifiers which have the highest frequency used of the female judges and the female contestants. And the other result that the elements of women's language features influence the context found in *Australia's the Next Top Model Session 10* are Lexical Hedges or Filler, Empty Adjectives, Intensifiers, Avoidance of Strong Swear Word, Softening Remark and Acceptable Reason, Tag Question, and Super Polite For. The use of these language features depend on the context that is influenced by power and solidarity, dominant and inequality of the status uttered by the speaker of the female judges and the contestants. And then, total Women's language features used by the female judges 162 while total Women's language features used by Female contestants 327.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Men and women are equal in many aspects, but different in some aspects. They are equal, for instance, because they have a right for an equal opportunity in education. However, the fact that men and women are physically different cannot be argued. It is believed that men are physically stronger than women.

There have been several numbers of researchers interested in the differences between men and women. One of the aspects is language they use. Coates (2004) said that several studies have indicated men and women are divided

in their language used and their behavior. Women and men are different in the way they are delivering their speech and the words that they use. Some of their words are considered women language. Then, the intonation which they use is also different such as expressing their happiness or sadness.

There are nine women linguistic features. Lakoff (2004) said that

"They are lexical hedges or empty filler, tag question, rising intonation, the use of figurative adjective, precise color term, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super polite

form, and avoidance of strong swear words". These linguistic features tend to be used by women. We can see in the features of hypercorrect and superpolite that women need in perfection of language to support their social status.

This study examines women linguistic features used in a television show which provides natural setting as it contains in daily conversation. Hence, the linguistic features that will be analyzed can be recognized from the utterances of the female judges and female contestants. These are the examples of the utterances of female judges and female contestants in Australian the Next Top Model.

Session 10 Episode 1:

Aleena: I *think* we have too many phone books in the world and I *think* that we need to stop printing them

Megan: Alexandria I really like your collection (.) it looks very young (.) it looks very hip (.) it looks very now.

The examples above show that female judges and female contestants have different style of speech. The female judge who has superior position is more powerful to express her opinion. She boosted her statement by using 'very' frequently which represents her sureness. While the female contestant, as subordinate, seems hesitant and doubtful in delivering their opinion. It can be seen from the occurrence of 'I think' twice. The way of female contestant's speaking can be considered as powerless language. Therefore, this reality show seems to be appropriate to be analyzed due to the fact that in conversation above.

Furthermore, there are some studies which are relate to this study. The 6<sup>st</sup> study was conducted by Hedenmalm (2012) conducted a study of male and female language 6 Walt Disney movies. This study paid attention to interruptions, commands, insults, oppositions, politeness, compliments, insecurity, empty adjectives, intensifiers, and female exclamations (Hedenmalm, 2012). The next researcher is Savitri (2012). She research about women linguistic features proposed by Lakoff in Legally Blonde I (Savitri, 2012). The result of this study showed that nine women linguistic features were found in the movie except precise co<sup>4</sup> term. The last is Pebrianti (2013). She wrote a study of women's language features used by Indonesian female blogger in Blogspot (Pebrianti, 2013). The findings of this study were the absence of rising intonation on declarative and the most frequent feature used was intensifiers. The previous researchers conducted research in movies and social media.

However, none of them took reality show as the object of the study, especially competition show. In addition, none of previous researchers conduct a study of women linguistic features used by female in different role, in this case is between judges and contestants, which show power and solidarity. The aims of this study are to find out what linguistic features of women used by female judges and

female contestants in a competition show and to determine which role is more powerful and show more solidarity. Therefore, the writer conducted a study of a competition reality show since it is a television show which has been ruled but unscripted so that the talents can improve their utterances as long as it is not out of the context or the rules and still appropriate to be aired. The utterances of female judges and female contestants are expected to be different since the judges have more power to give challenges to the contestants and to determine which contestant that will be the winner.

This phenomenon assumes that although many studies have taken into account gender stereotypes in reality show, few have supported their arguments empirically. This study will attempt to examine the existence of this gender stereotyped phenomenon through female contestant and female judge's language using linguistic corpuses that depend on empirical data.

Based on the phenomenon stated in the background of the study, the following are the research problem to be analyzed in this thesis:

1. How are women's language features used by female judges and the Top Two female contestants in Australian the Next Top Model?
2. How do elements of women's language features influence the context in Australian the Next Top Model?

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Research Design

In this study, qualitative research is used as a conceptual umbrella that helps the writer to describe the human elements on particular topics (Given, 2008). In particular, the writer uses the transcription texts as a data source. This study uses qualitative approach in order to identify women linguistic features uttered by female judges and female contestants in Australian the Next Top Model Session 10. It is strengthened by Given (2008) states that for the qualitative researcher, the term data most often is associated with words (Given, 2008, p. 190).

### 2.2 Subject and Setting of the Study

The source of data of this study was taken from the transcript of utterances of female judges and female contestants in Australian the Next Top Model Session 10. The subject of the data is the female judges and the two top models of female contestants, while the speech of the judges and the two top models of female contestants in judging time are to be the object of the data. The samples of the data are 10 randomly chosen episodes of Australian's Next Top Model which were broadcasted in television or streaming via internet on August, 2, 2018 until December, 31, 2018. Each episode of Australian's Next Top Model had two kinds of activities of modeling backstage and on stage,

so 10 activities of modeling obtained by the writer to become her main data of analysis.

### 2.3 Data Collection Techniques

There were four steps that were used in collecting the data. First, the writer recorded the ten chosen episodes of *Australian's Next Top Model* program. Second, the writer saved the files (the ten randomly chosen episodes of *Australian's Next Top Model* program) into the USB disk. Third, the writer converted the data of video into WAV format. Hence, the format of video had been changed from MP4 into WAV format. The videos were converted into WAV format by using *Free Video to MP3 Converter*. It enabled the writer listen the data in any places with ease. Last, the writer transcribed the collected data orthographically.

### 2.4 Statistical Data Analysis

The first part focuses on the women linguistic features used by female judges. The next part presents the women linguistic features used by female contestants. In the second part, the interpretation of the results is presented as well as the comparison of women linguistic features used

#### 3.1.1 Women Linguistic Features Used by Female Judges

No	Women Linguistic Features	Total Number
1.	Lexical Hedges or Filler	55
2.	Empty Adjectives	29
3.	Intensifiers	30

As we can see in Table 3.1.1, the most frequently used women linguistic features is the lexical hedges or fillers which were used for 55 times by the female judges. The use of lexical hedges or Filler signals that the speakers lack of confidence in expressing their opinion. Hedging devices explicitly signal lack of confidence Lakoff (cited in Holmes, 1992). Basically the function of hedging is to show a doubt or a confidence of what has been said. Here are two examples lexical hedges used by the female judges:

So I don't know I **think** you've got a lot of potential but I **think** you need to stop **looking like** she's about to pass out because I can see it in this photo. (Episode 1)

Uh I **think** my whole thing is to you guys and all the self-doubt know how to look like we're so boring you can't have that body image in your head we're gonna put enough. okay that's really seriously I want young girls to look up of the rule if they don't think they're good enough then I'm clearly not you know I **mean** don't ever let that shine across and you can just stand up and be empowering to women every girl can be amazing and wonderful and beautiful in any body shape they are okay you're all beautiful neurons worth it capisci I'll see you out there. (Episode 2)

by female judges and female contestants in *the Australian the Next Top Model Session 10*. The last part focuses on the elements that influences the used of women language features by the top two female contestants and the female judges in the *Australian the Next Top Model session 10* which reflect with the context based on the reality show itself.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Women's Language Features Used by Female Judges and The Top Two Female Contestants in *Australian the Next Top Model*.

#### 3.1.1 Women Linguistic Features Used by Female Judges

Based on the utterances used by Jennifer Hawkins and Megan Gale as the female judges in *Australian The Next Top Model Session 10*, there are seven women linguistic features which are found. The features found are avoidance of Lexical Hedges or Filler, Empty Adjectives, Intensifiers, Avoidance of strong Swear Word, Softening Remark and Acceptable Reason, Tag Question, and Super Polite Forms, while the absent features are emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar, and precise color term. The features found are shown in Table 3.1.1 which is arranged below:

4.	Avoidance Swear word	7
5.	Softening Remark and Acceptable Reason	29
6.	Tag Question	1
7.	Super Polite Forms	11

The first example was uttered by Megan Gale in Episode 1 as one of female judges in the first episode of *Australian the Next Top Model Session 10*. The use of **I think** which indicate as lexical hedges or filler signal that Megan Gale in spite of the fact that she lacked of confidence if the contestant. In this case, which indicates that the speaker weaken her assertion. Additionally, Megan Gale wanted to underline her personal opinion by saying **looking like**. The occurrences of those two hits indicate that Megan Gale is hesitant in making claim.

The second utterance in Episode 2 example of lexical hedges or filler used by female judges is found in the seventh episode. These words were delivered by Jennifer Hawkins when she was giving comment to the contestants with "**uh I think and I mean**". This condition shows that Jennifer Hawkins used filler which signals pause for the purpose of collecting her thought in order to continue her comment.

#### 3.1.2 Women Linguistic Features Used by Female Contestants

According to the data collected, there are five features found in the utterances of the female contestants in *Australia's Next Top Model*. Those features are lexical

hedges or fillers, empty adjectives, intensifiers, avoidance of strong swear words, and softening remark and acceptable reason. The full lists are available in the appendix. An extract of the list with some examples are shown in Table 3.1.2 which is also sorted based on the frequency of each feature.

**Table 3.1.2 Women Linguistic Features Used by Female Contestants**

Women Linguistic Features	Total Number
Lexical hedges or filler	89
Empty adjectives	34
Intensifiers	167
Avoidance of strong swear word	21
Softening remark and acceptable reason	22

As described in the table, the most commonly used by female contestants is intensifier as it occurs 164 times. Women usually use intensifiers such as *so*, *just*, *very*, and *quite* in order to strengthen and support their statement. The most prominent intensifier used by the female contestants are really which appears 128 times, so which appears 25 times, and very that are used for 6 times. Here are three examples of intensifier used by the female contestants:

The pressure is **really** on and I just **really** want to show the judges that I can do photo shoots and show them that I can be a challenge. (**episode 1**)

My team was Victoria and Jesse. I was kind of intimidated cuz they're **so much** older than me and they are really confident and just willing to try as hard as I can to be like them. (**episode 2**)

It's been the longest journey ever I work **so** hard to be here and I'm **so** proud of myself at how far I've come. I **really** think I can win this I think I can be Australia's Next Top Model. (**episode 10**)

The first example was uttered by Aleyna Fitz Gerald in the first episode. In this part, the contestant, including Aleyna, face the first runaway challenge. Aleyna and the others have to walk in front of a crowd of 400 people use clothes that designed by Alex Perry from Alex Perry's S/S16 collection. Since the first episode, Aleyna was showing her will by saying that she can do a photoshoot. When she was delivering her reason, she intensifier to emphasize her determination in the contest. In this event, she has a good self-confidence by saying, "*I just really want to show the judges that I can do photo shoots and show them that I can be a challenge*".

The second example was uttered by Sabine Jamieson in the second episode. The models competed in groups for a challenge in which they had to create a social media video for Colgate Optic White, with the best performer being

chosen as an ambassador for the brand. In this event, Sabine was grouped with Vitoria and Jessie which several years older than her. In this event, she showed a bit tense because of the age differences, she using intensifier "so much" to emphasize the age differences, seems that four and eight years, differences means so much for her and also because both Jessie and Vitoria confidence enough as a model. In spite of the differences of age, Sabine also uses intensifier to indicate that both Vitoria and Jessie are confidence.

The third example was uttered by Aleyna in the last episode of Australia Next Top Model season 10. In this event, two shot for a mock cover and their winning editorial spread to be published in the December issue of Elle Australia. The contestants left only Aleyna Fitz Gerald and Sabine Jamieson. In this last episode, Aleyna uses intensifier "so" in expressing her gratitude and her struggle to go so far by saying "I work **so** hard to be here and I'm **so** proud of myself at how far I've come". Aleyna also uses intensifier "really" in the phrase emphasize her expectation that she could win the contest by saying "I **really** think I can win this."

### 3.1.3 Elements of Women's Language Features Influence the Context in Australian the Next Top Model Session 10

**Table Elements of women's language features influence the context found In Australian the Next Top Model Session 10**

No	Women's language features	Female Judges	Female contestant
1	Lexical Hedges or Filler	55	89
2	Empty Adjectives	29	31
3	Intensifiers	30	167
4	Avoidance of Strong wear Word	7	20
5	Softening Remark and acceptable Reason	29	20
6	Tag Question	1	-
7	Super Polite Forms	11	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>162</b>	<b>327</b>

Hedging is the lack of confidence in expressing something (Lakoff R., 2004). It means that women are not sure or confused about what they say. Holmes (2008) stated that hedges can be divided to lexical hedges which include *perhaps*, *sort of*, *I think*, *well*, and fillers (categorized as pause filler) including meaningless particles such as *well*, *uh*, *ah*, *um*, etc. However, according to Lakoff (2004) women tend to use lexical hedges when their fear of seeming too masculine by being assertive and saying things directly are arising out. Thus, women were

mostly attempt to say uncertain phrases in order to keep their femininity. Lexical hedges such as *you know, well, kind of, and sort of* reduce the force of an utterance. Women use them to add tentativeness to statements. Therefore, it is believed that women use this feature as their protection in case they overstep their rights by making a certain statement (Lakoff, 2004).

Based on the result, it can be seen that the female contestants tend to use more lexical hedges than the female judges. The result found that there are 89 lexical hedges used by the female contestants while the female judges used 55 lexical hedges during the 10 episodes of the *Australian the Next Top Model*. The *Australian the Next*

*Top Model* is a reality show of beauty contest which is conducted by A&E Network which is held in Australia. There are two judges during the show and there is one contestant eliminated each episode. In examining the linguistic features between the female judges and the contestants, the speech between them are different according its function. The judges have a role to judge and give comment to each contestant. It is found that the female judges tend to have more dominance than the contestant since the lexical hedges found in the female judges utterances are lower than the contestants. It is happen when the judges are apparently having more power in delivering their comments.

#### 5 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the result and discussion in the previous chapter, it can be seen that the researcher has compared the women language features used by the female judges and the female contestants in *Australian the Next Top Model* Session 10. It is concluded in the research as follows:

It is shown that the female judges and the female contestants in *Australian the Next Top Model* Session 10 from episode 1 to 10 are on the two first features which are put on the most rank of used. Those features are lexical hedges and Intensifiers which have the highest frequency used of the female judges and the female contestants

Elements of women's language features influence the

context found in *Australian the Next Top Model* Session 10 are Lexical Hedges or Filler, Empty Adjectives, Intensifiers, Avoidance of Strong Swear Word, Softening Remark and Acceptable Reason, Tag Question, and Super Polite For. The use of these language features depend on the context that is influenced by power and solidarity, dominant and inequality of the status uttered by the speaker of the female judges and the contestants. And then, total Women's language features used by the female judges 162 while total Women's language features used by Female contestants 327.

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