

WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY FEMALE USERS ON TINDER PROFILE

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this study is to examine the women's language features used by female users on Tinder profile and analyze the function of the features. The data were analyzed using descriptive qualitative method. The findings found 6 lexical hedges or fillers, 1 tag question, 21 intensifiers, and 22 emphatic stress. These features serve as hedging and boosting devices. The emphatic stress is the most common because the female user emphasizes her statement ensuring other users pay attention and understand the statement on the profile.

Keywords: *Women's Language Features, Tinder Profile, Function of Women's Language Features*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental aspect of everyday life, utilized for communication in various social settings and activities. Language is used by everyone, but women often recognize their societal status through their language [1]

Women's language features are distinct language utilized by female speakers, distinguishing it from the use of language by gender. Women's language is present in both spoken and written communication. Dating apps, like Tinder, utilize social media as written communication, allowing users to create bio profiles to introduce themselves to potential matches. The female user profiles can be used to identify the women's language features on Tinder.

The function of the women's language features is classified into two categories: hedging and boosting devices. For hedging devices to reduce the force or impact an utterance or statement and boosting devices to boost, emphasis, and intensify the strength of an argument [1]

The aims of this study are to analyze women's language features used by female user on Tinder profiles proposed by Lakoff's (1947) women's language features and describes each features functions by Holmes (2013) theory of function on Lakoff's women's language features

METHODOLOGY

The method of this study is descriptive qualitative. This study employs a qualitative methodology to

analyze the language features and functions of women's Tinder profiles, utilizing this method for detailed description and interpretation. [5]

This study provides an in-depth analysis of the language features of female users' profiles on Tinder. The data was collected in June and July of 2023. The data is sourced from female Tinder users who provide an English description in their profiles. Data collection involves downloading Tinder app, creating profiles, selecting, analyzing women language features, and analyzing data from English written profiles.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Women's Language Features Used by Female Users in Tinder Profiles

In the finding, six lexical hedges or fillers, one tag question, twenty-one intensifiers, and twenty-two emphatic stress. The features that did not occur are precise color terms, super polite form, 'hypercorrect' grammar empty adjectives, and avoidance of strong swear words.

Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Hedges as linguistic devices used to communicate ambiguity or incapacity to offer total confidence regarding the veracity of statements. [2]

I don't know, gym friends **maybe**

The user uses lexical hedges to share her doubts about her Tinder intentions and preferences for another user, implying she's not entirely sure about finding a friend and going to the gym together.

Tag Question

Tag is a language feature that is used to imply doubt or lack of trust in the accuracy of a declarative statement and an interrogative query. [2]

I'm a deaf person so there's no need to feel sorry for me because God must have made me this way for a reason. everything happened for a reason, **right?**

The user uses tag question "right?" to seek agreement or opinion from other users. She used it because she is not entirely sure about her statement and needs agreement from other users. She used a tag question to make the other user to agree that God must have a reason for something to happen.

Intensifiers

Women use intensifying devices like so, real, and really, etc. to make their claims more credible and elicit attention from their audience. [1]

Loves alt indie psychedelic n psychological thriller **too** much! Also different hair different me ig?;

The user intensified in her statement to demonstrate her love for alt indie psychedelic and psychological thriller, urging other users to pay attention to her enthusiasm.

Emphatic Stress

Women use italics to emphasize their speech, highlighting their feminine qualities. This can be found in written text, italics, repeat, capital letters, longer letters, and quotations are used to strengthen meaning. [2]

I'm a tomboy girl so if u looking for princess is not me at **ALL** please, don't ghosting on me

The user uses emphatic stress in the sentence to emphasize her tomboy identity, stating that she is not a princess or feminine, but a tomboy girl, ensuring other users pay attention to her unique traits and preferences before forming a deeper connection.

Function of Women's Language Features Used by Female Users in Tinder Profiles

From the function of the features hedging devices and boosting devices are used by female users on Tinder profiles to reduce the impact of their statements, while intensifiers and emphatic stress are used to boost and emphasize their statements.

Hedging Device

Hedging device, is utilized to diminishing the force or impact of the statement, and reducing the strength of a claim. The features of hedging devices are lexical hedges and tag questions. Hedging devices are indicated as explicit indicators of a lack of confidence by the speaker. [1]

Lexical Hedges or Fillers

The user used lexical hedges *maybe* in her sentence. She adds a lexical hedge *maybe* at the end of her statement. This lexical hedge is used as a hedging device because she is expressing uncertainty and reducing the strength of her statement. She is uncertain about the user she is seeking and is considering if another user is interested in gyms and would be a good friend to exercise with.

Tag Question

She used tag question as a hedging device because she wants to weaken her assertion and turn it into a tag question and to seek agreement from the other user. She used a tag question to express her uncertainty and invites the other user to respond with her statement.

Boosting Devices

There are features that to boost, emphasize, and intensify the strength of an argument. The features of boosting devices are intensifiers and emphatic stress. These features are to convey the speaker's expression that the addressee may maintain an attitude of doubt, uncertainty; therefore, this leads the speaker to provide extra reassurance. So, women use these features to effectively persuade their addressee to take them with more seriousness because they believe that if they don't use these features their statement will not be heard, ignored, or paid attention to. [1]

Intensifiers

The user used intensifiers *too* in her sentence indicate that she is intensifying her statement. The intensifiers used for boosting devices is to strengthen her statement and encourage to the other user to pay attention to her statement, here is her enthusiasm for alternative indie psychedelic and psychological thriller.

Emphatic Stress

The user used capital letters as emphatic stress in her sentence. The emphatic stress *all* used for boosting devices, which is to emphasize or highlight the meaning of her statement. Emphatic stress, as a capital word used for boosting sentence is to get the attention of the other user so they can notice the important meaning of her statement.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The finding shows that female users on Tinder used four features of women's language features on their profiles: six *lexical hedges or fillers*, one *tag questions*, twenty-one *intensifiers*, and twenty-two *emphatic stress*. Five features of women's language features were not occurred: *precise color terms*, *empty adjectives*, *super polite form*, *hypercorrect grammar*, and *avoidance of strong swear words*. It can be concluded that the feature of *precise color terms* did not occur because this feature tends to be used by women when describing colors based on admiration for something, for example, talking about fashion, the arts, having long conversations with particular topics etc. The feature of an *empty adjective* did not occur because this feature tends to be used by women when admiring and appreciating something that conveys their emotions or feelings of the woman. The feature of *super polite form* did not occur because this feature tends to be use by women when on formal situation, while on Tinder, female users describe themselves in informal situations and with direct statements. For *hypercorrect grammar*, this feature related to super polite form, and it can be indicated that female users are aware of their grammar. Fir *avoidance of strong swear words*, this is used in situations where women may avoid using strong swear words, such as when discussing or writing about a certain issue, in social situations, with strangers, and so on. Furthermore, emphatic stress is the most dominant feature used because it is used to emphasize and strengthen the statement, to make the meaning of the statement stronger, and to make them pay attention when reading the profile.

The function of the women's language features, it is found that hedging and boosting devices. Hedging devices are used to diminishing the force or impact of the statement and to reduce the strength of their statement. The boosting devices are intensifiers and emphatic stress. These features are used by female

users on Tinder profiles to boost, emphasize, and intensify the strength of their statement.

The study reveals that female Tinder users use language features to emphasize their profiles, ensuring their statements are understood by other users. It can be concluded that a female user doesn't want to waste her time meeting or interacting with other user, which is not her criteria or her goal. She anticipates by emphasizing or intensifying her profile so other users will think before they want to get to know the female user.

In the future, it may be feasible to study women's language features using a different object. Beside the dating app, the other researchers can analyze women's language features on other social media. Other researchers can also analyze men's language features on Tinder profiles. Further analysis of written data, including books, movie scripts, and magazines, could provide a comprehensive understanding of nine features.

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