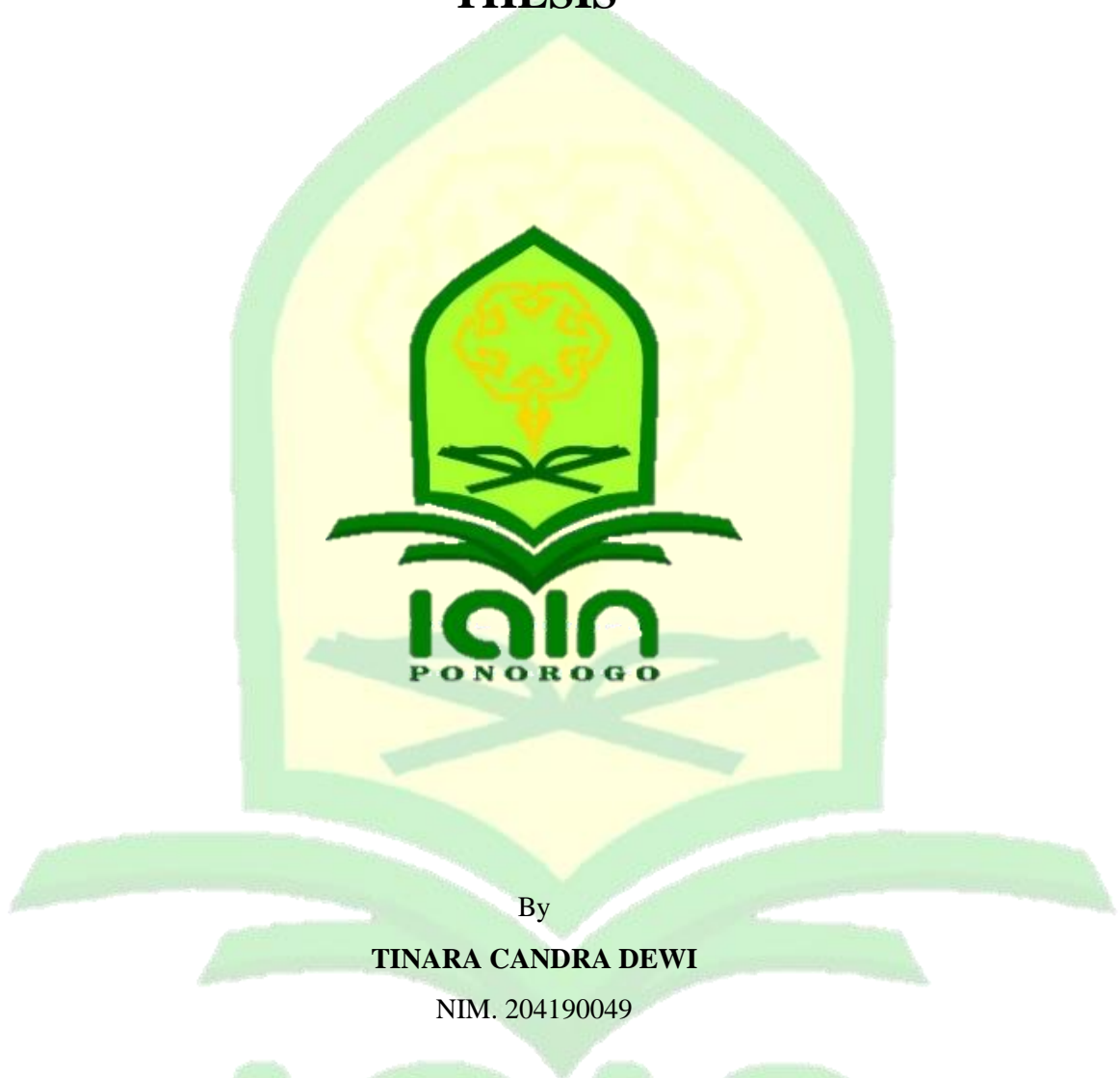


**AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEMALE
AND MALE IN A QUORA APPLICATION**

THESIS



By

TINARA CANDRA DEWI

NIM. 204190049

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF TARBIYAH AND TEACHER TRAINING
STATE ISLAMIC INSTITUTE OF PONOROGO**

2023

**AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEMALE
AND MALE IN A QUORA APPLICATION**

THESIS

**Presented to State Islamic Institute of Ponorogo
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of *Sarjana*
in English Language Teaching Departement**



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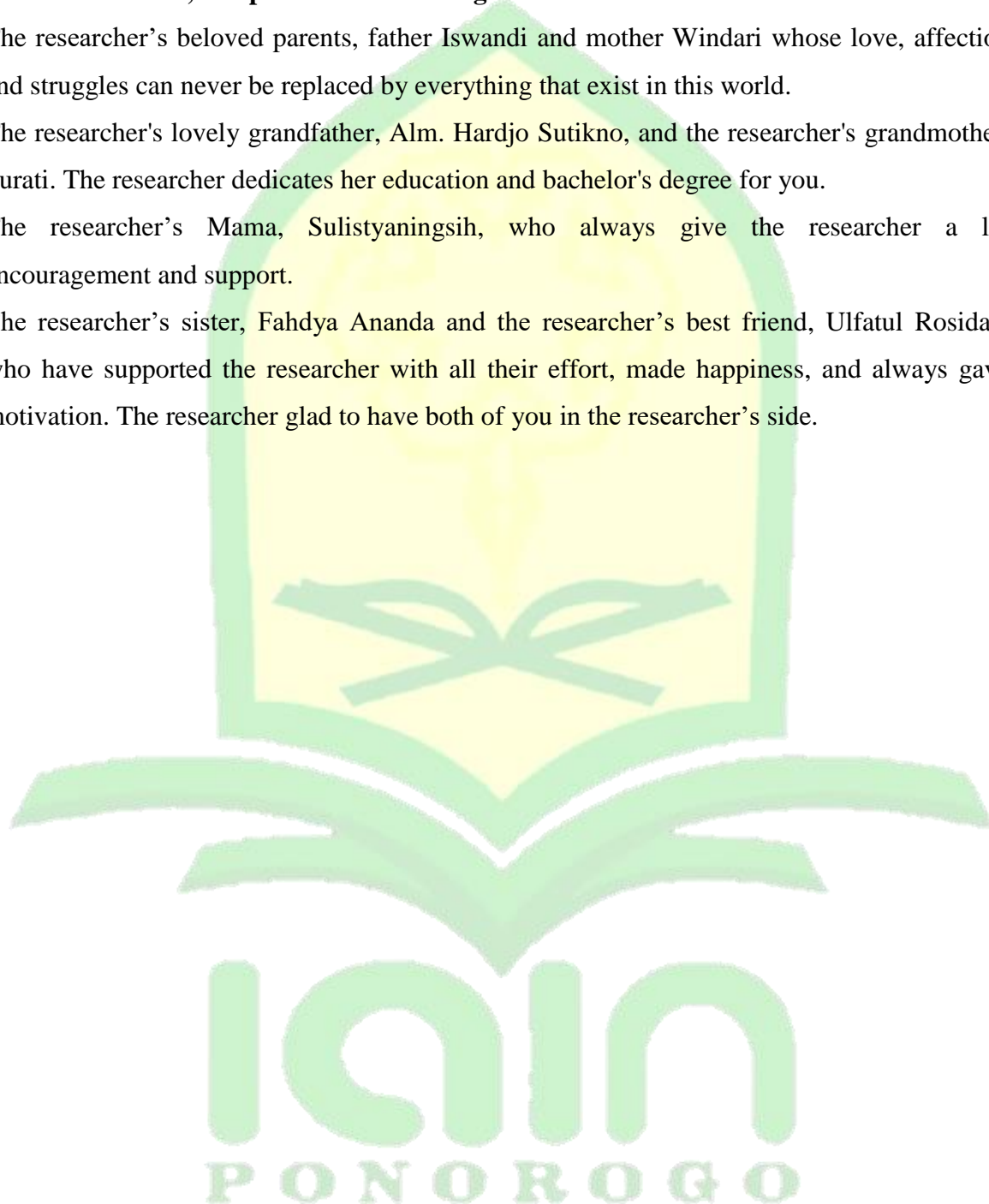
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Bismillahirrahmanirrahim...

Praise and gratitude are always offered to the presence of Allah SWT, who has bestowed all His love, compassion and blessings. The researcher dedicated this thesis to:

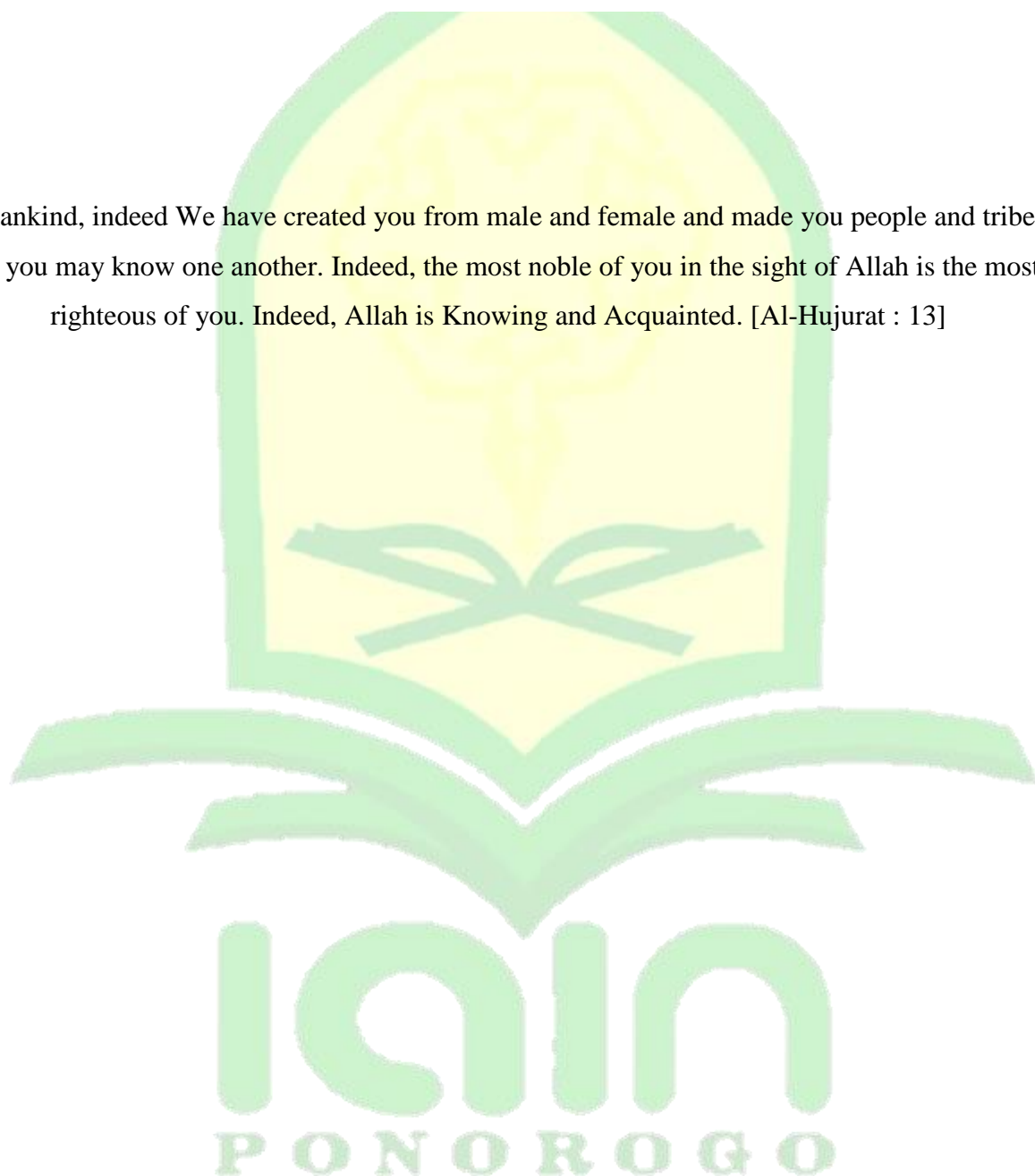
1. The researcher's beloved parents, father Iswandi and mother Windari whose love, affection and struggles can never be replaced by everything that exist in this world.
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MOTTO

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ¹

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you people and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted. [Al-Hujurat : 13]



¹Al-Qur'an, Surah Al-Hujurat : 13.

ABSTRACT

Dewi, Tinara Candra. 2023. *An Analysis of Language Differences between Female and Male in Quora Application*. Thesis. English Language Teaching Departement. Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, State Islamic Institute of Ponorogo. Advisor, Wiwin Widyawati, M.Hum.

Keywords : *Language Differences, Female, Male, Quora.*

Social media comes in many interconnected forms such as Facebook, Podcasts, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and many more. Gender orientation can affect preferences for language use in certain social media. Therefore, the emphasis of this research is on the differences in language use between female and male on social media, especially in Quora. Quora is a medium for collecting questions and answers on certain topics. This application allows users to participate in collaborating by voting or suggesting improvements to answers. Quora focuses on the general knowledge-sharing experience. Based on preliminary observations, this application contains many differences in the use of language between female and male. One of them is male users that use informal and brief sentences. Then, female users express themselves through their long-written posts.

This study investigates the language differences between female and male in Quora Application and to find out the factors that influence language differences between female and male in Quora Applications.

The research data was compiled using an ethnographic research approach with comparative analysis technique. This study used observation and documentary. The data sources were posts uploaded by Quora users in the "Skilled English Writing" forum during January 2023 that analyzed using theory of the linguistics feature according to Lakoff.

The finding of this research revealed that female and male had differences in the use of language on their social media posts. The first finding showed that there are language differences between female and male in the "Skilled English Writing" forum in Quora, namely Hedges, Boosters, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress. The language differences between female and male were seen in terms of the quantity and intensity of their use as well as the types of words they produce. The findings of this study indicate that more females use Hedges, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress than male users. The researcher discovered the strong point in each gender, that is, the strong point in female language is Grammar Correctness, while the strong point in male language is Boosters. This is due to the more cooperative female language which focuses on building the relationship between writer and addressee. Meanwhile, in male language is more dominant, expansive, or assertive in communication to show dominance in their posts. The second findings revealed that there are six factors that cause differences in the use of language between female and male are Gender and Social Status, Gender Roles in Society, Language Habits, Cultural Factor, Biological Factor, and Psychological Factor.

The value of this research is intended to enrich new knowledge about language differences and their categories and to add to the study of sociolinguistic studies, especially about types of language used by male and female. In addition, the results of this study are expected to be additional material for Sociolinguistics courses, especially the topic of language and gender. Then, the researcher also suggested the future researcher to conduct other linguistics research that is still related to the language used on gender.

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Ponorogo, May 8th, 2023
The researcher,



Tinara Candra Dewi
NIM. 204190049



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

One of the most fascinating areas of sociolinguistic studies has been the examination of how different languages are used, particularly among female and male. In the study of the interaction between language and society, the issue of differences in the language use characteristics between female and male in written language has emerged as a favorite topic. Humans use language to communicate, and language and gender are strongly intertwined. According to Wardhaugh, “Gender is a major component of identity,” gender is one of the variables in the occurrence of language differences. Gender is used to distinguish between the various ways and types of language that finally result in the terms male and female. This concept implies that men and women have different linguistic quirks. He claimed that men and women employed different language features. Men and women are naturally distinct, as well as socially diverse in life. Gender is determined by societal constructions that have nothing to do with biological characteristics, whereas sex is determined by an individual’s biological characteristics.¹

The difference in the use of language can also be seen in the way they write captions on their social media. Both males and females have different traits when discussing gender and their various linguistics. One of those traits has to do with communication skills. An example is that male and female pupils communicate differently when it comes to language characteristics. In actuality, the majority of users in Quora application are unaware of the unique characteristics of their language used. Writing styles vary between male and female users. Quora users which are male or female will have different language traits. Most of the time, people do not take this seriously because most users convey their words in their peer's

¹ Ronald Wardhaugh and Janet M. Fuller, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, 7th Edition (UK: Blackwell Publishing, 2015), 316.

native tongues. It is evident in the way they make interaction with one another. When users of different sexes converse their languages diverge.

Quora has been operating since 2010, the Indonesian version of Quora itself was only officially released in 2018.² Quora provides high-quality Q&A content. Because the content is produced from the collaboration and contributions of users who revise answers together. The way that people use the platform is what distinguishes Quora users. It is the sharing of knowledge that makes it so easy for individuals to adopt novel ideas and learn new things. The community welcomes and values thought leadership in this setting. Quora offers a highly active audience looking for solutions in addition to the ideal environment for thought leadership. People don't visit Quora to idly skim through answers. Every month, 300+ million users use Quora to plan, investigate, assess, get advice, and learn more about their surroundings, including the goods and services they provide. At Quora, we've worked incredibly hard over the years to truly establish a platform and system that's ideal for readers, writers, and information seekers in addition to the vast reach potential. On Quora, user-posted questions and answers are still helpful even many years after they were first published. A response that a user post that isn't "out of date" will still be read and helpful. They are read by readers who are interested in what they have to say because they follow the subjects they write about. Given that many Quora responses appear in Google searches and occasionally receive media attention, this may result in greater exposure.³

Within each forum in the Quora app has Admins and Contributors. The difference is that the admin is the person who has the highest authority in managing the space. They can change room settings, add or remove collaborators, approve or reject posts, edit or delete content, and send bulk messages to other collaborators. As admin they have good communication skills. The language used by the admins in the "English Skilled Writing"

²Andi Rahmadani and Syamsul Sodik, Pemanfaatan Media Sosial Quora untuk Pembelajaran Menulis Teks Eksplanasi untuk Siswa kelas XI, *Journal Bapala*, Volume 8, No. 04 (July, 2021), 223.

³ JD Prater, "How to Use Quora to Establish Thought Leadership and Credibility", (April 2, 2019), <https://komarketing.com/blog/how-to-use-quora-to-establish-thought-leadership-and-credibility/>.

forum is systematic and polite. Meanwhile, contributors are people who can add content to a space without approval from an admin or moderator. They can edit or delete their own content, but can't change room settings or manage other collaborators. They are free to voice or write their answers according to what they want to write. From the observation that the researcher did, there were differences in the language used by admins and contributors. The language used by admins is more systematic and polite, so that the opinions or answers they post are minimal to offend other users. Meanwhile, the language used by contributors is a language that is less systematic and some contain harsh words or sarcastic words that can offend other users.⁴

Interactions between Quora users then generate new knowledge that spans a variety of topics. Female and male use language in their unique way to convey ideas, points of view, or other variations.⁵ The researcher is interested in examining the differences in the language used between female and male on the Quora application. The way people try to convey their writing can be found when they write statuses on their social media accounts. Quora is a social media platform that uses a “question and answers” system among its users. Users can write questions or answers related to their interest in the desired topic. It focuses on the general knowledge-sharing experience. Therefore, the question-and-answer interactions that appear on this platform are always based on data, facts, and practical knowledge as sources of information.⁶ Thus, the Quora website is suitable for use in research on differences in language use between genders because it contains a lot of research-related information that can be used as material for making this research. As a social media that focuses on general

⁴ CODEin, “Apa perbedaan Admin dan Kontributor dalam sebuah ruang di Quora?”, (April, 2023), <https://id.quora.com/Apa-perbedaan-Admin-dan-Kontributor-dalam-sebuah-ruang-di-Quora>.

⁵ Intan P. S., et al., “Language Variations in Instagram Caption Gender Analysis with a Sociolinguistic Approach”, *Education and Humanities Research*, Vol. 509 (Bandung, 2020), 343.

⁶ Margaret Zimba, “Analysis of Students’ Perception of Good Mathematic Teachers and Teaching Using Informal Conversations from Twitter and Quora”, (Thesis, Copperbelt University, Zambia, 2019), 3.

knowledge, Quora has the potential to become a learning tool that can be used to hone students' cognitive abilities in terms of critical thinking.⁷

The use of different languages between male and female is formed because the use of language across genders has different characteristics. The gender difference has an impact on male's and female's linguistic variations, as well as the topics of their conversations. Female's and male's linguistic differences manifest themselves in a variety of ways. Several years ago, there was much discussion about this phenomenon. Female's speech has linguistic characteristics, according to American linguist Robin Lakoff. Hedges and Fillers, Questions Tag, Politeness Forms, Extend Color Words, Avoidance of Coarse Words, Rising Inflection, Adjective, Boosters, Emphasis Stress, and Grammar Correctness are among the ten language traits identified by Lakoff.⁸ Likewise, male also have linguistic characteristics in their speech. Male swear more than women. They are also more outspoken and to the point in talking about things.⁹ This made a written language difference in how female and male writing in online conversation. The data presented above demonstrate that gender and language use theory is a reality in contemporary culture. These instances also show that a language is a tool for generating and comprehending reality; it is not only a means of information transmission. Therefore, this study aims to see how language is used differently by male and female in the Quora application.

The researcher found the relevant previous study entitled "The Language Differences of Men and Women in the Film *Devil Using Prada*", by Tri Puspa Juwita, Dyah Sunggingwati, and Nita Maya Valiantien. The purpose of this study is to examine the variations between men's and women's language features as well as how consistently each gender uses them.¹⁰ The second study entitled, "The Differences between Men and Women

⁷ Andi Rahmadani and Syamsul Sodiq, op. cit., 221.

⁸ Janet Holmes, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics Fourth Edition* (New York: Routledge, 2013), 302-303.

⁹ *Ibid*, 247.

¹⁰ Tri Puspa Juwita, et al., "The Differences between Men and Women's Language in the *Devil Wears Prada* Movie", *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Januari, 2018), 43-52.

in Using Language: A Case Study of Students in Noda Kudus”, by Sri Wahyuningsih. This paper aims to investigate the specific use of male and female languages and conversations by STAIN Kudus students. These differences can be seen from several aspects, including vocabulary, attitudes, syntax, and nonverbal differences.¹¹

According to the summary above, the researcher is motivated to investigate linguistic variations according to Robin Lakoff's theory about female's and male's language characteristics, particularly for pupils in the Quora application, especially in the forum “Skilled English Writing”. In response to a query on the social media site Quora, how do female and male portray themselves in a post? The purpose of this study is not only to analyze the types of language characteristics utilized by female and male users in Quora but also the variables that contribute to the emergence of these variations in linguistics used by them. This research is created to better understand the disparities between female's and male's language usage when writing their posts for the social networking site Quora. So, the researcher conducts research with the title: **“An Analysis of Language Differences between Female and Male in a Quora Application”**.

B. Statement of the Problems

Based on background of the study, the formulation of the problems in this research are:

1. What are the language differences between female and male in a Quora Application?
2. What are the factors that influence language differences between female and male in a Quora Application?

C. Research Focus

The researcher analyzed posts on the social media namely Quora that represent differences in linguistic features between male and female users and what factors influence the differences in language use by using Robin Lakoff's theory of linguistic features in Sociolinguistics. The researcher focuses to exploring the differences between female and

¹¹Sri Wahyuningsih, “Men and Women Differences in Using Language: A Case Study of Students at Stain Kudus”, *Journal of English Education, Literature, and Culture*, Vol.3, No. 1 (February, 2018), 79-90.

male users in the use of linguistic features only those that found by the researcher in Quora Application.

D. Objectives of the Study

From the research questions, the objectives of this study are:

1. To investigate the language differences between female and male in a Quora Application.
2. To find out the factors that influence language differences between female and male in a Quora Application.

E. Significances of the Study

The study has many implications, not only for the researcher itself but for everyone who reads it and everyone who has any connection to it. The value or significance of this research can be divided into two categories: theoretical and practical value.

1. Conceptually

The benefits of this research are expected to be useful for the development of sociolinguistic studies. This research is intended to enrich new knowledge about language differences and their categories and to add to the study of sociolinguistic studies, especially about language used by males and females.

2. Practically

This research is expected to contribute both to students and lecturers of English Language Teaching Department at the State Islamic Institute of Ponorogo. It is hoped that they can find out how the language variations used by female and male in representing themselves on the Quora application. In addition, the results of this study are expected to be additional material for Sociolinguistics courses, especially the topic of language and gender. And for the future researchers, it is hoped that this research can be used as reference material for other researchers in further research on sociolinguistic studies.

F. Limit of Terms

In order to obtain the same understanding between the compiler and the reader, regarding the terms in the title of this thesis, it is necessary to limit terms. The term restrictions associated with the title of this thesis are as follows:

1. Female and Male Language: male and female have their language characters seen in terms of language styles or language features. The topics of conversation between female and male are also quite different. Male tend to talk about sports, politics, and technology, while female prefer to talk about their lives with their families, food, and lifestyle. Of course, differences in places, situations, and cultures will make a difference in the use of language.
2. Quora: it is a social media platform to collect questions and answers on certain topics and allows users to collaborate by voting or suggesting improvements to answers. This site provides a question-and-answer feature where questions are asked, answered, edited, and managed by a community of users focused on information and knowledge exchange.

G. Previous Research Findings

The researcher has reviewed prior studies and has prior research to support the current study. The following three earlier investigations are listed:

1. The first study with title, “The Differences between Men and Women’s Language in the Devil Wears Prada Movie”, by Tri Puspa Juwita, Dyah Sunggingwati, and Nita Maya Valiantien from Mulawarman University.¹² The purpose of this study is to examine the variations between men's and women's language features as well as how consistently each gender uses them. The hypothesis from Lakoff, cited by Holmes, concerning women's language, and that from Coates about the characteristics of men's language, were both used in this study. The qualitative methodology from Mack et al. was

¹² Tri Puspa Juwita, et al., “The Differences between Men and Women’s Language in the Devil Wears Prada Movie”, *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Januari, 2018), 43-52.

employed in the research design. Every conversation between the main and secondary characters provided the researcher with data.

The discussion between men's and women's characters served as the research's data source, and the researcher additionally used books and periodicals that were relevant to the study to assess the information. The descriptive approach is a data analysis tool. The research's first major conclusion was that neither the male nor female characters in *The Devil Wears Prada* used all of Coates and Lakoff's language elements. Second, the researcher discovered that the male and female characters occasionally did not consistently use their linguistic features. Four out of the six men's linguistic traits were exhibited by male characters in the film *The Devil Wears Prada*, according to the study. They were subjected to questions designed to elicit information, the use of vulgar language and other banned phrases, direct orders, and minimal responses.

Compliments and a topic centered on current events, travel, and sports were two traits that masculine characters did not employ. The female persona displayed seven out of ten language traits specific to women, according to the researcher. Lexical hedges or fillers, avoiding strong swear words, empty adjectives, intensifiers, tag inquiries, specific color phrases, and extremely polite forms were among them. The female character didn't speak with rising intonation on declarative, excessively precise grammar, or forceful stress. On the flip side, neither the male nor female characters in *The Devil Wears Prada* consistently used vocabulary specific to either gender. This is due to the speaker's surroundings at the time certain linguistic elements were used.

2. The second study with title, "Men and Women Differences in Using Language: A Case Study of Students at STAIN Kudus", by Sri Wahyuningsih from STAIN Kudus.¹³ This paper aims to investigate the specific use of male and female languages, and conversations by STAIN Kudus students. These differences can be seen from several

¹³ Sri Wahyuningsih, "Men and Women Differences in Using Language: A Case Study of Students at Stain Kudus", *Journal of English Education, Literature, and Culture*, Vol.3, No. 1 (February, 2018), 79-90.

aspects, including vocabulary, attitudes, syntax, and nonverbal differences. This research includes descriptive qualitative research which is simply in the form of descriptive analysis or interpretation. This is immediate or observable and it can be found that no treatment should be taken. Sources of data obtained from the conversations in the video were transcribed and analyzed to provide data that can be used to discuss this issue. The conversation involved three males and three females. After being transcribed, the video script was analyzed from the word, attitude, syntactic and non-verbal aspects.

The results showed that the language used by male and female students majoring in Syariah STAIN Kudus was different in several ways. These differences can be seen from differences in aspects such as vocabulary, attitudes, syntax, and nonverbal differences. In terms of vocabulary differences, women prefer to use more adjectives and words that are less used by men such as gentle, beautiful, kind, and so on. In non-verbal differences, women used more expressive gestures in speaking by moving their hands, face, and other body parts, while men used gestures less.

3. The third study entitled, "Language and Gender: A Conversation Analysis in the Difference of Language Related to Gender", by Elviza Yeni Putri from Stikes Syedza Saintika.¹⁴ The goal of this study is to analyze a variety of topics related to how men and women utilize language differently (conversation). These elements were: 1) The conversation's volume. B) Changing roles. This study will relate gender and linguistic theory to actual conversations. The disparities between the sexes are explained by several hypotheses. This study will aim to ascertain whether the ideas it contains overlap with a real speech by using it as its primary source of data. In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive methodology. Transcripts of talks that were recorded made up the study's data. The conversation was taped, and the talk bank website provided a

¹⁴ Elviza Yeni Putri, Language and Gender: A Conversation Analysis in the Difference Of Language Related to Gender", *Proceedings of the Fifth International Seminar on English Language and Teaching*, Vol. 5 (April, 2017), 21-26.

transcription of it. The researcher was an important tool in the data analysis procedure. Descriptive approaches are a method for data analysis. The results of the study show that women write fewer words than males do.

As a result, women talk less than men. In reality, a variety of things can affect how much someone talks. One of these factors is gender. Culture affects both genders. Their varied cultural traditions, of which this is just one example, teach them about appropriate and incorrect female discourse. In other words, the difference in speaking frequency between men and women is influenced by several factors, including gender. Women are more likely than men to choose their turns in conversation, but they are also more likely to choose the turns of others, according to this study. The man stands in the middle of both turn-taking arrangements. The interlocutors' interests and personalities likely are what have an impact on the turn-taking system.

4. The fourth study with title, “A Study on Gender and Language Differences in English and Arabic Written Texts”, by Hazim Alkrisheh, Feisal Aziez, and Taisir Alkhrisheh from the University of Pannonia.¹⁵ The study aims at investigating language use differences in Arabic and English written texts by native speakers of Arabic in the average sentence length, lexical density, and readability. It used Halliday’s framework about the functions of language to investigate gender differences. Halliday claimed that females’ writing style is, as he described, involved’ while males’ writing style is more informative. The females’ choice of linguistic patterns indicates their tendency to use more prestigious speech acts. Whereas men tend to put little emphasis on prestigious speech acts as a result of inaccurate self-evaluation responses.

This study is a cross-sectional descriptive study in which the participants' actions (writing an essay) were controlled only by the number of words. The design of the paper includes an observation (regarding writing habits) followed by a statistical analysis to

¹⁵ Hazim Alkrisheh, et al., A Study on Gender and Language Differences in English and Arabic Written Texts”, *Research and Innovation in Language Learning* Vol. 2(2), (May 2019), pp. 120-138.

examine the differences. The participants of this research were forty students (between 18 and 23 years old) from Mutah university in Jordan (N=40) whose native language is Arabic. All data were imported to SPSS for conducting the analysis. An Independent sample T-test was used to investigate the differences between Arabic and English, and between males and females. The findings revealed that while lexical density and readability varied significantly between Arabic and English, there was no discernible difference in the average sentence length between the two languages. This result indicates that the Arabic written texts are lexically richer yet more comprehensible. The different roles that both genders play in society determine their linguistic and behavioral choices. The males' use of nouns and numerals, for instance, might be related to their need to confirm their authorial identity. The females' use of pronouns and modifiers might be related to their need to maintain intimacy and relationship.

5. The fifth study with title, "The Different Language Use between Male and Female University Students", by Elia Simon from Widya Mandira Catholic University¹⁶. The following problem statements were addressed as part of this investigation. 1) What language differences exist between male and female third-semester university students? 2) Why do university students in their third semester, regardless of gender, use language differently? The first strategy in this study is through the literature, and its weakness is due to gender. This idea, which Robin Lakoff created in the early 1970s, sees women as language users who are at a disadvantage because their speech deviates from an implicitly masculine standard. This approach describes masculine language as being stronger, more prestigious, and more alluring and links linguistic distinctions between men and women to the dominance of men in society.

According to Wenjing, women frequently use words with exaggerated connotations, such as "beautiful," "lovely," "cute," "divine," "adorable," "darling,"

¹⁶ Elia Simon, "The Different Language Use between Male and Female University Students", *Journal of Language and Language Teaching*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (January, 2021), 13-18.

“precious,” “sweet,” and “charming,” among others. Men, on the other hand, tend to use simple terms like good, lovely, and so on to accentuate the effect. The study makes use of qualitative research, and the descriptive qualitative method is used in the data analysis. 13 male and 13 female students from a private institution in Kupang participated in the study. The data for this qualitative investigation were obtained using the discourse completion exam (DCT). A linguistics instrument called DCT is used to identify a certain speech act. In order to gather comprehensive data about the differences in language use between boys and girls, the DCT was administered twice. Participants’ answers to DCT situations were recorded and categorized using Tannen’s method after the data was collected. The researcher discovered that exaggerated adjectives, adverbs, expletives, exaggerated pronouns, supporting phrases, and empathy were utilized differently by male and female participants. Furthermore, all the male participants and two female participants chose sport as the main topic of conversation, but the majority of the female participants chose gossip. Additionally, the participants’ varying personalities, facial expressions, and ways of responding during the interview resulted in variable language usage.¹⁷

H. Research Methods

1. Research Design

The strategy entails creating methods and plans beginning with the formulation of hypotheses and continuing through the stages of data collecting, analysis, and conclusion. According to Nazir, the research approach is a scientific research method; one might say a pursuit of truth governed by logical considerations.¹⁸ Meanwhile, according to Arikunto, the research method is the main method used by researcher to achieve goals

¹⁷Elia Simon, “The Different Language Use between Male and Female University Students”, *Journal of Language and Language Teaching*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (January, 2021), 13-18.

¹⁸Moh Nazir, *Metode Penelitian* (Bogor: Ghalia Indonesia, 2014), 26.

and determine answers to the problems posed.¹⁹ The researcher employs library research, which is a sequence of tasks connected to library data collection techniques. Research conducted using library resources, such as books, journals, documents, and archives of historical stories, is referred to as library research. Research with library sources for study in the form of research journals, dissertations, theses, research reports, textbooks, manuscripts, films, social media content, novels, papers, proceedings, anthologies, government publications, or other institutions is included in library research. Alternatively, the researcher might conduct purely related library research.

This research is a study of the language used by female and male contained in social media, namely Quora. Because what is being researched is a written text in social media platform so the researcher used Ethnography approach to get better data. Ethnography is a qualitative research procedure for describing, analyzing, and interpreting the behaviour, beliefs, and language patterns of culturally-shared groups that developed over time. Central to this definition is culture. This can include language, rituals, economic and political structures, life stages, interactions and communication styles.²⁰ In order to understand the patterns of culturally sharing groups, the ethnographer spends a great deal of time in the field observing, and collecting documents about groups to understand their language of cultural sharing. Library research with an ethnographic approach refers to an approach that combines ethnographic with literature materials. This approach allows the researcher to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural aspects, norms, values and social practices expressed in the written work. This approach researcher take by utilizing existing knowledge in the literature to gain a deeper understanding of the aspects studied. In short, the ethnographic approach in this study

¹⁹ Arikunto, *Prosedur Penelitian* (Jakarta: Rineka cipta, 2019), 136.

²⁰ John W. Creswell, *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* (Boston : Pearson, 2012), 462.

was used by researcher to study the language used by female and male users in the Quora application.

2. Data Source

Research data sources are written and non-written materials. In this case, the textual data is important enough to be employed in this study as a reference, particularly for a consideration of the linguistic distinctions between female and male on the social media site Quora. In this research library, the data sources which are written materials consist of primary data sources and secondary data sources as follows;

1. Primary data sources

The data obtained directly from research subjects as a source of information sought. This data is also called first-hand data.²¹ Primary data sources are those given directly to the researcher. This information is obtained by the researcher through research results. The language features of Quora users serve as the main source of information in this regard. The content uploaded by Quora users, especially in the "Skilled English Writing" forum serves as first-hand information for the researcher. From their use of language, the researcher can find and analyze the characteristics of the language used by them such as what features distinguish between female and male in their interactions. The main source of data in this research is the posts written on the Quora application, especially in the "Skilled English Writing" forum, this is a forum on the Quora application that is attended by many Quora users, approximately 88.7 thousand followers. This forum deserves to be used as the main sample in this research because this forum has the potential as a media that can be used by English teachers to teach their students on improving English writing skills, grammar, and spelling. From this forum, we can get a lot of knowledge from many contributors who have deeper knowledge about English from various educational backgrounds.

²¹ Saifuddin Azwar, *Metode Penelitian* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2009), 91.

Due to the thousands of posts uploaded in the forum, the researcher decided to take a sample of the data in their posts only for 1 month, in January 2023. In this case, the data obtained is more than sufficient to compile a study on the differences in language use between male and female from Quora users.

2. Secondary data sources

The secondary data sources are data obtained through other parties, not directly obtained by a researcher from the research subjects. In this study, the secondary data are books that support the author to complete the content and interpretation of the research conducted. Secondary data or second-hand data is data obtained by the researcher from sources from existing sources, not directly obtained by the researcher from the research subject. This type of data is usually in the form of documentation data or report data that is already available at the research site. This data is data that supports the needs of primary data, usually in the form of books, literature, and readings related to research variables.²² This research is supported by several earlier studies and books, including “Janet Holmes, 'An Introduction to Sociolinguistics Fourth Edition; ‘Robin Lakoff, ‘Language and Woman’s Place’.” etc.

3. Data Collection Technique

In conducting this research, the researcher use the observation technique to collect the data by getting the data from observing and doing documentation to the posts which uploaded by female and male users in Quora.

a. Observation

Observation is the systematic monitoring and documentation of an object to identify where the research object appears. In this study, the researcher made observations on a social media called Quora. When making observations, the

²²Saifuddin Azwar, *Metode Penelitian* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2009), 91.

researcher did active participation. So, in this case the researcher observed and getting involved in the activity.²³ Then, the researcher took the notes to collect the data that the researcher found during the observation.

b. Documentary

The researcher also used documentary to collecting the data. Documentary is a data collection technique using documents or writings obtained and related to the required data. Arikunto stated that "Documentation is an effort to find data related or variables such as manuscripts, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, and others."²⁴ Documentary is a qualitative research that can obtain an overview from the subject's point of view through written media and other documents written or made directly by the subject concerned. The data is written posts that uploaded by the users on the Quora forum "Skilled English Writing".

4. Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis is carried out both before and after data collection has been completed. In analyzing the data of this study the researcher used comparative analysis techniques to compare the use of language between female and male in the Quora application. Comparative analysis is research that compares the presence of one or more variables in two or more different samples.²⁵ Comparative analysis techniques will be able to find similarities and differences about objects, people, work procedures, ideas, criticism of people, and group. It can also compare the similarity of views and changes in the views of people, groups or countries, on cases, people, events or ideas.²⁶

²³ Sugiono, *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan: Pendekatan Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D*, (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2017), 227.

²⁴ Suharsimi Arikunto, *Prosedur Penelitian: Suatu Pendekatan Praktik* (Jakarta: Rineka cipta, 2010), 274.

²⁵ Sugiono, *op.cit.*, 57.

²⁶ *Ibid*, 310.

In analyzing the data, the researcher used comparative historical analysis according to Max Weber's ideal type analysis.²⁷ The stages in the ideal type of research are:

1. Analyzing primary and secondary data analysis, carried out through the following stages:

a. Sort and Classify

This was done by organizing the posts obtained while the researcher was observing, including posts on Quora in the "Skilled English Writing" forum during January 2023 and categorizing them according to Lakoff's theory to find criteria that could be included in this research objectives.

b. Open Coding

The first encoding in qualitative data that examined the data to condense it into an initial analytical category or code. In this research, it was conducted by assigning a code to the data in the posts included in the analysis, namely female and male posts containing linguistic features and factors that influence the occurrence of language differences between men and women.

Here are the categories of the posts in female and male users focused on their language features.

- The categories of female users on Quora, abbreviated as FQR
- The categories of male users on Quora, abbreviated as MQR
- Types of female and male language by Quora users include:
 - Hedges and Filler, abbreviated as Hg
 - Question Tags, encoded with QT
 - Adjectives, encoded with Adj
 - Extend Color Words, encoded with ECW

²⁷ W. Lawrence Neuman, *Metodologi Penelitian Sosial: Pendekatan Kualitatif Dan Kuantitatif* (Jakarta: PT Indeks, 2013), 570.

- Boosters, encoded by Bst
- Politeness Forms, encoded by PF
- Grammar Correctness, encoded by GC
- Avoidance of Coarse Words, encoded by ACW
- Emphasis Stress, coded by ES
- Rising Inflection, coded by RI
- The categories of the posts in Gender and Social Status, abbreviated as GS
- The categories of the posts in Gender Roles in Society, abbreviated as GR
- The categories of the posts in Language Habits, abbreviated as LH

The example below will clarify the data:

D2/FQr/Hg

This means the datum is number **2**. **FQr** stands for the category of female users on Quora. **Hg** means that users on the Quora App use utterances that show kind of Hedges and fillers. In addition, the language context used is analyzed using Robin Lakoff's theory. In analyzing the language context, the researcher displays the data by using tables and codes. The researcher also explains in narrative sentences.

c. Axial Coding

The second stage in encoding qualitative data occurs when the researcher constructs the code, links it and discovers the main analytical categories. In this research, it was carried out by looking for categories included in the language features of women and men in grouped posts. Then, the researcher analyzed the factors that cause language differences between men and women to strengthen

the relationship between existing evidence on theory, background concepts and literature review.

d. Selective Coding

The final stage in encoding qualitative data was examining previous codes to identify and selected data that will support the conceptual encoding categories that had been developed. In this research, it was carried out by taking all previous data and codes, finding answers to research problems and making comparisons in tabular form that illustrate the differences in language used by female and male users. Furthermore, from the results of the data analysis above, the researcher obtained research findings in the form of patterns of differences in language use between female and male, as well as factors that influence differences in communication strategies and their effects by combining evidence, concepts and synthesis into a research report to convey a coherent and convince the reader.

2. Interpreting the data. The researcher analyzed and gave meaning to the data collected in data which get before that have been categorized and given coding in the previous step. The researcher involved and connected the data obtained with the context of language differences between female and male according to Lakoff's theory of language features by using comparative analysis, as well as analyzing the factors that cause language differences between them so as to produce a broader understanding of the phenomenon under study.
3. Stating the conclusion. The researcher provided the conclusions resulting from this comparative research in the form of language differences used by females and males in the Quora application, and the factors that cause differences in their languages.

Generalizations in the form of general conclusions about language differences between female and male and the factors that cause them.

I. Organization of the Thesis

The systematic discussion here is intended to make it easier for readers to examine the contents contained in it. This thesis is composed of 5 chapters. The systematics is as follows:

As an introduction, chapter I explained the Background of the Study which explains the background for the chosen topic by the researcher, Statement of the Problems stating which research questions to answer in the discussion, Research Focus, Objectives of the Study which explaining the purpose of this research, Significances of the Study defining the benefits resulting from doing this research, Limit of Terms, it also compares with previous research findings conducted by other researchers by analyzing the similarities and differences between previous studies and this study, Research Methods which include Research Design, Data Source, Data Collection Technique, and Data Analysis Technique, and Organization of the Study which explains how the systematic discussion in this thesis. In the chapter II, it contained the literature review where the researcher explains the theoretical background for the adoption of this research. They are language styles, the relationship between language and gender, female and male language, the difference of language between female and male, the variable which influencing male and female language, and Quora. Then, it also includes Theoretical Framework. In the chapter III, it consisted the finding of Language Differences between Female and Male in Quora Application. As in the chapter IV, it discussed about the Factors which Influence Language Differences between Female and Male in Quora Application. In the last chapter V is the conclusion of the research findings and recommendation. The researcher wrote the findings briefly and accurately summarized from the research results. The researcher also wrote recommendations related to the results of the research that has been carried out.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Theoretical Background

This chapter reviews the relevant literature used for this study. The purpose of the review of related literature is to provide studies and information about research issues, such as Language Styles, The Relationship between Language and Gender, The Female's and Male's Language, The differences on language between Female's and Male's, The Variables which Influencing Male's and Female's Language, and Quora.

1. Language Styles

The term “language style theory” refers to a conceptual framework used to describe and comprehend differences in language use among various circumstances, social groupings, and people. It looks at the influences of things like culture, social conventions, identity, and situational context on the language usage decisions people make. In Keraf's definition, language style is an activity of conveying ideas through language that reflects the writer's soul and personality. The writer's characteristics as an idea-expressor can be seen in that writing style.¹ Language differs depending on its purposes and users, depending on who it is used by and for, and depending on where it is used. Our choice of code or variation, whether language, dialect, or style, depends on the recipients and the context.²

The study of language use variations—including lexical decisions, syntactic constructions, and discourse patterns—across various settings, social groups, and individuals is known as language style theory. It investigates how linguistic preferences are influenced by sociolinguistic variables and personal traits. People often refer to the way people write because of their ethnicity or gender, independent of the context, when

¹ Gorys Keraf, *Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa*, (Jakarta : Gramedia Pustaka, 1984), p.113.

² Janet Holmes, *op.cit.*, 239.

they talk about an ethnic style or a feminine register, for example. The degree of social solidarity or distance between people can be influenced by a variety of variables, including their respective ages, genders, social roles, and whether or not they are coworkers or family members.³

2. The Relationship between Language and Gender

People occasionally fail to see the link between language and gender. In addition to how they behave or dress, gender is also used to categorize people based on their language. It has introduced various linguistic idioms. Gender causes language variances in various circumstances. Additionally, the distinctive language traits that differ between men and women depend on the circumstance. This situation could arise because it is implied by the terminology used that women have a lower social rank than men. Gender has a significant impact on how men and women speak different languages. Furthermore, language is a mirror of the identity as well as a means of expressing gender identity.

Lakoff, a pioneer in the study of language and gender, for instance, developed the deficit model. She used the shortcomings brought about by men's political and cultural subordination of women to explain women's language. According to her, the linguistic characteristics of women's language present them as timid, unsure, lacking in power, and submissive.⁴ According to their socialization, Cameron and Tannen described women's language as simply different, i.e., nurturing, supporting, and cooperative.⁵ Due to these disparities, theories including the deficit model, dominance approach, and stronger versions of dominance have been developed. The deficiency theory was introduced by Lakoff, who believed that women's language is inadequate and deficient.⁶ Similar in outlook, the dominance strategy is a weakened variation of the deficit strategy. It focuses

³ *Ibid*, 240.

⁴Robin Lakoff, *Language and Woman's Place, Language in Society*, 2(1), (New York: Harper and Ro, 1975), Page. 53-56.

⁵Tannen, *Handbook of Discourse Analysis: Second Edition*, (Wiley Blackwell, 2015), Page 155.

⁶Robin Lakoff, *op.cit.*, p. 53.

on men's dominance of women. The difference approach claims that because women are more loving, supporting, and cooperative than men, their language is simply different from men's.⁷

This method explores the nature of women's language generally, but it ignores the political motivations for the emphasis on women's language. By no means has male dominance disappeared. The deficiency model, and to some extent the dominance model, do not take into account the subtleties of women's language, though. The phrase "language and gender" refers to the interaction between masculine and feminine languages. Gender differences are reflected in both men and women's speeches as well as in how they live their lives and how they view the world.

Research on gender differences is prevalent in several disciplines, including psychology, sociolinguistics, and studies of women. The inequalities between men and women in these disciplines have been investigated from various perspectives and using various approaches. Although distinct emphasis has been placed on the discrepancies in research findings, certain parallels still exist. In contrast to women, who are content with their role as subordinates, men are more concerned with power and want to be leaders. Men also speak clearly and prioritize conveying information, whereas women speak subtly, implicitly, and indirectly. The ability to express their emotions is crucial to them. Many academics are concerned about the disparities between male and female language. It demonstrates that gender differences are prevalent and significant to some extent.

3. Female's Language

The vocabulary used by women in discussion today is intimate. As conversational speakers, women negotiate a strategy where people try to seek and offer to the community; they are individuals in a network of connections. Girls are trained from an early age to believe that talking is the glue that is without connection. When women

⁷Tannen, op.cit., p. 156.

come together, they discuss their sentiments, relationships, occupations, and families in some of the more private times. According to Lakoff, women use the following ten linguistic features:⁸

a. Hedges and Fillers

Fillers or hedges are indicators of inexperience, stupidity, or weakness. Hedges lessen the impact of a statement. Hedging tools clearly indicate lack of confidence. “Another study, for instance, made a distinction between fillers and hedged with sort of classed as a hedge, while well and you see were labeled as “meaningless particles” and allocated to the same group as pause fillers such as eh, um, and ah”. According to Holmes’ quoted from Lakoff theory, “Both hedges and fillers indicate women’s lack of confidence.” For example: *Well, you see, maybe, I think*. It belongs in the same classification as “pause fillers” as “*uh, um, hm, oh, ah.*”⁹ According to the explanation given above, a hedge or filler is a pause that shapes a phrase that is used in a sentence of a dialogue to fill the breath pause, information that is not entirely true, a lack of confidence, doubt, and confusion that are classified as “meaningless particles.” Even so, the use of hedges in men and women has differences in the frequency of use or types of hedges.

b. Questions Tag

Lakoff suggested that tag questions are used far more often by women than by men. Tag question is a syntactic device which may express uncertainty. This tag focuses on the referential meaning and the accuracy of the information. But tags may also express affective meaning.¹⁰ She state that “sometimes we find a tag question used in cases where the speaker knows as well as the addressee what the answer must

⁸ Janet Holmes, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic Fourth Edition*, (New York : Routledge, 2013), p. 302-303.

⁹ *Ibid*, p.303-304.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, 306.

be, and doesn't need confirmation.¹¹ One such situation is when the speaker is making 'small talk', trying to elicit conversation from addressee". This means that they will occasionally employ question tags when both the speaker and the recipient already know the answer and do not require any more clarification from the other party. Examples of question tags are "*Doni is smart, isn't he?*," "*It's so disgusting, right?*," and others. According to Lakoff females tend to use question tags more frequently than males, the phrase "*Isn't and Right*" are the examples of a question tag and can be used to identify a person's gender.¹²

c. Adjectives

The adjectives that are employed to express admiration for something are empty adjectives. These empty adjectives are acceptable for both men and women to use. There are several adjectives, for instance, that can also be used to express approval or admiration from the speaker in addition to their unique and literal meanings. Some of these descriptors can be used by either men or women since they are sex-neutral. However, another group appears to be primarily exclusive to female speech when used figuratively.¹³ However, there are some meaningless descriptors that only have a small impact on women. Here are a few empty, neutral adjectives like "*great,*" "*terrific,*" "*cool,*" "*neat,*" and solely for women "*adorable, beautiful, gorgeous, sweet, and charming.*"¹⁴ Women who freely use adjectives are likely expressing their personality differences and views on conversational topics through their distinct woman languages. Additionally, Lakoff claimed that using this function is not feminine but rather a symptom of being uninvolved or helpless as a woman.¹⁵

¹¹ Robin Lakoff. *Language and Woman's Place*, *Language in Society*, 2(1), (UK: Cambridge University Press, 1973), 55.

¹² Janet Holmes, op. cit., p.304.

¹³ Robin Lakoff, op. cit., 51.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 51.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, 45.

d. Extend Colour Words

Women use a different word to describe colors. Typically, women have a larger vocabulary of colors than men. The Lakoff Theory backs this up. According to her, we might wonder why minor racial prejudice affects women but not men.¹⁶ The way men in our society perceive other “unworldly” themes, such as high culture and the Crunch, as belonging to women and men whose masculinity is debatable, provides a hint. Things that do not directly affect them or do not play to their egos are frequently delegated to women by men. Problems with fine color discrimination are among them. We might reword this idea by arguing that women are restricted to making non-crucial decisions as a sop since they are not expected to make judgments on essential issues, like what kind of job to hold. One such sop is choosing between the names “*burgundy*” and “*maroon*” for colors. According to Lakoff, whereas men do not frequently employ extended color vocabulary in English, women frequently do.¹⁷ Examples include *mauve*, *beige*, *aquamarine*, *dusty*, and *fushia*. In a nutshell, this idea demonstrates that there are differences between how men and women refer to colors. Women utilize a variety of color terms, such as “*maroon*” or “*burgundy*” to refer to different hues that have the same meaning as red.

e. Boosters

A statement can be made stronger by using boosters or intensifiers. It can be used to hide intense emotions as much as express them. Boosting devices convey the speaker's expectation that the addressee may remain unpersuaded and offer additional assurance in response. Intensifying devices are used to compel the attention of its audience. Though men can employ intensifiers, they are more frequently used in the language of women.¹⁸ Examples of intensifying a statement: “I

¹⁶ *Ibid*, 49.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, 49.

¹⁸ Janet Holmes, op. Cit., p.304.

really love him; those men are very handsome". These demonstrate how much the people love other people. A good example of a booster is "*really, very, so.*"

f. Politeness Forms

One component of being polite is leaving a decision up to the other person and not forcing your opinions or claims on them. A person who is courteous makes others feel at ease, and being courteous may also entail a formal aspect.¹⁹ Depending on their positions in the conversation, speakers and listeners will communicate differently. When speaking to others, ladies frequently employ polite language. Most people believe that being courteous is as simple as using the words please and thank you when appropriate. Women's speech generally sounds more polite than men's due to several characteristics. Women are expected to use the words "*please*" and "*thank you*" with more care. For example: "*Will you please close the window?, Would you close the door?*".

g. Grammar Correctness

Lakoff states that "Women are no supposed to talk rough".²⁰ In the other hand, women should speak smoothly then women use the standard verb form on their speech which makes the sentences sounds more polite. There are greater differences in the way the sexes use the adverb than the way they use the adjectives. The fondness of women for hyperbole will very often lead the fashion with regard to adverbs of intensity, and these are very often used with disregard of their proper meaning. Woman tends to use hypercorrect grammar feature because this is related to politeness relation between the speaker and the addressee which woman uses. The usage of conventional forms and pronunciation are examples of hypercorrect grammar. Woman must use standard patterns of speech since she is inferior to man.

¹⁹ Robin Lakoff, op. Cit., 56.

²⁰ *Ibid*, 47.

When women are in lower positions, they are expected to talk respectfully because of their inferior social status, which can lead to hypercorrection.

h. Avoidance of Coarse Words

The difference between using *'shit'* or *'damn'*, or one of many other as opposed to *'oh dear'* or *'oh god'* lies in how forcefully one says how one feels—perhaps, one might say, choice of particle is a function of how strongly one allows oneself to feel about something, so that the strength of an emotion conveyed in a sentence corresponds to the strength of the particle. Lakoff argues that weaker expletives belong to women and stronger ones to men is unavoidable.²¹ *"Fuck"*, *"shit"*, and *"dammit"* are typically used by men. While, females typically exclaim *"oh dear"*, *"goodness,"* or *"fudge"*.

i. Emphasis Stress

In genuine conversations, intonation is used to convey the emotional emphasis. When words or phrases are strongly emphasized in writing to highlight or accentuate the intended meaning, this is known as emphasis stress. Although it can be challenging to emphasize a point directly in writing, there are a number of ways to do it. For instance, using emoji and capitalization have revolutionized emotional emphasis in online interaction, along with capitalizing words, utilizing punctuation to highlight words or sentences, and employing emoticons. According to Lakoff, women emphasize things strongly by raising their intonation, as in the phrase *"What a gorgeous girl!"* It has been demonstrated that women tend to overemphasize their points in order to be considered seriously by the other person.²²

j. Rising Inflection

Associated with the use of these particular syntactical rules, there are wide differences seen in the intonation patterns of women. There is an odd sentence

²¹ Robin Lakoff, op. cit., 50.

²² Janet Holmes, op. cit., 303.

intonation pattern, found only in English among women, which takes the form of a declarative answer to a question, and is used as such, but has the increased inflection typical of yes-no questions, as well as being especially hesitant. The effect is as if someone is looking for confirmation, even though at the same time the speaker may be the only one with the required information.²³ Thus, rising intonation in English is a complex process. It can convey a range of feelings, including incompleteness, non-finality, surprise, hesitancy, interest, requests and suggestions, politeness, eagerness to continue the discourse, lack of confidence, and even insecurity.

4. Male's Language

Numerous studies have been done that describe the features of masculine speech. According to Broadbridge's study, men tend to overlap and interrupt the opposing gender more frequently.²⁴ Men also speak more, use more vulgar language, and utilize active listening devices the least, according to his study. According to a research by Van Baalen, men prefer using short sentences in conversation to demonstrate control.²⁵ Most of the male participants in her study used a dominant strategy that is cuff, cold, and analytical. Her research indicates that while men are aware of their hesitancy during a discussion, women interpret it as clear and assured speech.

Males frequently employ the dominance strategy to seek power and domination in discourse, according to Dale Spender's *Man Made Language*.²⁶ The fact that men are the norm in society and the sexism that strengthens men's standing in conversations both contribute to this natural habit. "Because language is sexist, it elevates the status of men, and men have dominated the cultural production of forms. It is reasonable to suppose that men intentionally incorporated sexism into language to support their claims to be

²³ Robin Lakoff, op. cit., 55.

²⁴ J. Broadbridge, *An Investigation into Differences between Women's and Men's Speech, Module 5 Sociolinguistics*, (The University of Birmingham, 2003).

²⁵ Van Baalen, *Male and Female Language: Growing Together?*, 2001. Retrieved From [leideuniv: http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/hsl_shl/van%20Baalen.htm](http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/hsl_shl/van%20Baalen.htm)

²⁶ Dale Spender, *Man Made Language* Second Edition, (Pandora Press, 1980), Page. 147.

superior. Language usage habits differ between men and women. Women tend to pay more attention to the affective function of interaction than do males. In addition, women typically communicate in ways that will maintain and strengthen solidarity, whereas men typically focus on power and position and women stylishly. Women also tend to use linguistic strategies that highlight solidarity more frequently than men. males are more adaptable.²⁷

5. The Differences of Language between Male and Female

The issue of whether or not men and women who speak a certain language use it differently is highly debatable. In actuality, no matter the neighborhood, men and women do not speak in exactly the same way. The disparities in their speech extend beyond word choice and grammar to how they transmit ideas. Holmes asserts that there are distinctions between men's and women's language traits and styles. In order to develop quite diverse speaking styles, males and females are socialized under very different conditions and expectations.²⁸

According to Wardhaugh in his book, there are five categories for the differences in language used by male and female:²⁹

- a. The language use patterns that women and men adopt are distinct.
- b. More often than males, women prefer to concentrate on the interactions' practical outcomes.
- c. Compared to males, women tend to adopt verbal strategies that emphasize solidarity more frequently.
- d. Men tend to interact in ways that will maintain and enhance their power and status, whereas women tend to interact in ways that will maintain and enhance solidarity (particularly in formal circumstances).

²⁷ Ronald Wardhaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, 5th Edition (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), p. 318.

²⁸ Janet Holmes, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic Fourth Edition*, (New York : Routledge, 2013), p. 77.

²⁹ Ronald Wardhaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, 5th Edition (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), p.322.

e. Women are more open to different styles than men are.

Finally, the language styles that men and women speak in differ. Their social standing and position have an impact on it.

6. The Variables which Influencing Male's and Female's Language

The emergence of the disparities in language traits on males and females is attributed to a number of supporting variables. Men and women have been debating and discussing whether they speak differently for a very long time. Gender is undoubtedly the primary factor in language development. Men have influence not just via attitude but also through language. Once more, women in society have less influence than men. Men have more power than women do. Another aspect of more significant inequalities reflecting the overall social hierarchy may be found in the linguistic distinctions between the speech of men and women. In order to achieve status equality with males, women attempt to do the same. It is because women were more conscious of their social position, and employed standard form in their speech. In this way, men will understand if women may also achieve higher social position by utilizing standard forms.

According to Holmes's theory, there are several variables that influence the difference in language between men and women, namely gender and social status, gender roles in society, culture, biological, and psychological that are the factor which can also affect the language differences.³⁰ Holmes stated gender stereotypes refer to society's expectations and images of men and women.³¹ The social roles also assigned to men and women in society. It can play an important role in language differences. For example, if men have traditionally held more dominant and powerful roles, they may tend to use more direct, authoritative, or aggressive language to express their status. On the other hand, women whose social roles are more concerned with attention or harmony may use

³⁰ Janet Holmes, op.cit., 167.

³¹ *Ibid*, 159.

more polite or refined language.³² These stereotypes can affect the language and communication people use based on their gender. Every culture has norms and values that influence how people interact. For example, a culture that emphasizes politeness and respect can lead to language that is more formal, courteous, and avoids conflict. On the other hand, cultures that are more direct and task-oriented may use language that is more direct, concise, and open in conveying messages for example the culture in which they live and the environment in the profession they do.³³ Biological factor can influence language differences between men and women. Language differences between men and women are not only based on social or cultural differences, but also reflect differences that arise from biological differences.³⁴ The psychological factor can affect the differences in personality, communication preferences, or life experiences between men and women can also influence language differences.³⁵

In addition, the other linguist, Tannen, also expressed her opinion in her book which mentions language habits is the factor which can also affect the language differences.³⁶ Tannen stated that men tend to use a more dominant and status-oriented speech style, while women tend to use a more cooperative and social bond-oriented speech style. This gives rise to differences in the use of language which reflects the differences in communication goals of men and women.³⁷ Thus, in analyzing the factor that influences language differences the researcher use the main theory from Lakoff's and Tannen which had been mention.

³² *Ibid*, 163.

³³ *Ibid*, 348.

³⁴ *Ibid*, 349.

³⁵ *Ibid*, 364.

³⁶ Deborah Tannen, *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*, (New York : Ballantine Books, 1990), 58.

³⁷ *Ibid*, 60.

7. Quora

Quora is a social media platform that uses a “question and answers” system among its users.³⁸ Users can write questions or answers related to their interest in the desired topic. Quora focuses on the general knowledge-sharing experience. Therefore, the question-and-answer interactions that appear on this platform are always based on data, facts, and practical knowledge as sources of information. Quora is classified as a social media that focuses on general knowledge. Quora has the potential to be the main source that can be used in research on language differences between men and women.³⁹ Social media provides a free environment where people can express their feelings, opinions, and thoughts. Quora is a free environment where users are free to express their opinions, they are flexible and operate uninterrupted with an unlimited number of content providers. It captures content from everyone regardless of class level, field of study, culture, race, and country of origin. In addition, the evidence in the existing literature shows that Quora have very large and substantial sources of information. What Quora provides is what attracts the researcher to consider social media as a significant platform for exploring topics. This free environment is important because it allows users to have genuine conversations that occur in public places. Within each forum in the Quora app has Admins and Contributors. The difference is that the admin is the person who has the highest authority in managing the space. They can change room settings, add or remove collaborators, approve or reject posts, edit or delete content, and send bulk messages to other collaborators. Meanwhile, contributors are people who can add content to a space without approval from an admin or moderator. They can edit or delete their own content, but can't change room settings or manage other collaborators. They are free to voice or write their answers according to what they want to write.

³⁸ Margaret Zimba, “Analysis of Students’ Perception of Good Mathematic Teachers and Teaching Using Informal Conversations from Twitter and Quora”, (Thesis, Copperbelt University, Zambia, 2019), 24.

³⁹ Andi Rahmadani and Syamsul Sodik, Pemanfaatan Media Sosial Quora untuk Pembelajaran Menulis Teks Eksplanasi untuk Siswa kelas XI, *Journal Bapala*, Volume 8, No. 04 (July, 2021), 220.

There are several Quora features that can be enjoyed by users such as the Filter Bubble Algorithm where this feature makes an appearance Quora homepage always shows questions as well as answers adapted to user interests through browsing history previously; Adding Question Section feature where users can ask certain questions and to speed up questions that can be answered by other users, users can customize questions through question themes and request answers from other users who have the competence to answer these questions; The Answer Requests feature is a feature that contains requests for answers between users so that the questions asked can be answered by users who have interests, credentials, and topics that are mastered; Group-by-interest feature or what is referred to as "Space" which allows users to access more specific topics or information according to their interests; The Add Language Room feature where Quora has various language versions, users can set a certain language version of Quora to get the hottest information being discussed by Quora users of that language; And the Fair Judging and Credential Upvote feature where Quora has an upvote or downvote system. In addition, if the user's answer gets upvoted support from the selected user who has the relevant credentials, then the answer will get a star icon (credential upvote) and potentially for shown to more users.⁴⁰ Those are some of the positive credentials possessed by the Quora application that support Quora as a worthy source of data in this study.

B. Theoretical Framework

The use of social media is very popular with the public for various means. Good for just viewing post images or videos or uploading a status about the experience experienced. One of them is the use of social media Quora, where most of its users are students or graduates. This social media provides a "question and answer" platform to its users. Not a few people who have accessed this site. Therefore, Quora has many benefits, including to

⁴⁰ Andi Rahmadani and Syamsul Sodiq, op. cit., 223-225.

find information about lectures, technology, to exchange information about each other's experiences. Users often access this site in search of answers to their anxieties through the thoughts of other users. People's perceptions of the social media Quora are different because the main function of this medium is to ask and answer questions, and each question is assigned to a specific category.

This application invites anyone who is interested to participate by giving feedback openly, commenting, and sharing information in a fast and unlimited time. It is very easy and does not take a long time for someone to create an account on social media. Female users usually post about their personal activities, their stories, and photos with their friends. The more active a teenager is on social media, the more they are considered cool and slang. Meanwhile, male users usually post about their hobbies, politics, and business. The general assumption already implies that women and men are indeed different in using language because they are different in terms of sex. Linguists also agree that the differences in the characteristics of the language used between men and women can be observed and distinguished.

The discussion about the differences in language use between female and male are focused on the context of the social network and the writer's intent. Male and female utilize language differently, as evidenced by the way they express themselves in their social media status updates. We can see the difference in the language used when comparing how to represent ourselves in a post. Language traits differ between boys and girls. According to Lakoff's theory, female's written language contains ten linguistic characteristics: hedges or fillers, question tags, adjectives, extend color words, boosters, politeness forms, grammar correctness, avoidance of coarse words, emphasis stress, and rising inflection. This justification leads to the conclusion that men and women utilize different linguistic features. Based on Lakoff's theory of language characteristics, the researcher will explore the linguistic distinctions between female and male using this theoretical justification.

CHAPTER III
THE LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEMALE AND MALE IN A QUORA
APPLICATION

A. Research Findings

Based on the results of observations from 1 - 31 January 2023 which the researcher conducted on the Quora social media application, especially in the "Skilled English Writing" forum, the following is an explanation of the data obtained by the researcher.

To fulfil the purpose of this study, several features identified by researcher in sociolinguistics and explained in the background about female and male language become the main guideline for maintaining a reasonable scope for limited space and time. During the research process, only certain aspects of language were included in the research. The first part of the study focuses on some of the features associated with male and female writing posts. From the data that has been analyzed according to Lakoff's theory of language characteristics, the language differences between men and women found by researcher are presented in 5 types of linguistic features used in the written language used by them. They are Hedges, Boosters, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress. The researcher found that the language differences between men and women in the Quora application are in terms of the quantity used and the types of words.

In the category of using hedges female use this form more in their posts than male. The researcher found 13 hedges, of which female used 8 and the remaining 4 were used by male. The difference between hedges between female and male is also in terms of the variety of words used. In one sentence, female can use many variations of the word that represents hedges. Female also uses more varied types of the word hedges than male who use the same word types of hedges.

Second, in the form of boosters the researcher found differences in usage between female and male in the types of words used. Here the researcher found 12 boosters, of which there were 7 in female, and the remaining 5 were found in female's language. This increased use by male is due to them feeling the need to demonstrate power or competition in their posts through the use of "boosters" in conversation as a way to meet those expectations. In this category, it cannot be categorized as consistent use because this depends on the personality and environment in which they grow from each gender. Even though the quantity of boosters used by male is more frequent, the researcher found that the use of words in the booster category in female is more varied than male who use the same word with repetition in their use.

Third, in the politeness form category, the difference in language use between female and male is in terms of the quantity of use, which is more in female than in male. The researcher found 11 forms of politeness, of which 10 were used by female and only 1 by male. This form is used more by female because they prefer harmony in conversation and avoid conflict.

Fourth, the use of grammar correctness between male and female also shows differences in how to write words in their posts. The researcher found 25 categories of grammar correctness, of which 17 were in female language, and 8 were in male language. The researcher found the difference in the quantity of grammar correctness used between male and female. In this form, female tend to use standard forms and formal sentences without abbreviations. For example, female users write the complete phrase "*I would and I will be*" without abbreviating it to "*I'd or I'll be*". Meanwhile, male tend to use informal sentences by abbreviating their writing such as "*I'd, don't, there're*". Although, there are some male who use formal language, but most of them write in informal forms.

Fifth, the last linguistic feature that the researcher found in the language differences between male and female is emphasis stress. Where there is only 1 that appears in female's

language posts. Even though there is only 1, this is enough to prove that female are indeed more expressive than men where they tend to be serious in talking.

The researcher also made discovery of the strong point in the language used between female and male. The strong point in the use of language features in female is grammar correctness. This is because female tend to write according to standard forms and formal forms with the aim of indicating the use of polite language when having conversations online. Females are often under social pressure to demonstrate perfection in various areas of life, including written communications. In a society where politeness and correctness of language are often important, female may feel the need to follow grammar rules more strictly. This is also intended to avoid conflict when having online conversations. Meanwhile, the strong point in the male language feature is the use of boosters. This is because males tend to use more dominant, expansive, or assertive language in communication. The use of boosters can reflect a desire to emphasize statements in a conversation. So, they use boosters for the purpose of demonstrating their power or dominance in online conversations. The researcher get this conclusion not just from the quantity of language use, but also from gender stereotypes and the psychology of language processing in each gender's mind.

Then, types of words used in all conversations are written language. Most of these conversations are formal. The data also shows that the words or sentences in the data are made as similar as possible to the actual conversation. Various ways are used to imitate online conversations with real-life conversations such as pronunciation or using emoticons to express themselves. As a social media made for all generations, this platform brings many benefits to its users that can cover a lot of things in conversation. One of Quora's benefits as a social media that focuses on general knowledge, this platform has the potential to become a learning tool that can be used to hone its users' cognitive abilities in terms of critical thinking. Quora provides many other features that make it easier for users to find topics they are interested in. Researcher take advantage of these features by starting to follow the topics

based on shared posts. Instead of videos, Quora users often use images attached to conversations. Usually, this image can be used as a form of reaction, expression, or information that they share on this platform.

B. Discussion

Before going into the analysis of language features, it is better to understand the general condition of forums and conversations based on the data found by the writer. In the data, there are clear lines to separate the order of the posts with different dates and focus of the writing posts. Since this is a "Skilled English Writing" forum on social media, the members use English in all their posts. Not all members use English as their first language, some of them use English as their second language and therefore we can see that there are many grammatical errors in the sentences posted by them. Forum topics by both admins and contributors are about ways to improve our writing skills. The writer focuses on differentiating female and male language based on linguistic features. The data were analyzed based on the language features proposed by Lakoff's theory. After doing observations, the researcher wrote down user posts in document form. The data is transcribed in the form of posts that written among the users. Then, the data is classified into tables consisting of 5 predefined language features that found by the researcher in the "Skilled English Writing" forum in Quora. The following discussion are the result of analyzing the data by the researcher:

1. The Language Differences between Female and Male in Quora

The researcher found 5 out of 10 linguistic features used by female and male users which indicate the language differences on them. The language feature that distinct their language used that found by the researcher are the writing posts contain of Hedges, Boosters, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress. The description

of the data obtained by the researcher regarding the use of language features by female and male in the "Skilled English Writing" forum on Quora are as follows:

a. Hedges

The form of using the Hedges feature is to weaken speech or fill in the blanks in an utterance sentence. The use of the Hedges forms do not contribute much to the content to be conveyed. However, these Hedges can invite sympathetic interpretations from the other users. A hedge is considered a marker of the writer's lack of attention. In addition, this feature also represents the unwillingness to be responsible for the statements uttered by Quora's users.

Female	Male	Kinds of Hedges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think you exaggerate • probably better in some cases • The latter group may have a better education • I suspect more than just a few of them • may be getting the encouragement • I guess I can't answer for others • As far as I know, wildebeest is a proper noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A native speaker would more likely say or write • it may be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I think - Probably - May be - I suspect - I guess - As far as I know - Likely

The data table above presents the types of hedges used by male and female users in Quora that represent the language differences on them. Hedges found in female's posts include the use of the words "*I think, probably, may, I suspect, I guess, as far as I know*", while "*may be and likely*" are the types of hedges found in male's

posts. The following is a context analysis taken from several posts containing hedges, each of which represents both gender.

D1/FQr/Hg : Why can't most Americans speak or write the English language? Most non-native English speakers have superior English skills to Americans. Why can't Americans speak or write the only language they know? When you say "most" American's, **I think** you exaggerate. I have many US born, bred, and educated friends and colleagues, all of whom speak and read English at least as well as I do, and **probably** better in some cases, since my formal education ended with high school. True, the education some American children get appears to be substandard, but the majority of students who finish elementary school and graduate high school read and write at an adequate level. What you see here on Quora is a strange mixture of those who do have a firm grasp on speaking and writing English and those who do not, or prefer to act as if they never moved beyond third grade. The latter group **may** have a better education than they want to admit. **I suspect** more than just a few of them have been pressured to believe only what is preached by their undereducated parents, their state politicians, or by TV personalities they see as somehow having gained "superior" knowledge than the rest of society simply because they are on television. When people are repeatedly told, "don't get above yourself" and "quit pretending you're better than you are," they find it easier to blend in than to shine. Many people whose community, friends, and coworkers use poor grammar and are scornful of those who read books for entertainment instead of watching TV or playing video games, or "hanging out," will want to be on a par with their pals. Everyone likes to belong. If their financial circumstances and the environment they live in makes it difficult to break out and become different, only the strong and determined will do so. Those non-native speakers you claim have superior skills **may be** getting the encouragement they need from family, teachers, and employers, and that's why they seem, to you, to be doing better.

Analysis :

The questioner questioned is about the poor ability of Americans to write in English. The author has a different opinion than the questioner. The author wants to reveal that the statement of the questioner is exaggerated. The author has many

friends who are Americans. His friends get adequate formal education so that they have standard English skills or even more. The author also reveals that the perspective of the questioner is still too narrow. Many Americans are portrayed by the media as working in the non-formal sector and so they excel at speaking, not writing.

In this case, the writer wants to express his opinion in a more subtle way. Hedges are phrases that function to reduce sentences with overemphasis. Hedges are used to express uncertainty, politeness, or to dampen potential discontent that might arise from direct or assertive statements. In this case, the writer wants to express an opinion more subtly. First, the phrase "*I think*" indicates hedges that serves to reduce sentences with excessive emphasis. Second, the word "*probably*" which serves to provide softness to the statement, acknowledges that there is no absolute certainty in the answers put forward. By using these hedges, the author gives a little room for alternative possibilities or different points of view without neglecting his or her strong views on the topic being discussed. Third, the use of hedges "*I suspect*" indicates an indication of uncertainty or suspicion in the posts they write. Then, the phrase "*may be*" has the intent to have an assumption about something, but do not have sufficient certainty or evidence to make a firm statement. Hedges "*may be*" has the intention that the author does not provide a definite or absolute statement, but indicates the possibility that non-native speakers who are claimed to have superior abilities so that they look better in their view. Therefore, the phrase "*I think, probably, I suspect, and may be*" in this sentence is categorized in hedges because its use has the intention of expressing uncertainty, softening, and reducing the pressure of the opinion expressed by the author.

D2/FQr/Hg : **I guess** I can't answer for others, but you certainly explain clearly.

Analysis :

In this sentence, the writer expresses that she feels unable to answer several other questions related to the topic of discussion. The author feels that she does not have sufficient and appropriate knowledge to answer other questions. However, the author feels that there are other people who can explain in more detail and clearly. In this context, "*I guess*" indicates that the authors do not have absolute certainty or full authority to answer, but they consider that the explanations provided are clear. The author expresses his estimates in the post.

Therefore, the phrase "*I guess*" the author uses to express the estimates made by him. In this case, the phrase "*I guess*" falls into the category of hedges. Hedges are a phrase that expresses doubts or estimates that are not absolute from the author. The author does not have enough facts to strengthen his sentence. Therefore, the phrase "*I guess*" in this post is included in the hedges category of female language features.

D5/MQr/Hg : Do you find my sentence readable and natural, "There're people who appear grumpy or nit-picking, but deep inside them is a tender soul. So, don't fall for their seemingly testy temperament."? It is readable and somewhat natural, and grammatically correct as: There're people who appear grumpy or nitpicking; but deep inside them are tender souls. So, don't fall for their seemingly testy temperaments. A native speaker would more **likely** say or write something like, There are people who appear grumpy or nitpicking; but deep inside each of them is a tender soul. So, don't assume that their testy temperaments are true reflections of their souls. There are people who appear grumpy or nitpicking; but deep inside each of them is a tender soul; don't assume that their testy temperaments are true reflections of their souls. People who appear grumpy have tender souls; don't assume that their testy temperaments are true reflections of their souls. Etc.

Analysis :

In his post, the author reveals that there are several possible variations of sentences by native speakers. Even though it reveals that there are several variations of sentences, the writer wants to reveal that these variations of sentences are a possibility. Possibility here means it is not certain that it will happen. In this context, "*likely*" indicates that there is a higher likelihood or tendency that a native speaker will say or write something like that. The use of "*likely*" indicates that the authors are not making absolute or universal statements, but they are stating that there is a tendency or a high probability that native speakers will use the expression. The phrase emphasizes the higher possibility without excluding the other possibility. From here, the author uses the word "*likely*" to emphasize that all these variations are just possibilities.

Thus, in this sentence the word "*likely*" is a form of hedges. Hedges is a phrase that actually functions to express the doubts of the author or speaker. The author wants to express his doubts in expressing his opinion by providing other possibilities that native speakers might use. Therefore, the word likely is included in the category of hedges.

D8/MQr/Hg : Does this sentence sound natural, “I relish shopping at traditional markets”? My answer to the submitted question: The sentence **may be** semantically unnatural. Relish is a strong verb with powerful and poetic implications. It is too strong for the commonplace “traditional”. I relish shopping at unique markets, sounds more natural.

Analysis :

In this case, the writer uses the phrase it may be a sign that to express that he is not sure about his opinion. This indicates that the sentence may seem unnatural in

terms of meaning or usage. In this case, it's possible that the sentence doesn't follow grammatical rules or doesn't combine words in a normal or conventional way. However, at the end of each sentence, the writer uses this phrase to express the meaning of possibility or could be, and this phrase is used to mean that his opinion is still in the form of conjecture and not a proven fact. In this context, "*it may be*" indicates that there is a possibility that it is semantically unnatural. The use of "may be" indicates that the authors do not make an absolute claim that the sentence is unnatural. It is only his opinion. The phrase emphasizes the probable or uncertain nature of the statement.

Hence, the phrase "*it may be*" belongs to the category hedges. Hedges is a phrase that expresses a form of doubt from the writer. The writer uses the phrase to express doubt when he expresses several opinions in his post.

There were 13 hedges found from 58 posting sequences uploaded by forum members during observation. The female produced 8 hedges while the remaining 6 were produced by the men. The differences on the use of hedges between female and male were found in the frequency of their use. Women tend to use more hedges in their posts than men. In one sentence, women can use many variations of the word that represents hedges. Women also use a more varied type of the word hedges than men who rarely use it. This is because men want to emphasize confidence and assertiveness in the posts they write.

For example, in datum 1, women can use lots of hedges with varied types of words in 1 post, whereas in datum 4, in men's posts, they only use hedges with the same type of words with repetition of words in their use. In conclusion, differences in the use of hedges by women and men can be seen from the quantity used and the variety of words or phrases used by male and female users. Female users use hedges

more than men. Then, the types of phrases that represent hedges in the language used by women are also more varied.

b. Boosters

In a general context, a booster is something that is used to increase or strengthen something intended. In the written language, the use of boosters is to convey the writer's eagerness. This is intended to strengthen the sentences they say. Here are the data that researcher get about boosters in the language of female and male which represent language differences in them.

Female	Male	Kinds of Boosters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitely one of the ones I never thought • people very rarely do know why • you certainly explain clearly. • I got so exhausted • I learned so much 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You really need an answer to that? • Unless you really like relish • you become very aware of what you had • very nice note • It is too strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definitely - Very - Certainly - So - Really - Too

The data above are the types of boosters were found in Quora, in female posts such as “*definitely, very, certainly, so*”, while in male posts such as “*really, very, too*”, etc. The following are analysing the context in their posts regarding boosters in the “Skilled English Writing” forum, each of which represents both gender:

D12/FQr/Bst : I guess I can't answer for others, but you **certainly** explain clearly.

Analysis :

The word "explain" is highlighted by the word "*certainly*". The term "*certainly*" is used to express assurance or confirmation of clarity in the explanation provided by the person being discussed. In other words, the usage of this word highlights the fact that the subject of the discussion is actually providing a clear explanation. In this instance, the writer is aware that she cannot respond on behalf of others, yet she still values the way the person being addressed clarifies things.

As a result, in the context of this post, the term "*certainly*" conveys the writer's firm view that the subject of the discussion always or regularly provides clear explanations. The writer underlines that the person's explanation's clarity is valued and recognized by utilizing the word "*certainly*" in this sentence. So, this word is included in the category of boosters.

D13/FQr/Bst : How long has it taken you to be able to create more fictional characters, stories, settings and/or titles? Hi! I would like to share a piece from an experience in order to answer this question. It was about one week from the date I published Dark and Lovely, I was glad, I wanted to write another. I went to my Google Docs and my workspace (imagination) was motionless- no characters, no actions. My author skills (this refers to the ability for a writer to create characters and stories with his/her intelligence) halted. I had to wait. I was eager to create something new but there was a board but no pictures. I told my partner that it's another time and that I was in another stage. He asked what stage, but I could not reply. Weeks later, I felt characters growing in me. I reached for one, Tiana. The previous characters told these growing/becoming characters who I was and what I could do. I needed to be stronger for Tiana. I can remember when I wrote just a sentence from her form and what was before her eyes and **I got so**

exhausted. I had to commit to writing her story and to being diligent with my work and passion. Then, I knew that it could take as long as it would for a story's characters to finish growing. If the characters are forming, then the story isn't done. I'd like to share this, start with the single word that you can see to tell. It could be a conversation from individuals whose names you know not, start. When your characters see that they are not neglected, when they see your strength, they would give their story to you and live with you through writing it. Warm regards!

Analysis :

In this post, the writer explains that she is a novelist. As a writer, there are times when she struggles to create new characters. There are times when the writer just sit pensively and are unable to type a single word. Though there are many imaginative things that appear in her head. There are times that the writer can only produce one sentence from her imagination. Writing one sentence can be very tiring for the writer. The word "so" is used to convey the enormous intensity or degree of fatigue experienced by the writer while working on her writing. In other words, the word "so" shows the intensity or extent to which the writer feels exhausted after doing her work.

The writer uses one of the words that goes into the greeting category booster in this post. The word "so" is used by the writer to emphasize the meaning of the sentence. Booster is a word in the form of an adverb which is used to reinforce and emphasize the meaning of a sentence. It can be concluded that the use of the word "so" in the context of this post is categorized as a booster because it is used to emphasize the intensity of the level of fatigue experienced by the author after completing his work.

D15/MQr/Bst : How can I reach the word limit if I don't know what else I can write? My answer to the submitted question: The first thing you need to do is to read the piece out loud. Many times you know what you want to say and read into what you have written. When you read it aloud, you become **very** aware of what you had actually written. This may open the door to meaningful expansion. Even better, record what you speak, and listen to it as a reader. Is everything clear? How is the flow of the words?

Analysis :

In this post, the writer provides tips on writing limits. The writer reveals that he finds out the limits of writing by re-reading the results of the writing. The more often we read, we will know the shortcomings in certain parts. We can also know the shortcomings in the results of writing by reading it aloud. The word "*very*" emphasizes the word "aware". The word "*very*" is used here to indicate the level of intensity or strength of awareness felt by a person. By using this word, the writer wants to emphasize that the level of awareness experienced by a person is very high or strong. It puts emphasis on the word "aware" to convey that the person has a very deep understanding or is paying close attention to what they have written.

In this case, the use of the word "*very*" is intended to emphasize the sentence that is being said. The writer reveals that we will be very careful in writing errors if we read the writing aloud. Therefore, this word can be categorized in the form of boosters

D18/MQr/Bst : You **really** need an answer to that?

Analysis :

In this post, the writer expresses his frustration which is a response to the topic being discussed. The writer responds by giving back rhetorical questions to the

interlocutor. In this context, the word "*really*" emphasizes that the writer considers the need to get answers very important or even unbelievable. The use of "*really*" emphasizes the word "need" to convey a sense of amazement or surprise at how much this need is perceived by the author.

Hence, the word "*really*" is included in the booster which has the function of emphasizing the word "need" which of course is in line with the function of the word *really* in a sentence which is a reinforcer in the sentence.

The use of booster in some of the data examples above is generally used to emphasize the forms of adjectives and adverbs. Based on the data and the surrounding context, it can be concluded that boosters are used by female and male users even though the intensity of their use is not too much. Therefore, Boosters can be classified into a class of adverbs where it has a general function to emphasize the word it is attached to and this is used by the writer to convince the other person to believe what they have said. There were 12 boosters found from 58 posting sequences generated by forum members during the observation. The male produced 7 hedges while the remaining 5 were produced by the female. Differences in the use of boosters researcher conclude from variations in the use of words by female and male. Even though, the researcher found that men use more of boosters but they tend to use the same type of them, while the use of boosters by women is a few but they use a more varied word.

In the use of boosters, the researcher concluded differences in the language of men and women by looking at the types of words used by them. Women tend to use boosters with more varied words than men who use them with the same or monotone word types. In the data analysis conducted by the researcher, women tended to use boosters with more types of words such as "*definitely, certainly, very, so*", while men

used the same words by repeating "*very, really, and too*" repeatedly. Instead of being driven by gender differences, the use of boosters in communication is influenced by personal traits, language style, personality, and individual preferences. As a result, the use of boosters by men and women is neither consistently or uniformly different.

c. Politeness Forms

The writer makes the addressee feel comfortable by using politeness which can also involve a dimension of formality. The way writers communicate to the addressee will depend on their role in the context. Female users tend to use Politeness Forms more than male.

Female	Male	Kinds of Politeness Form
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks for the opportunity to expand my work • Hopefully, if they teach Grammar anywhere any more • I hope it makes sense • Please, practice these strategies • I would advise you to start with a small step • Thank you for answering • Do you know any platform to write and have feedback? <p>Thank you</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So, out of respect, we use the spelling wildebeest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank - Hopefully - I hope - Please - I would - Warm regards - A respectful

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi! I would like to share a piece from an experience • Warm regards • A respectful amendment to the correct answer above 		
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The politeness forms found by the researcher in female language includes “*Thank, hope, please, a respectful, I would advise/like to, warm regards*”, meanwhile in male only “*out of respect*”. The following are some of data analysing about politeness form, which represents each of the gender:

D24/FQr/PF : **I would advise you** to start with a small step. Let’s say: I will be journaling every evening for 15 minutes. Don’t forget to reward yourself for every goal achieved and for every single success. It works! Make it a habit to give yourself a small gift – a cup of coffee, and buy yourself something nice when you get things done as you had planned especially your most important tasks.

Analysis :

In this post, the writer reveals some suggestions and writing tips. The writer believes that all big things start from small things. Writing simple things like consistent journaling is considered to be able to improve one's writing skills. Then, the writer also gives advice to reward yourself every time a goal is achieved. It could be in the form of food, drink, or simple things that can make us happy. Small prizes can provide motivation so that we become more enthusiastic about completing other goals.

The phrase shows respect and politeness in giving advice to someone. In formal or official situations, using the phrase “*I would advise*” shows that the writer is aware

of their position or authority and wants to make suggestions politely. In a more informal context, someone might use more direct phrases to make suggestions without using polite forms of language. However, here the author adds the word "*I would advise*" which indicates a word that is included in the politeness form.

D24/FQr/PF : Want to Improve Your Written English? Practice Writing Daily. Do you want to improve your written English? I've got you covered! What if I told you that you can significantly improve your written English if you practice writing daily How to Develop a Daily Writing Practice? **Please, practice these strategies:** Make a schedule Making a schedule is the first step in getting into a routine. It will help you to organize your time and to have better time management. Be specific: I will write every day from 7-8 a.m. or I will write every day from 6-7 p.m. Pick whatever works for you as long as you can stick to it. Following such a writing schedule every day is a challenging task, but I did it. I am sure you can do it too. Set a daily goal How to set a daily goal? Start with small writing goals. Doing things one small step at a time is an easier way to begin. I had a bad experience when I started my website English Study Helper. What happened? I set a plan: to write my content in one week! As it required a lot of work, I didn't finish it on time. My motivation was down. I felt overwhelmed and tired. Also, I felt anxious and wanted to procrastinate (delay or postpone tasks for a later time). I thought of giving up. It took me time to overcome my disappointment and continue my work. However, I learned so much by doing things incorrectly! I would advise you to start with a small step. Let's say: I will be journaling every evening for 15 minutes. Don't forget to reward yourself for every goal achieved and for every single success. It works! Make it a habit to give yourself a small gift – a cup of coffee, and buy yourself something nice when you get things done as you had planned especially your most important tasks. Make your goal measurable How to make a goal measurable? Instead of saying "I will write every single day", you need a specific, measurable goal. How many words or pages will you write each day? How many minutes or hours will you write each day? Will this goal increase each week, each month? Practice this technique: Count the number of words or pages you need to write every day. For example: I will write 2 pages each day. I will write 50 words each day. I will write 100 words in an hour today but tomorrow I will write 300 words in an hour This strategy will help you set reasonable expectations for your progress. A goal is more likely to be achieved when it is specific and measurable.

Use smaller mini-goals to measure progress.

Analysis :

In this post, the writer provides tips on how to build a habit of writing every day. In the first step, the writer reveals that we have to make a schedule. This schedule will make us have a regular routine. Scheduling will also make us have better time management. This word functions as a polite expression indicating a request or invitation in a friendly way. In this context, "*please*" is used to indicate the writer's desire for the reader to take a certain action, namely to practice the strategies mentioned. Using "*please*" adds an element of politeness and gentleness to the request. This can help create a friendlier communication environment that respects the will of others. In all, the sentence is asking gently and expecting that the other person will follow the advice and practice the strategy stated.

Therefore, the writer places the word please before giving tips. The word please at the beginning of the sentence is included in one of the polite forms where the writer wants to give advice to other users without seeming to force them.

D27/FQr/PF : Hi! **I would like** to share a piece from an experience in order to answer this question. It was about one week from the date I published Dark and Lovely, I was glad, I wanted to write another. I went to my Google Docs and my workspace (imagination) was motionless- no characters, no actions. My author skills (this refers to the ability for a writer to create characters and stories with his/her intelligence) halted. I had to wait. I was eager to create something new but there was a board but no pictures. I told my partner that it's another time and that I was in another stage. He asked what stage, but I could not reply. Weeks later, I felt characters growing in me. I reached for one, Tiana. The previous characters told these growing/becoming characters who I was and what I could do. I needed to be stronger for Tiana. I can remember when I wrote just a sentence from her form and what was before her eyes and I got so exhausted. I had to commit to writing her story and to being diligent

with my work and passion. Then, I knew that it could take as long as it would for a story's characters to finish growing. If the characters are forming, then the story isn't done. I'd like to share this, start with the single word that you can see to tell. It could be a conversation from individuals whose names you know not, start. When your characters see that they are not neglected, when they see your strength, they would give their story to you and live with you through writing it. **Warm regards!**

Analysis :

In this post, the writer tries to express the difficulties she experienced as a writer. The writer tries to tell the experience she has experienced. The writer uses the phrase "*I would like*" at the beginning of the sentence to make the whole post more subtle and polite. The writer only wants to share her experience so that it can be used as a lesson for others without wanting to offend other users by writing opinions. The use of the phrase "*I would like*" has the aim that the writer wants to tell or share the story she experienced by using polite language. Then, use the phrase "warm regards" to end the message politely and kindly. In the context of written communication, using "warm regards" shows that the writer appreciates the recipient of the message and wants to end the communication on a positive and friendly note.

Therefore, the use of polite language forms such as "*I would like and warm regards*" shows concern and respect for the interests of others in communication. This can create a warm atmosphere, invite cooperation, and strengthen positive social relationships.

D29/MQr/PF : Why is the alternative word for the gnu, wildebeest, misspelled? Shouldn't it be wilderbeast or wildbeast? The origin of the word wildebeest is from the Afrikaans spelling "wildebees." The Dutch settlers in South Africa took the word and added a "t." Some philologists believe the word developed in the early twentieth century, but I have found no solid evidence. So, **out of respect**, we use the spelling wildebeest.

Analysis :

In this post, the writer explains the spelling of words he usually uses. The writer realizes that there are some spelling differences in terms. The writer reveals that he uses the spelling wildebeest rather than wilderbeast, wildbeast or wildebees. The author believes that the spelling he uses has been in use since the early 20th century. However, he could not reveal in detail about this fact. This phrase implies that the decision to use the spelling is based on respect or reverence for the word. In this context, "out of respect" means that the speaker or writer chose to respect the word "wildebeest" by using the proper and generally accepted spelling. This shows that they value the integrity and value of the word.

Therefore, the writer uses the phrase out of respect in the last sentence of his post to give off a polite vibe. The writer tries to express his opinion based on the facts he knows. These opinions are expressed without prejudice to other people who may have different opinions.

There were 11 forms of politeness found from 58 posting sequences generated by forum members during the observation. The woman made 10 politeness forms while the remaining 1 was produced by the man. From the analysing of the data about politeness forms, female users mostly use it which is intended to help lighten the contents of writing posts to reduce threats to the other. Meanwhile, the frequency of using this form by men are rarely. Men value strength and courage more than formal modesty. They tend to use language that is more direct and less formal. The consistent use of polite language can be perceived as a weak or less masculine attitude among men. Therefore, men use language that is more direct or less formal to reinforce their image of masculinity. Women tend to use solidarity markers such kind of politeness forms as a recipient-oriented positive politeness device when protecting

the needs of the writer's positive face. The use of this form is also intended to show respect to other users. Women have a certain dignity in society because they have the instinct to follow rules. Therefore, women do what must be done and avoid what cannot be done.

Thus, female are using more politeness forms than male. Compared to men, they have less strict behaviour when it comes to rules and norms. Therefore, men tend to break the rules and create informal conversation situations. This also makes men more relaxed than women which makes them use short and friendly words to show politeness. Based on the entire conversation, female users in this forum use Politeness Forms when they express their opinions. In conclusion, the difference in the use of politeness forms between female and male is in terms of the quantity of the use that is more in women than men.

d. Grammar Correctness

Women write more fluently than men. Female users in the “Skilled English Writing” forum use standard forms in their written language which makes sentences look systematic and more polite. The following data regarding Grammar Correctness were analysed by the researcher which represents each gender:

D30/FQr/GC : What is the differences between distant third-person limited point of view and deep third-person limited point of view? In distant third-person limited point of view can we hear writer (as a narrator) voice in the story? In a distant third-person limited point of view, the narrator is not a character in the story and **does not** reveal their thoughts or feelings. The narrator is often referred to as an “omniscient” narrator because they have access to the thoughts and feelings of only one character, who is referred to as the “limited” or “focal” character. The narrator’s perspective is distant from the story’s events, and they **do not** provide much insight into the thoughts or feelings of the other characters. In a deep third-person limited point of view, the narrator is still not a character in the story and **does not** reveal their

thoughts or feelings. However, the narrator can provide a more in-depth and intimate perspective on the thoughts and feelings of the limited or focal character. The narrator can delve deeper into the inner thoughts and emotions of the character and provide more insight into their motivations and experiences. In both distant and deep third-person limited point of view, the narrator's voice is present in the story, but **it is not** as prominent as in other points of view, such as first-person or omniscient. The narrator's voice serves to guide the reader through the story and provide the necessary information, but **it is not** as prominent as the thoughts and feelings of the limited or focal character.

Analysis :

In this post, the writer expresses her opinion regarding the role of the narrator in a story. The writer believes that the narrator is not a third person who knows the whole story. However, the writer believes that the narrator is a third person who knows the main character's thoughts. She believes that the narrator only has limited abilities on the main character. The narrator has no access to the thoughts and feelings of the other characters.

In this case, the writer tries to explain very clearly. The writer also uses correct grammar. This sentence also does not use abbreviations that make it difficult for the reader to understand the meaning of the sentence. She uses systematic and good sentences. This is in accordance with one of the features of women's language, namely grammar correctness. For example, the writer uses standard grammatical writing such as writing "*I do not*", which is more formal than writing such as "I don't". Women write words without abbreviations so that the writing looks more formal.

D33/FQr/GC : I would advise you to start with a small step. Let's say:
I will be journaling every evening for 15 minutes.

Analysis :

In this post, the writer provides some tips and ways on creating good writing habits. The writer advises readers to start everything from the smallest and simplest. The writer advises readers to journal every evening for 15 minutes. The writer advises readers to write a journal of their daily activities. Consistent journaling is expected to foster writing habits. In this case, the writer provides tips in the form of simple suggestions. Having experience, the writer gives simple suggestions without any emphasis. This can be seen from the phrase "*I will be*". The writer positions herself as the first person, the first journal maker. The writer does not give direct instructions. The writer also uses formal tenses when writing posts. This formal form gives a polite impression.

The use of the phrase "*I would and I will be*" is a grammatical construction of the standard form used to express the wishes of a writer. Women prefer to write it with a complete vocabulary rather than writing it with "*I'd or I'll be*" to shorten words. They write like that so their writing looks more formal.

D36/MQr/GC : Incorrect citation style: If the essay includes citations but ***they are not formatted correctly*** or they do not match the citation style required by the assignment, it may be a sign that the essay was plagiarized. Lack of original thought: If the essay ***does not*** contain any original ideas or insights, and instead relies heavily on the ideas of others, it may be a sign that the essay was plagiarized.

Analysis :

In this post, the writer expresses his opinion about some signs of plagiarism without using a plagiarism checker. There are several things that are a sign of plagiarism in an essay. First, there is an error in the citation style. An error in citations can indicate that the essayist only copied the text, without paying attention to the form of the citation. Second, the lack of original ideas. The original idea is the

main idea in an essay. Essays that are rich in plagiarism usually don't have a main idea. Essays that are rich in plagiarism usually depend on other people's opinions.

In this case, the writer expresses his opinion by using good grammar. Posts can be easier to understand because they don't use abbreviations. The grammar used is also systematic and polite. Thus, the ideas expressed by the writer can be understood more quickly and precisely. Some of these signs are included in the grammar correctness feature. The author prefers to use "*they are not and does not*" rather than shortening it to "aren't or doesn't". This indicates that men also use formal language in their written language to show a polite impression but not as often as women.

From the data above, it can be concluded that Grammar Correctness refers to the use of language in accordance with standard rules. Female users have a tendency to use standard forms of language more than males. This suggests that the linguistic forms used by women and men differ at different levels in all written environments. Female users have more polite and standard writing than male users. Women rarely shorten their sentences when making posts.

The use of standard grammar such as, "*It is not, I would/will, do not, does not, should not*" are some of the Grammar Correctness that the researcher found. Meanwhile, male users often shorten their words when posting answers, such as "*I'd, shouldn't, don't, it's, won't*". The researcher found that there is consistency in the use of formal forms in the writing posts of female users, but not in the male users. Formal utterances were found to be used by users, both those with high and low social status. This is indicated by the consistency in their written language. It can be concluded that women use the standard form in every conversation. Women also tend to use systematic and formal language in their writing. Meanwhile, men also use it but not as often as women.

e. Emphasis Stress

Emphasis Stress is defined as an expression in written language. The use of this type of feature to emphasize their sentence is to be taken seriously by the recipient. The researcher found emphasis stress in the form of using emoticon at the end of the sentence in conversation only used by female. The following data were found regarding emphasis stress:

D40/FQr/ES	:	Sarah	=	Excellent. I'll be here all week ...
		Parker	=	Love your wit!
		Sarah	=	<smile>

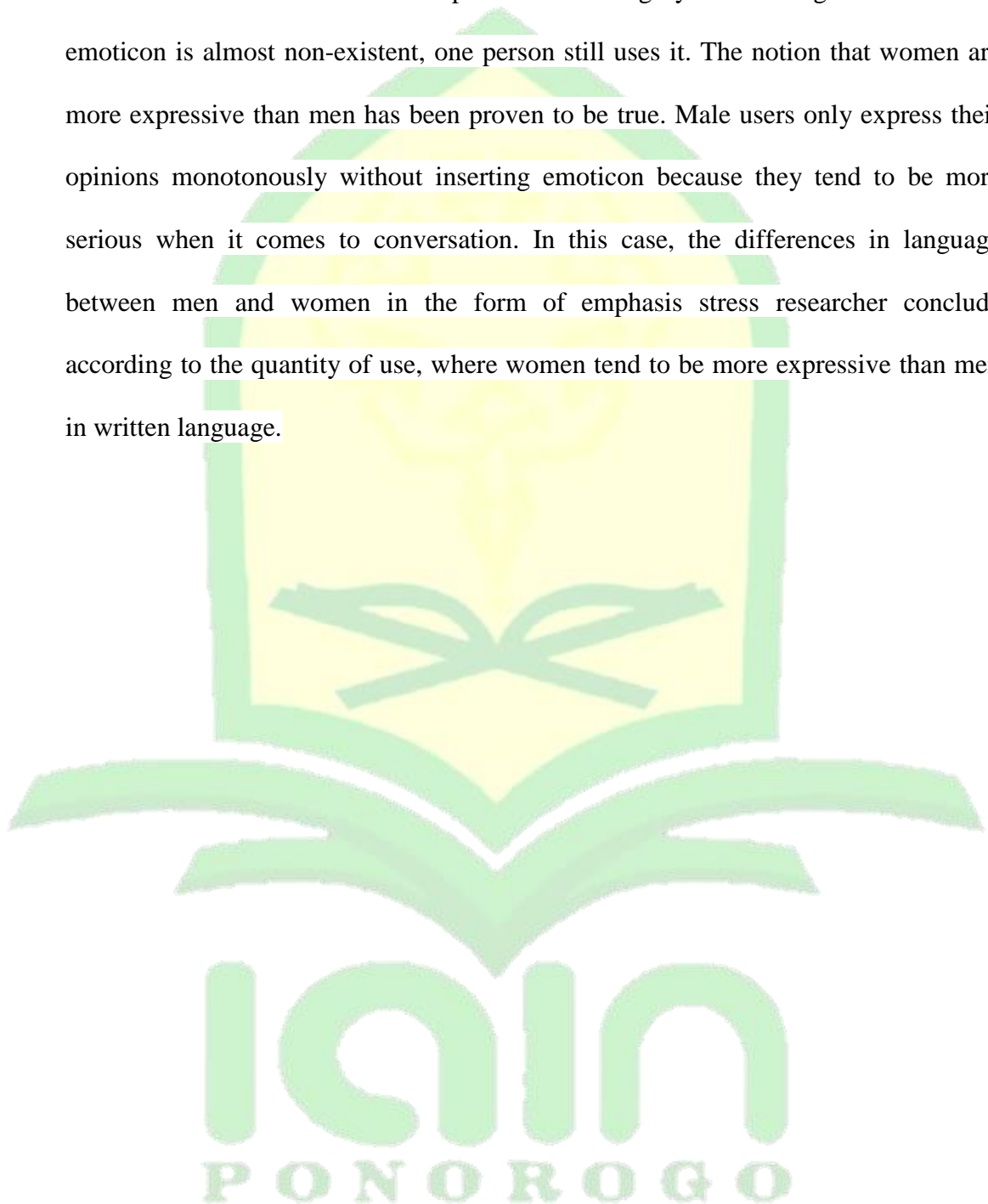
Analysis :

The data above are the use of emphasis stress that researcher found in one of the conversation where Parker commented on Sarah's post, and Sarah responded by using emoticon without any other words. In the context of the conversation, the use of emoticon "*smile*" are used to express positive feelings and attitudes towards the conversation between Parker and Sarah. The "*smile*" emoticon was used by Sarah as a kind response to Parker's comment. This shows that she is happy and appreciates positive comments from him. The emoticon can also convey pleasure and appreciation for the praise given by Parker.

The use of emoticon in online conversations can help communicate emotions and nuances in text. In this case, they are used to show joy, support, and appreciation between the two characters in the conversation. By using emoticon in conversations, she can express her emotions and reactions more clearly.

The use of emoticon in written language aims to emphasize the feeling or meaning to be conveyed. In this case, emoticon can strengthen or clarify the intent or intensity of the message written. Out of 58 posts, only 1 use of emoticon by a female

user is included in the emphasis stress in written language. The expressions conveyed are only smiling emoticon which represent the happiness of the author. From the data the researcher obtained, it shows that there are indications of language differences between men and women in the emphasis stress category. Even though the use of this emoticon is almost non-existent, one person still uses it. The notion that women are more expressive than men has been proven to be true. Male users only express their opinions monotonously without inserting emoticon because they tend to be more serious when it comes to conversation. In this case, the differences in language between men and women in the form of emphasis stress researcher conclude according to the quantity of use, where women tend to be more expressive than men in written language.



CHAPTER IV

**THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
FEMALE AND MALE IN A QUORA APPLICATION**

There are several factors that cause language differences between female and male identified by the researcher. From analyzing data in the Skilled English Writing forum, the researcher concludes that the occurrence of language differences is closely related to social status and gender, gender roles in society, cultural, biological, and psychological factor according to Holmes theory.¹ Then, the factor from language habits according to Tannen theory.² The following are the causal factors that the researcher will discuss in detail:

1. Gender and Social Status

The language used in female and male greatly influences by their social status, gender, culture, psychology and others. Female often use politeness forms, gentle and simple language because they are expected to pay more attention to other people's feelings and develop close relationships. On the other hand, male tend to use more persuasive, aggressive and powerful language because they are expected to demonstrate their skills and abilities. This language difference is also caused by different patterns of language learning between female and male. As children, girls are often taught to speak politely and avoid conflict, while boys are more likely to be taught to express themselves in a dominant and confident way.³ For instance, male are more likely to use the words "*I want*" or "*I will*" to express their decision and power in writing, whereas female typically use words like "*please*" and "*thank you*" as a kind of politeness in communication. Here

¹ Janet Holmes, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics Fourth Edition* (New York: Routledge, 2013), 167-351.

² Deborah Tannen, *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*, (New York : Ballantine Books, 1990), 57.

³ Janet Holmes, op.cit., 167.

are the posts uploaded by Quora users in the “Skilled English Writing” that contain about the previous characteristic that had been explained.

Male	Female
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I want to enhance existing creativity • I’ll not grade your rough draft before you submit it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please, practice these strategies • Do you know any platform to write and have feedback? Thank you

Language patterns can be influenced by social position because those with higher social standing typically have superior educational and professional backgrounds. Those with high social status typically write in a more courteous and formal manner, whereas those with low social status frequently use harsh words or less formal language. As a result, their writing is typically more refined than that of those of lesser social rank.⁴ Here are some other examples that the researcher found about language style by Quora users based on their social status:

D41/MQr/MGS : The origin of the word wildebeest is from the Afrikaans spelling “wildebeest.” The Dutch settlers in South Africa took the word and added a “t.” Some philologists believe the word developed in the early twentieth century, but I have found no solid evidence. So, out of respect, we use the spelling wildebeest.

Analysis :

This data above is a post written by Herbert, a professor at Palm Beach State College Florida where he also uses a good and polite style of language when answering questions from other users. He uses phrases like "*out of respect*" which aim to respect and follow to conventional linguistic conventions. This confirms adherence to linguistic

⁴ *Ibid*, 167.

requirements and guarantees that communications follow to generally recognized standards.

D42/MQr/GS : My answer to the submitted question: Start with a Google search on Education. That will give you an overwhelming amount of information. But the strategy is not to read and understand it all, but to outline what is there. Search Primary Education, and the amount of information is less. You can further refine the search by Primary Education Theory, or Classroom studies, Age, and so forth. You have now isolated information on theory of primary education.

Analysis :

The data uploaded by the Quora users above show the style of language used in the posts they uploaded. The post was written by Robert, a Director of the Enabling Support Foundation, in which he expressed his answers using organized and formal language. He also added sentences such as "*My answer to the submitted question:*" and "*Now you are in a position to read with a purpose*" which aims to make it clear what he is suggesting to the interlocutors. He wanted to make sure that the other can get the point of what he was written. From these 2 data, it can be concluded that someone with a high social status has a tendency to use polite and orderly language.

D43/MQr/GS : You really need an answer to that?

D44/MQr/GS : Sure, but rip up the work afterwards and tell them to try again

Analysis :

From 2 data uploaded by the Quora users above, it shows the style of language used in the posts they uploaded. The three posts were uploaded by the same person, namely Andy, an ordinary member. It can be seen that he expresses answers and comments in other posts using words that are sarcastic and harsh. The style of language

he uses in his posts is not organized so that it is not polite when read by other users. Therefore, a person's social status influences the language used by them.

The existence of language variations between female and male provides an illustration through social status and gender norms in the Quora's forum. Female and male carry out distinct societal responsibilities in social activities due to gender disparities. The difference in the use of language is clearly influenced by social class and gender. Male regulated and dominated women's social standing. Overall, female write with confidence due to their low social status and lack of power. The researcher concludes that with the influence of social status and gender in the emergence of language differences, female are more likely to write politely and always consider the feelings of the other person. While, male are more likely to write forcefully and in an authoritative way.

2. Gender Roles in Society

Language differences between female and male are related to the expected gender roles of each sex in society. Female are often seen as submissive when viewed from their role in society. Therefore, women have the duty to be a housewife in every family. They are considered as someone who takes care of household life, so female are required to use polite language when talking to household members and other people. Meanwhile, the role of male in society is that of a dominant person where they must be able to lead the household ship within their family and also in society. Therefore, male often use assertive language and show their power because they don't want to be taken lightly by others.⁵ For example, male use imperative sentences more often than female. Males write in a forthright manner while making requests. However, when making requests females will use softer and more polite language. To demonstrate how female and male use language differently on the Quora forum, consider the following example:

⁵ *Ibid*, 168.

Male	Female
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Postpone the alphabet until the child can read. 2. Summarize it. 3. Rip up the work afterwards and tell them to try again. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please practice these strategies 2. I would advise you to start with a small step 3. I'd like to share this, start with the single word that you can see to tell.

From the data above, it can be seen how different the language used by female and male when asking or suggesting something to others. In male's posts, they use language that is straight to the point without any pleasantries or additional sentences that show politeness. Male rarely use words that consider other people's feelings. They will only directly speak according to what they want. Meanwhile, in female's posts they use smooth and polite language when asking or suggesting something. Females need to pay attention to how the grammar will not hurt the other person. So, female use polite language even when asking or suggesting something so as not to offend other people.

Judging from the roles of women and men in society, this shows how gender stereotypes and style of language they use in their daily lives. In line with developments in society, gender roles and the language used can also change. As is the case today where there are many women who can lead in society. For example, several universities have female rectors. This shows that not all women are considered submissive and must always be submissive to men. Women can also dominate in activities in society. They can also write assertively. Women employ more polite language even when they communicate strictly. Women still consider their linguistic choices when chatting to other people. On the other hand, males who display more power usually don't pay as much attention to what they say. Because they don't want to be denigrated, they try to show superiority in public. Nevertheless, men aren't always like that. Some of them also

pay more attention to the words they use in social settings. Therefore, respect must be shown for one another, and gendered terminology must be avoided. By applying these things regardless of gender, they can broaden their perspective on stereotypical differences in the use of this language. They can also avoid things that are not good and can offend other parties during communication.

3. Language Habits

Language use between female and male can also be influenced by linguistic habits. Language use differs between male and female. For instance, female tend to write in length, which is cooperative language. Female prefer each other users to have close ties, when they explains something during their communication. They do this in order to appear intelligent to others and avoid coming across as haughty. Male also favor using vocabulary that conveys dominance and competitiveness when communicating. They frequently write succinctly, simply, and without adding extraneous words. They believe it is merely a waste of words. Male is straightforward and direct in all of their posts.⁶ Here are data found by the researcher from “Skilled English Writing” forum about language habits between female and male:

D45/MQr/LH : Start with the exercises. Use them as a guide to the important parts of the material.

D46/MQr/LH : There is no best way for everyone. There is a best way for you, and you need to be aware of it.

Analysis :

It is clear from the data on the usage of male language above in terms of language use, word choice, and sentence structure. For instance, the language used in male’s posts is brief, direct, and unambiguous. They did not need to go into great detail to explain the solution. Male just got right to the point. Men users write their ideas more succinctly and

⁶ Deborah Tannen, op.cit., 120.

simply. They do this in order to assert their authority and competitive over other users.

Therefore, male favor using straightforward words.

D47/FQr/LH : Hey, whether it's a comic book publisher, or any other kind of publisher who has looked at your work and asked for something longer, for your own sake, and the sake of eager writers everywhere, at least make a strong effort to do as requested.

D48/FQr/LH : I suspect more than just a few of them have been pressured to believe only what is preached by their undereducated parents, their state politicians, or by TV personalities they see as somehow having gained "superior" knowledge than the rest of society simply because they are on television.

Analysis :

In the female's posts above, they use more collaborative language than the language used by male users. Female explain their answers in length and detail so that the other person really understands what they mean. In their posts, female tend to use more detailed and complicated words. This is because they choose words that would not offend the other person, so it seems that a lot of words are wasted. By using collaborative and long sentences like this, they describe how women communicate. Adding the word "*thanks*" to add a positive impression where the word acts as a politeness device so that readers are comfortable when communicating with them.

From the previous explanation it can be concluded that language habits between female and male can differentiate the way they use language. Female more often use long and detailed words in their conversations. While male tend to use words that are simple, clear, and go straight to the topic. Females use language like that for the purpose of building close interpersonal relationships between their interlocutors. Meanwhile, males use simple language and to the point aiming to show their dominance and competitive nature. Female are often pressured to maintain harmonious and congenial social relations, whereas male are pressured to demonstrate skill and excellence in a

professional or social context. Therefore, language habits between male and female can also affect the differences in the language they use.

4. Cultural Factor

The next is the occurrence of language differences due to cultural factors. The researcher believe that there is a close relationship between language and culture. Then, there are claims from linguists that language and culture cannot be separated from one another, so that one cannot understand one without knowing the other. Whorf, expanding on the idea that he is not only said that there is an influence, but that the relationship between language and culture is determinative. According to Whorf, speakers of different languages will see the world differently as long as the languages they use differ structurally.⁷ When, the writers of a language have certain words to give objects while writers of another language do not have them in the same way, writers of the first language will find it easier to talk about these objects. This is evident when we pay attention to technical terms in trade, work or profession. For example, professors or teachers will find it easier to talk about phenomena regarding education because they have a large vocabulary about it. For example, in the “Skilled English Writing” forum, professors express their opinions more and answer questions posed by members who want to learn about writing essays, articles, or anything else about writing. One of the example from that forum is Robert Zenhausern, he is a professor from a university who can always answer questions about a good way to write papers. He flexibly explains the things that forum members ask and makes his answer sentences in detail and easy to understand because he has a lot of knowledge about these matters and is experienced in explaining things to someone.

In the same way, the prevailing gender stereotypes in a society’s culture also affect the language of men and women. For example, the topics or subjects that male and

⁷ Ronald Wardhaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, 5th Edition (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), p 212-213.

female often write about are different. In society, male tend to talk more about their job/business, politics or the hobbies they enjoy. Meanwhile, female often talk about their romantic relationship, the fashion or makeup they use, or their daily activities. From the points mentioned above, it can be concluded that culture influences the language used by female and male, how they write and express opinions or interact in social situations. Therefore, the language used by female and male reflects the culture of society as a whole. In other words, language only has meaning in the environment and culture that is its container.⁸

5. Biological Factor

Language differences between female and male can also be caused by biological factor. It has been claimed that the natural biological differences between female and male determine the differences between female and male based on physical considerations. According to recent clinical studies language skills develop in the left hemisphere of female earlier than male. Hence from the beginning the female write more in length and with more passion than male. Female have a greater range of emotions than male. Male are more logical but female are sensitive. Female and male are biologically different and these differences have serious consequences for gender. Male and female have different brain structure that can affect language processing. Broca and Wernicke area are involved in language processing. It can differ in size or connectivity between female and male. So, this can affect the way male and female understanding, processing, and expressing the language.⁹ Hormones, such as testosterone and estrogen can play a role in the language differences between female and male. For example, Estrogen may be

⁸ Janet Holmes, op.cit., 348.

⁹ Suyadi, "Diferensiasi Otak Laki-laki dan Perempuan Guru Taman Kanak-kanak Aisyiyah Nyai Ahmad Dahlan Yogyakarta: Studi Pendidikan Islam Anak Usia Dini Perspektif Gender dan Neurosains," SAWWA: *Jurnal Studi Gender*, Vol 13, No. 2 (2018), 187.

associated with better verbal abilities in female.¹⁰ Meanwhile, Testosterone can influence language development in male.¹¹ Females usually have a non-competitive character and attach importance to relationships with other people. On the other hand, males tend to prioritize independence and their relationship with God rather than their relationship with humans.

In the Quora's forum, the sentences used by male tend to be short and use lots of verbs. Adjectives rarely appear in their posts. The use of short sentence patterns and the rare appearance of adjectives is caused by male which tends to be rational and realistic, so that the words are not long-winded but short, concise, and clear. Meanwhile, female in posts have a tendency to express their intentions honestly through their language styles, while male tend not to do so, they convey their intentions frankly. Women do not use profanity, even if they are forced to use it only in certain situations and of course specially used. The selection of such a lexicon occurs because there are no female to share power. They have little opportunity to optimize the role of female in the public sector and reduce their domestic role. Even though female must also be given the opportunity to play a role in various fields, such as the economic sector and guaranteed their rights such as to organize, freedom of opinion, the right to vote, and other rights. Female are more likely than male to initiate inquiries, invite others to interact with each other. For example, female use "you" and "we" more and do not protest as much as male do. On the other hand, male frequently dispute and use generalizations.

Certainly, personality and sociolinguistics have different effects, particularly when personality is based on gender. Obviously, depending on the degree of intimacy, female and male receive varied responses when initiating conversation. Naturally, they will use

¹⁰ Barbara B. Sherwin, "Estrogen and Cognitive Functioning in Women", *Endocrine Reviews*, 24(2) (April, 2003), 135.

¹¹ Nita Hestiyana, et.al, Detection Of Speech Delayed In Children Using Iterative Dichotomiser 3 (Id3) Algorithm: Prematurity, Gender, Family History Of Speech Delay, Education, and Occupation", *The 8th International Conference on Public Health*, (November, 2021), 791.

polite language to express their pleasure at meeting at the beginning of the relationship so that they won't be offended when they start interact. The vocabulary they use, whether colloquial or regional, is mingled if they have known each other for a long time, which is another issue. Their behavior changes when they interact with others especially someone they have known for a while.¹² It is because they match the changing personalities and facilitate the communication between them. Thus, biological factor and sociolinguistics influence how female and male use different language.

6. Psychological Factor

Psychological factor including personality-driven emotions and life events can influence language use. People with extroverted personalities usually have direct positive communication. Introverted personalities on the other hand will communicate in a more formal and traditional way. In general females write more than males. Words commonly used to describe female written patterns are rarely used to describe behavior. This concept has great social implications as it is considered normal for female to write more than male. Not all female and male respond the same it depends on the characteristics of their personality. Male are generally quieter than female which is also a character trait. Females are more socialized than male because they have a special interest in communication. Males are moderately socialized because they have their own way of holding power and are not easily satisfied.¹³

Studies show that female and male share more interesting stories and photos with one another. When two people first meet the speed at which they get to know each other and the level of familiarity can make all the difference. Undoubtedly other findings reveal the spread of social or psychological factor. Gender is very important. Female and male bond with each other organically based on their respective comfort levels. In order

¹² Janet Holmes, op.cit., 351.

¹³ *Ibid*, 364.

to avoid offending one another when they begin conversing, they naturally use polite language and convey their excitement at interacting one another as they grow to know one another. If they have been friends for a while, their language may already be mingled, whether it is through the usage of slang or local dialects. In fact, they no longer experience any uneasiness, and this has also altered the way they interact with both new acquaintances and long-time friends. Thus, a person psychology have a strong influence on how they used language and communicate considering they perceive and experience personality which allows them to adjust to make those they interact with feel comfortable.



CHAPTER V

CLOSING

A. Conclusion

Based on the discussion and results of language differences between male and female in Quora Application, it can be concluded as following.

1. This study uses Lakoff's theory to determine female and male language differences in Quora writing posts. The language differences of female and male found by the researcher according to Lakoff's theory, they are Hedges, Boosters, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress.
2. The total number of aspects of the total vocabulary in the language features of female and male in the Quora application is 54 and is categorized into 5 types of linguistic forms for women and men. The following is the distribution of linguistic features for female and male, namely 13 Hedges, 12 Boosters, 11 Politeness Forms, 25 Grammar Correctness, and 1 Emphasis Stress.
3. From the analysis of language features that the researcher conducted according to Lakoff's theory, there are 5 language features that distinguish between men and women. They are Hedges, Boosters, Politeness Forms, Grammar correctness, and Emphasis stress which differentiate them in terms of the quantity of their use and the variety of words used. In Hedges, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress, female users on the Quora application use it more than men. The use of Hedges and Boosters forms in female language is also more varied than male, which only uses monotonous words and tends to be repeated. Of the 5 language features, female dominates 4 language features in terms of quantity of use, namely Hedges, Politeness Forms, Grammar Correctness, and Emphasis Stress. Meanwhile, male only dominates one language feature, namely Boosters. This is in line with Lakoff's theory of female language where women

use these features more often than men. Thus, the difference in language between male and female in the Quora application found by the researcher is in terms of the quantity or intensity of use and types of words. The researcher also made discoveries regarding the strong points of each gender. The strong point in the use of language features in women is grammar correctness. This represents that the female communication style is more cooperative because it focuses on building the relationship between writer and addressee. Meanwhile, the strong point in the male language feature is the use of boosters. This represents that men tend to use more dominant, expansive, or assertive language in communication to show dominance in the online conversations they are having.

4. There are six factors that influence language differences between female and male, namely Gender and Social Status, Gender Roles in society, Language Habits, Cultural factor, Biological factor, and Psychological factor.

B. Recommendations

In connection with the research that has been conducted regarding language differences between female and male in the Quora Application, there are several recommendations that the researcher would like to convey, namely as follows.

1. For students particularly those in the English Language Teaching Department, the researcher suggests to learn more about gender language disparities to help them gain a deeper understanding. Additionally, it can benefit and expand the knowledge of English students.
2. For lecturers who want to teach about gender language differences the researcher suggests giving explanations of the concepts as simply as feasible to ensure that students have a clear knowledge and in-depth comprehension of gender language disparities.
3. It is suggested for further researchers to conduct other linguistics research that is still related to the language used on gender in the use of social media. By conducting such a

study, it may be able to gain a better understanding of how language use differs between female and male.



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