



Valuing Diverse Styles of Communication between Male and Female in Translation Class: A Sociolinguistics Perspective

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Abstract. Teaching translation in the modern era of technology 4.0 needs to be fully enhanced into something that is not only fun, but also useful and easier to practice. Therefore, this study is conducted by combining translation and sociolinguistics study. The basic premise of sociolinguistics study is about the way people use language in different social situations. As a result, language is not constant because it is always changing in so many different ways. This study tried to fulfil the gap on exploring about female and male students' communication style when interpreting text in Audio-Visual Translation class. Qualitative descriptive method is used as the research design since the data analysis describes about communication style used by female and male students in relation to their oral translation result. Overall, male students tend to use clearer and more effective language than female students. They also prefer stating noun directly instead of using adjectives before the noun. The result also showed that female students tend to have more adjective preferences, more emphatic stress, and more word variations than male students during the presentation and interpreting section.

Keywords: Audio-Visual Translation, Female and Male Students, Gendered Communication Style, Interpreting Section, Sociolinguistics Study.

1 Introduction

Language is a tool of communication which has a substantial part in making communication [1]. Without language, communication and interaction is not even possible happened. Language is also used to depict someone's experience, and experience talks about event, people, object, quality, process, situation and social relations. In order to be able to communicate and interact with other people, someone needs to master a language, both in written and oral forms. Of course, it won't be enough to just having the ability to speak a language, but someone must also have the ability to use that language in an appropriate way [2].

In the world of sociolinguistics, precise language is really important or in other words, it means that using proper terms to refer to everything is important. In sociolinguistics study, it is essential to understand the differences between language, dialect, and accent. Based on Wardhaugh and Fuller [3], language is the ideal form of a way to talk, just like standard English and dialect is a deviation away from this standard like Black English, Singaporean English, Southern English, and so on. This way, language is just like a big umbrella for all of the dialects and accents. Meanwhile, accent is considered to be the smallest unit of language. If accent is about a style of pronunciation, a dialect is not only about the pronunciation, but also about grammar and vocabulary [4]. Moreover, according to Soderqvist [5], the information and knowledge about how language works means include geographic varieties of language (Boston English, Southern English, etc), social varieties of language (middle-class variety of English, upper-class variety of French, lower-class variety of Japanese, etc), and standard varieties of language (English, French, Spanish, Korean, German, Indonesian, etc).

The variety of languages has also become one theme in translation study. Translation has been a compulsory course in the English Education Department so the development of translation pedagogy is quite essential today. Translation has long been another great alternative in the development of teaching strategies. There are four different types of translation studies including literary translation, professional translation, technical translation, and administrative translation. According to Newmark in Ordudari [6], a translation study is an academic interdisciplinary which deals with systematic study of the theory as well as application of translation, interpreting, and localization. Of course, many special or specific themes can be adopted when translating the text (whether it is written text or oral text), and one of those specific themes is about gender issues.

From many years ago up until now, gender issues have still become the study focus of numerous researchers with many different approaches. Some people in the world are still having the opinion that gender is just like sex [7]. But actually, gender and sex are completely different. When someone was born with a penis, it means that he is male and when someone was born with a vagina, it means that she is female. It cannot be changed. However, gender is more fluid because it is socially constructed. Someone who was born as male might identify self as female because he is more likely to act like female than male. That is why; there is a term called gender identity [8].

The study of gender issues has developed from years to years. Nowadays, it has become one big topic that is often being discussed in many academic and non-academic events [9]. There are myriad researches discussed about gender issues happened in the class, but it is just a few of those researches discussed about gender issues in relation to the result of translation.

The purpose of this research is to find out more about the communication style used by female and male students during the presentation and interpretation section in translation class. What makes this research different from others is that this research focuses on female and male communication styles while they are active in presenting and interpreting the text. So, this research tries to combine translation study and sociolinguistics study by observing female and male students' communication styles

when interpreting the text. Based on the background stated above, this research seeks to investigate more about the interpretation of female and male students during the presentation section in translation class.

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics study that discusses the relationship between language, culture, and society. This sociolinguistics study gives a lot of space for the researchers out there to explore more about any phenomenon related to language, culture, and society [10]. And something like language and gender, communication style, multilingualism, and multiculturalism have become parts of sociolinguistics study.

Furthermore, related to sociolinguistics study, it also talks about the connection between the vocabularies, structures, and ways of using particular languages and the social roles of men and women who speak these languages [3]. Then, it comes to the question: 'Do men and women who speak a particular language use it in different ways?' The answer to this question will merely be discussed in this article.

"Female and male are different in several ways including in terms of genetic, social, psychological, as well as cultural. They also added that 'what it means to be a woman and to be a man (also) changes from one generation to the next and... varies between different ethnic, racialized, and religious groups as well as for members of different social classes.'" [11]

Still related to gender issues in sociolinguistics study, the force of gender categories in society makes it impossible not to behave in a way that brings out gendered behavior in others or in another way, gender is being seen as a key component of one's identity [12]. The genetic difference between female and male is about the fact that male has chromosome X and Y while female has two chromosomes of X. Besides that, there are also some other differences between female and male such as the fact that females have more fat, fewer muscles, are less strong, and weigh less than males. They also mature more rapidly and have lighter voice than males [13]. Often, female and male exhibit different ranges of verbal skills.

Another statement came from Obidovna [14] to describe female speech as being different from that of male. Female's speech is trivial: it is illogical, euphemistic, idle, more precise, and cultivated than male's speech. Also, females use color words to describe numerous spectrums of colors, and they tend to have more adjective preferences than male. Moreover, Wardhaugh and Fuller clearly stated that female is also said to have their own vocabulary for emphasizing certain effects on them such as exquisite, divine, adorable, precious, fantastic, such fun, and many more [3]. In terms of grammatical matters in English, the intonation patterns of female and male varies a lot. For instance, female tends to use certain patterns associated with surprise and politeness more often than male.

According to Holmes, there are sociolinguistics universal tendencies related to this gender study: (1) female and male develop different patterns of language use, (2) female tends to focus on the affective functions of interaction more often than male do, (3) female tends to use linguistics devices which stress solidarity more often than male do, (4) female tends to interact in a way that will maintain solidarity while male tends to interact in a way that will maintain their status and power, and (5) female are

stylistically more flexible than male [10]. Thus, there would be various factors influence the way female and male communicate to each other including culture, race, social status, discourse type, group membership, and some more [15].

2 Methods

Qualitative descriptive design used in this research and the approach used sociolinguistics study in analyzing more about communication style between female and male students when they presented and translated the video orally [16]. The data described in details in order to understand more about female and male students' communication style while they are presenting and interpreting the video. Descriptive data is quite essential to make sure that the readers or audiences understand not only the result of the research, but also understand deeply about the background knowledge which makes someone or a group of people do something in certain way [17].

There are two steps in collecting data in this research. The first step involves giving the students short videos under the theme of tourism studies. Tourism studies is chosen as the theme due to the easiness of the material as it mostly used light and easy themes. The class divided into five groups and each group must present their chosen video and translate the video directly. Then, from the interpreting sections, the researcher analyzed the students' interpretation results when they presented the video. The last part is analyzing the results by categorizing if there are any differences between female and male students' interpretation results.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Female Students' Communication Style during the Presentation and Interpretation Section in the Class

According to Thomson et al about gender study in sociolinguistics perspective, female and male are biologically different and this difference often has serious consequences for gender [18]. Language behavior reflects male dominance, where they tend to use their power in dominating others. These days, there are a plethora of researches about gendered communication. Usually, most researches that raises the theme gendered communication focuses on the roles of people from different genders and covers areas such as business, politics, media, sports, and others. From the preliminary research, it was known that there are not many researchers who tend to raise gendered communication in translating the texts orally.

Basically, female and male tend to have different communication style and language style. Traditionally, female tends to have 'rapport' language style or it means that they will communicate to other people by emphasizing on personal information. This kind of style is also known to have the goal about relationship-building [19]. Female usually prefer more complex language choices and using more emphasizing sentences than male in which it can be their ways to express the idea and perspective related to maintain the relationship [20]. Meanwhile, male tends to have

'report' language style in which they prefer to leave out personal information or anecdotes because they may use speech that contains facts and data rather than just expressing their feelings or emotion.

In case of presenting and interpreting the tourism-theme videos, the research found that females tend to have different way in interpreting as we can see in some of these female interpreting results.

"Indonesian tourism promotion seems to be gotten its popularity these days. This can be seen from numerous brilliant advertisements in social media, television, as well as appears in various big banners spread out in some strategic public places. These massive promotion strategies make Indonesia more well-known by people all over the world. Again, Indonesia gains its popularity in tourism because of these massive strategies."

(AR, student from group 1)

"Social media plays truly impressive role in making Indonesian tourism become more familiarize among other people all over the world. So, it is clear that almost every individual play social media today. And the information and anything can be spread out easier and faster than we can imagine."

(P, student from group 2)

"Nowadays, social media has mostly used by people because it is surprisingly very effective, informative, and also quite promising to promote everything we have. There are myriad European countries which have already promoted their tourism products through social media and they are massively keep promoting through the years. Indonesia must be able to follow their path. If Indonesia can do this, it surely affects good on Indonesian tourism."

(TA, student from group 3)

From the result of interpretation above, it can be discussed about the way female students communicate their interpretation to others. First, it is found that female student uses more adjectives when they are trying to interpret the video, such as the use of 'brilliant advertisements', 'massive promotion', 'truly impressive', 'surprisingly very effective', 'quite promising', 'massively keep promoting', and 'surely affects'. This is in line with the statement that female tends to have more adjective preferences than male [3]. Lakoff as quoted in Bucholtz had ever stated that women used more adjectives than male because they want to give more power to the language they use [21]. Moreover, it can also be said that female language is seen to be powerless and deficient so that they tend to use more adjectives in order to attract attention from others. According to Lakoff, the selection of adjective preferences used by female students is generally called as 'empty adjective', which is an effective

adjective that express feelings with no significant meaning. Adjectives like ‘lovely’, ‘divine’, ‘truly’, ‘impressive’, ‘surprisingly’, are categorized as ‘empty adjective’.

Secondly, there is another communication style found in females’ interpretation result. It is about the use of emphasis in the sentences used or often called as ‘emphatic stress’. It can be seen in a sentence ‘*again, Indonesia gains its popularity in tourism because of these massive strategies*’. Moreover, Wardhaugh and Fuller also clearly stated that female is also said to have their own vocabulary for emphasizing certain effects on them as well as to have more intonation patterns than male [3]. For instance, female tends to use certain patterns associated with surprise and politeness more often than male. In case of the sentence example above, female student tends to emphasize her statement to express her opinion and make strong suggestion to the audiences. The intended emphasis using inversion or inverted word order ‘again’ to emphasize about the popularity of Indonesian tourism as well as to convince the interlocutor about the result of their interpretation.

And the third is about how those female students use ‘adding words’ that it may not be needed to form a sentence. For example, adding word of ‘can’ in a phrase ‘we can imagine’ and adding word of ‘and’ in a phrase ‘and also’. Even though they do not use the adding word ‘can’ and ‘and’, everyone knows what they’ve meant. Wardhaugh and Fuller also emphasized that gender is embedded into almost everything in today’s society as well as being socially constructed in everyday life. Furthermore, what happened to the female and male choices on language use is strongly affected by stereotypical beliefs that female and male language are different [3].

The last is about how female students tend to express the word which has the same meaning with other different words. They express something which has the meaning of ‘many’ with some other words of various, numerous, myriad. Their choices of words are varied lots than male students. As what Wardhaugh and Fuller always stated about color terminology, females use more color spectrum terminology than males [3]. The same thing also goes to female choices of words. It is clear that females use more words variation rather than males with the purpose to express their feelings and emotion [3]. A study from Graham emphasizes about the fact that females tend to use more language variations in order to express feelings, perspectives, and emotions, while males use language variations to say facts and data [22].

3.2 Male Students’ Communication Style during the Presentation and Interpretation Section in the Class

Speech is used in different ways among different groups of people as well as between two different sexes. Male tends to have different way in communication of female, of course, this statement is not being used to label the stereotypes between female and male. Sociolinguistics study emphasized that female and male are different in their communication style [23]. This gendered communication style tends to be socially constructed by the society because language choice and variations used by female and male are designed by the society since we were child. For instance, in some parts of

the world, parents raise and teach their children that pink is still considered as ‘girl color’ and blue as ‘boy color’ [24]. Here are some examples on male students’ interpretation result:

“Indonesia is popularly known as one of the most beautiful countries which has a lot of beautiful islands along with different traditions, religion, race, and cultures. Indonesia is rich in culture. There are a lot of great things that most Indonesian people must be proud of. Indonesia has thousands of cultures that no country in this world has.”

(MR, student from group 2)

“Indonesian tourism promotion has been popular today. There are a lot of tourism advertisements in social media, television, and big banners that spread out in some strategic public places. All of those promotion strategies make Indonesia to be more well-known all around the world.”

(MS, student from group 4)

“Social media plays impressive role in making Indonesian tourism to become more popular around the world. Thus, almost every individual play social media today so that the information they want to know can be gotten easier and faster.”

(DA, student from group 5)

Based on the interpretation result from group 2, group 4, and group 5; it is clear that all of those statements from male students were reported as facts they found related to the video they had translated. It is in line with what Bordia and Bowman [2] said about the basic difference between female and male in the context of their language choice and language variation. Male language tends to prioritize facts and data rather than expressing feelings and emotions. Even though in the recent dynamic approach, gender is no longer seen as something we are born with; but we cannot really ignore that gender is still seen as a social construction. The society will always judge what gender is like [25].

Now, let’s compare between the interpretation result of the same video from female students (group 1 and group 2) and the interpretation result from male students (group 4 and group 5). As it has already been discussed above about the interpretation result of female students, there are some significant differences between communication style used by female and male students. Comparing between the interpretation result of female student from group 1 and male student from group 4, it is proved that female tends to have more adjective preferences than male [3]. From the result above, it can be seen that instead of using adjective before the noun, male students prefer to directly stated the noun. For more, comparison between female student from group 2 and male student from group 3, it is found that the choice of

words and sentences used by male students is more effective and shorter than words used by female students. The interpretation result from female student consists of three sentences while interpretation result from male student only consists of two sentences by combining the second and the last sentences of what female student has interpreted altogether.

3.3 Non-Verbal Communication Style Found in Female and Male Students

It is clear that there are some differences between female and male students in the way they interpret the tourism video during the presentation and interpretation section in the class. However, during the observation when female and male students did their presentation and interpretation section, there is another finding. The finding is about the fact that there are also non-verbal communication differences found in gendered communication style.

The last communication style used by female and male students is quite interesting because it is not categorized as verbal communication, but it is more of a form of non-verbal communication. As it has already known that research into gendered communication has expanded into the area of non-verbal communication including paralanguage, facial expressions, touch, eye contact, physical space, and some others [26]. But, only physical space, physical touch, and eye contact found in this research.

In terms of physical space, according to Weinberg et al [26], males prefer speaking face-to-face and standing closer to females than they will to males while females are more comfortable standing side-by-side and prefer communicating more closely with fellow females. However, this research found otherwise, males tend to be more comfortable to stand closer with their fellow males than females and vice versa. This fact is motivated by students' religious background as Moslems in which they were forbidden to get too close to their friends of the opposite sex. It is in line with the statement from Barnawi about how Islam regulates relationships between female and male [27]

Furthermore, during the presentation and interpretation section, female students are more often to do physical touch to other females in order to build a connection or to support someone who is speaking. For instance, there was a moment where a female student touch her partner's arm to say that she wanted to add more opinions regarding the video. But, this kind of physical touch was not done by male students, even though in the theory stated by Weinberg et al [26], males are also using physical touch with different purpose, usually they use it to show dominance. During the presentation and interpretation section, male students tend to use gesture by raising their hands when they want to say something or add more comments.

Another finding is related to the use of eye contact by female and male students during the presentation and interpretation section. It is in line with Weinberg's theory about non-verbal communication that female students tend to have more eye contact than male students [26]. During the presentation and interpretation section, female students use eye contact as the indication that they are engaged and listened to what their friends had to say. On the contrary, male students tend to have less eye contact

and even try to avoid eye contact. Some of them prefer listening to the presentation by closing their eyes and some of them prefer listening to it by looking the other way.

4 Conclusion

In relation with John Gray's popular book entitled "*Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus*", females and males do have diverse ways of speaking, thinking, arguing, and communicating to others. When it comes to face similar situation, female and male might react to it in a different way due to the differences in their communication style [28]. This research found that females and males do have differences in their communication style in case of the way they present and interpret the tourism videos during presentation and interpretation section in Audio-Visual Translation class.

Female students have more adjective preferences than male students and they also use more emphasis or emphatic stress when translating the texts in order to make sure that their friends are paying attention to what they had to say. Moreover, female students often use adding words that are actually not needed, including words like 'and also'. And they tend to use more word variations to express similar word meaning such as the use of 'various', 'numerous', 'myriad' to express 'many'. In the meantime, male students prefer to directly stated the noun than using adjectives before the noun. Instead of saying '*surprisingly very informative and effective*', male students prefer saying directly '*informative and effective*'. It is also found that the choice of words and sentences used by male students is more effective and shorter than words used by female students which is in line with the statement from [29].

Related to gender, language is not neutral or in other words, language expresses cultural devaluations of female and femineity. Moreover, gender differences in language are often just one aspect of more persuasive linguistics differences in the society reflecting power differences or social status [30]. If the community is hierarchical, language use by males tend to be more powerful than language use by females [10]. This research is only limited to gendered communication style used in oral translation. And it has not touched on the area where there might be differences between female and male communication style when communicating in the classroom, whether it is in formal or semi-formal situation or the communication happened between lecturers and students in the classroom. For further research, it might be useful to explore more about gendered communication style found in written translation so that it will focus more on the written texts instead of oral texts.

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