



Language and Gender in Children's Films 'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu and 'Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā: A Sociolinguistic Study

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ABSTRACT

Gender affects the use of the language that is spoken by speakers and displays the character and identity of the speaker's language. This study aims to describe the linguistic characteristics of men and women used by the main characters in the films 'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu and 'Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā, uncover social and cultural factors that influence the use of speech used, and explore gender stereotypes that exist in both films. This research is descriptive qualitative research. The data source comes from 3 episodes of the two films, while the research data are the main character's speech and utterances, namely Umar and Aisyah. Data collection are done by documentation and literature study. The research results show that there are differences in linguistic characteristics at the phonological, morphological and lexical, syntactic and grammatical levels of the two characters of that gender. Language differences based on gender are also influenced by social factors, Arabic culture and Islamic religious culture. These two films also explore gender stereotypes by displaying the concept of exemplary and ideal language and speaking according to gender.

KEYWORDS: Language; Gender; Film; Language Characteristic, Sociolinguistic

مستخلص البحث

إن الجنس يؤثر على استخدام اللغة التي ينطق بها المتحدثون ويعرض شخصية وهوية لغة المتحدث والناطق. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى وصف الخصائص اللغوية للرجال والنساء التي استخدمتها الشخصيات الرئيسية في فيلمي "عمر وإخوته" و "عائشة وصديقاتها"، وكشف العوامل الاجتماعية والثقافية التي تؤثر على استخدام الكلام، واستكشاف الصور النمطية الجنسية الموجودة في كلا الفيلمين. هذا البحث هو بحث وصفي نوعي. مصدر البيانات يأتي من 3 حلقات من الفيلمين، في حين أن بيانات البحث هي كلام وأقوال الشخصية الرئيسية، وهما عمر وعائشة. يتم جمع البيانات عن طريق التوثيق ودراسة الأدبيات. تشير نتائج البحث إلى أن توجد اختلافات في الخصائص اللغوية على المستويات الصوتية والصرفية والنحوية للشخصيتين من بين الجنس. تتأثر الاختلافات اللغوية على أساس الجنس أيضًا بالعوامل الاجتماعية والثقافة العربية والثقافة الدينية الإسلامية. يستكشف هذان الفيلمان أيضًا الصور النمطية الجنسية من خلال عرض مفهوم اللغة المثالية والمثالية والتحدث وفقا للجنس.

الكلمات الرئيسية: اللغة، الجنس، الفيلم، خصائص اللغة، الاجتماعية اللغوية

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Introduction

Da'wah or the spread of religious values in modern era is very widespread and not limited due to the development of information media and technology. Current technological advances have ushered in changes in all aspects of human life, especially in fulfilling information (Mamdud, 2019). One of the media that plays a role at this time is film. Film is one of the media that plays an important role in conveying messages and ideology to the public. Films are able to represent several events in the real world because films have strong reality (Salbiah & Sumardi, 2021).

The films *'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu* and *'Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā* are two films that represent Islamic values. So that the content of the two films cannot be separated from moral messages and Islamic religious teachings aimed at Muslim children or Muslim women such as procedures for worship, prayer, socializing, and so on. The two films are films produced by Markazu al-Da'wati al-Islamiyati which are shown on the Markazu al-da'wati al-Islamiyati YouTube channel, a YouTube channel engaged in da'wah and Islam.

The film *'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu* is a children's film with the main character a boy named Umar who goes about his daily activities with his friends set in houses, streets, city parks, mosques and others. The film was released in 2019 and has aired dozens of episodes, while the film *'Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā* is a children's film with the main character Aisyah's daughter who also goes about her daily activities with her friends with the house as the background for most of this movie. This film was released 2 years later than the film *'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu*, which is in 2021 and still has dozens of episodes.

The researcher assumes that the film *'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu* is dedicated to boys and girls, even though the film's setting shows many settings that are more suitable for boys, but there are several parts and episodes that show cross-gender. Meanwhile, the film *'Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā* is specifically dedicated to girls. This is reflected in the setting presented in these films. The two main characters in the two films show differences in the resulting utterances. This happens because there are several gender

disparities that occur. So that there are also different linguistic characteristics between the two main characters.

There are several linguistic characteristics used by women that distinguish them from men, including *color words*, *empty adjectives*, *question intonation*, *hedge*, *intensifier*, *hypercorrect grammar*, *super polite form*, *tag questions*, *avoidance of swear words*, *sertaemphatic stress* (Lakoff, 1973). Meanwhile, according to Pan, women's language, both spoken and written, has its own characteristics (Gan, 2011). He describes the main features of female language from the perspective of phonology, vocabulary, grammar, topics and conversational styles. In using language, groups of men and women are perceived as showing different ways of speaking (Lakoff, 2023). This is caused by the factors that influence it, namely social and cultural factors that exist. Because these two factors have a big role in the use of language in society.

Language is a part of culture and is one of the most important elements of culture (Nurgiyantoro, 2017). Socio-cultural understanding of a nation will influence its language mastery. In addition, language is also the most complete medium that shows, expresses and displays its socio-cultural life (Brown, 2007). Culture is also referred to as a construction that is constructed by society and constructs society. Culture includes issues of beliefs, beliefs, symbols, and various interpretations that exist in people's lives (Banks, 1997), and gender stereotypes are a part of it.

Gender stereotypes or community beliefs regarding the concept of men and women (Intan, 2020) have developed in society and one of the factors for its spread is influenced by the media (Perdana, 2014). Film is a medium that describes the current state of social reality in society (Hasanah, 2021). The depiction of characters in a film can help people understand behaviour, norms, language, and gender. (Rupidara & Apriyani, 2023). Therefore, each character will also represent gender stereotypes directly or indirectly

Research related to language and gender has been carried out before. These studies cover several trends in various fields, including linguistic, literary, communication, and gender perspectives. Studies that are relevant to a linguistic perspective have been researched by Adriani, et al (2020) and Sutorini, et al (2019) with a semiotic approach; Butler (2019) and Piergentili, et al (2023) with a linguistic translation approach; Obidovna (2021) with a sociolinguistic approach. From a literary perspective, it has been researched by Deriu & ioredistella Iezzi (2020) and Febriani (2021). From a communication and media perspective, Husain, et al (2022) and

Setyawan (2021); The gender perspective has been researched by Agata & Saifullah (2022) and Susanti & Wulandari (2018).

The results of this literature review show that much research on language and gender has been carried out in various perspectives of study, but research and discussion specifically on language and gender in Arabic-language films which are compared and analyzed using sociolinguistic studies are still little carried out. This research is different from previous studies in terms of material object and context in the form of the films *Umar wa Ikhwatuhu* and *Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā*. In particular, this study focuses on the characteristics of language based on gender in the two films and the factors that influence them. Thus, research related to the language and gender of the both films needs to be carried out in order to create novelty in the results of the research.

There are differences in the way of expressing and selecting the language between men and women, so this requires a deeper analysis of the characteristics of both languages and the factors that influence the formation of their characteristics. In the process of this research, the researcher formulates research questions which include 3 things, namely what are the characteristics of male and female language in the main characters in these two films, how do social and cultural factors influence the speech of film characters, and what gender stereotypes appear in these two films.

Method

This research is about language and gender using descriptive qualitative research methods that aim to describe linguistic phenomena in a complete and in-depth manner (Djajasudarma, 2010). This study used the equivalent method with the basic technique or the determinant element sorting technique or the PUP technique (Sudaryanto, 2015). The formal object of this research is language and gender. The source of the data in this study were the films *Umar wa Ikhwatuhu* and *Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā*, with 3 episodes each which can be accessed on the YouTube channel @dawateislamiar or the following link:

Name of Film	Link	No	Title of Episode
Umar Wa Ikhwatuhu	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vzdb5yqOSjY&list=PL9fuSKWFtROjydWqAZh-xACVqF-ZPKst-	1	كباش عمر تفلت!
		2	شبح بدون عيون

		3	مشاغبة حمودي والورطة الكبيرة
		1	نتيجة اختبار رابعة
'A'isyah Wa Sadiqatuha	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nhp_zpLQ8h4&list=PL9fuSKWFtROir2A3G3p2cOKu8aMtM12mc	2	كسرت رائقة النباتات المنزلية..!
		3	قطعت رابعة سجة عائشة

The research data are the main character's utterances (Umar and Aisyah) in the form of words, phrases, clauses or discourse in the film. The language used in the film is Arabic with the *fuschā* (Classical Arabic) and not *'āmiyah* (Colloquial Arabic). Because *fuschā* Arabic is used in official circumstances and activities and is understood by all Arabic-speaking countries (Ali & Dana, 2020). This is intended because the purpose of making this film is for da'wah so that this film will choose a language that tends to be understood and widely used.

Data collection techniques in this study were carried out with documentation and literature studies. Documentation is done by watching and observing the language of the films *'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu* and *'Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā*, then recording and analyzing it according to the type of research and literature study by collecting data from related literature and supporting this research. Meanwhile, data analysis techniques were carried out by researchers by identifying data, collecting data in the form of speech, analyzing data, describing research results and drawing conclusions based on the results of the data analysis.

The results' presentation of the analysis will be delivered by researchers in two ways, namely the formal way and also the informal way. Formal presentation is presentation with signs as well as symbols and informal presentation is presentation of formulations with words (Sudaryanto, 2015). In this case the researcher will use signs and tables as a formal form of presentation and use descriptive words as an informal form of presentation in this study.

Results and Discussion

The entire research data on these two films were analyzed and classified according to several linguistic aspects in the linguistic characteristics used by the boy main character in the film *'Umar wa Ikhwatuhu* and the girl main character in the film *'Ā'isyah wa Shadīqātuhā*, then continued by identifying social and cultural factors that

closely influence differences in linguistic phenomena based on gender and the stereotypes that exist in the film.

Language Characteristics of the Main Characters of the Films ‘Umar wa Ikhwatuhu and ‘Ā’isyah wa Shadīqātuhā


Umar and Aisyah, the main characters of the two films have different characteristics in several linguistic aspects such as phonological, morphological and lexical, as well as syntax and grammatical aspects. In addition to the three aspects that are purely linguistic studies, different linguistic characteristics are also seen and explored on topics of discussion based on gender.

1. Phonology

If viewed from the phonetic and phonological level, the utterances spoken and recited by Aisyah have more tone and pitch variations that use a higher pitch when talking to her interlocutor. Meanwhile, in Umar's speech, he uses more normal tones except for certain utterances. The speed of speech also sounded faster than Umar. This finding is in line with the results of research in the 1960s on language interaction dominated by a paradigm that groups speakers according to biological sex (Hijriyah, 2014).

Data 1.1 Phonological Aspect of Aisyah

عائشة: ينبغي ألا نفكر في حق أحد هكذا!!




Aisyah: Yanbagī allā nufakkira fī chaqqi ahadin hakadzā!

Aisyah: We shouldn't think about other people's rights like this!

Data 1.2 Phonological Aspect of Umar

عمر: لا يجوز إيذاء أي حيوان!



Umar: Lā yajūzu īdzā`u ayyi chayawānin!

Umar: It is not allowed to abuse any animals!

2. Morphology and Lexical

Arabic is a language that distinguishes the use of masculine morphemes and feminine morphemes. Morphemes or words in Arabic are divided into 3 parts, namely

nouns (al-Ism), verbs (al-Fi'l) and particle (al-Harf) (El-Dahdah, 1944). These gender markers exist in nouns with all kinds of word classes and also verbs. The masculine gender in Arabic is called *muzjakkar* while the feminine gender in Arabic is called *mu'annats*. The following is a sampling of data morphological aspect presented in the table.

Table 1. Morphological Aspect

Kind of Word	No	Masculine/ Muzakkar	Meaning	Feminin/ Muannats	Meaning
Noun	1	صديق	male friend	صديقة	female friend
	2	أخ	brother	أخت	sister
	3	حبل	rope	سيارة	car
	4	ذنب	sin (singular)	ذنوب	sins (plural)
Verb	5	ذهب	He went	ذهبت	She went
	6	اسمعي	Listen me!	اسمعي	Listen me!
	7	أكلت	You ate	أكلت	you ate
	8	تفعل	You do	تفعلن	You do

In Arabic, there are feminine gender markers that distinguish it from masculine gender at the noun and verb levels, (Al-Jarimy & Amin, 2005). In nouns, masculine gender is divided into 2, namely real masculine and figurative masculine, as well as feminine gender which is also divided into two, namely real masculine and figurative masculine, Likewise with feminine gender which is also divided into 2, namely real feminine and figurative feminine (El-Dahdah, 1944). The real masculine and indicates the male among humans and animals, while the real feminine and indicates the female among humans and animals such as data (1.1); (1.2) dan (1.3).

The figurative masculine and feminine indicate nouns of things submitted to a conventional rule. The figurative masculine and feminine are presented in data (1.4) dan (1.5). The majority of the nouns of humans and animals have different vocable, but for nouns accepting feminization, they are generally connected with *ta' marbutah* (El-Dahdah, 1944), such as data (1.1). Some of feminine noun also has special form. In verb, gender marker for feminine use *ta' ta'nist*, and *ya' mukhatabah* such as data (1.5) until data (1.8).

Tabel 2. Lexical Aspect

Scene	When the main character see and remain friends who do wrong and mistake	
Umar	أستغفر الله، هذا أمر سيئ للغاية!	Astaghfirullah, this is really bad manners!
Aisyah	يا إلهي! ماذا فعلت يا رابعة؟	Oh Lord! What are you doing, Rabia?

There are differences in lexicon mastery between women and men. This is because women are more careful in considering many things and choosing decisions because they are worried that their choices are wrong or unacceptable by their interlocutors, while men immediately make decisions without considering whether this is appropriate or not (Prayitno, 2017).

3. Syntactic and Grammatical

Table 3. Syntactic and Grammatical Aspect

Scene	When the main character saw their friend make a mistake and get the consequences of his actions	
Umar	ما هذا يا حمودي، نحن أتينا هنا للعيادة، أصبحت أنت أيضا.	Oh, come on, Hamudi! We came here to visit a hospitalised person but now you are hospitalized too.
Aisyah	رائقة، يبدو أنك لست بخير. أختي، أخبريني ماذا يحدث لك؟	Roiqa, it looks like you're not feeling well. Sister, tell me what is happening to you?

The data in the table above shows that Aisyah used a more standard grammatically, more complex words, longer speech and showed features that exist in woman language. Based on various sociolinguistic studies conducted to find out the differences between men and women, most sociolinguistic experts agree that women use more standard forms than men when using everyday language (Al-Harashsheh, 2014). There are several reasons why women speak more standard language than men. These things are because women in society are required to follow norms and rules, women tend to be more careful in everything, the standard language they use also protects them from unfavorable assumptions about themselves (Holmes, 2008).

Social and Cultural Factors

In the social life of society, gender has an important role in the identification process from one party to another (Intan, 2020). Generally, women talk more than men (Kaplan, 2016). Topics for women's conversations are usually more personal, such as family, friends, and emotions. Meanwhile, men prefer public topics such as sports, politics, and factual issues (Wijayanti, 2012). This presentation is in line with what is in these two films which illustrate that the topic of Umar's conversation as a male character and Aisyah's topic of conversation as a female character that will be shown in the table.

Umar's Topic Conversation	Aisyah's Topic Conversation
The problems of the people	Domesticity
Sacrifices	Kinship or friendship
Activities outside the home	

The existence of these differences is an illustration and clear evidence that language is close to the people who speak it (Nurgiyantoro, 2017). Differences in topic selection are also supported, strengthened and influenced by Arabic culture and Islamic culture which encourage women to stay at home more than to do activities outside the home without any legitimate needs and interests. Arab women and especially Muslim women are also encouraged to go with their *mahrums* if they want to go somewhere. These things are based on the religious orders contained in the Al-Quran which call on Muslim women to stay in their homes, not to decorate and act like ignorant people, to perform prayers, pay zakat, and obey Allah and His Messenger (Al-Qur'an 33:33).

Besides that, the two main characters in the two films also represent good words and polite speech regardless of gender attached to both of them with the aim of teaching Muslim etiquette or ethics when speaking according to the hadith of the prophet which says "Whoever believes to Allah and the last day you should say good or be silent" (Baqi, 2021). The closeness of the influence of culture and language is because culture is a system that regulates human interaction and language is a means of continuing this interaction (Chaer & Agustina, 2014).

Gender Stereotypes

These two films are inseparable from the representation of gender stereotypes. Gender stereotypes regulate human behavior which is divided into two classes, namely men and women. Gender stereotypes regulate and formulate how men and women should think, feel and act (Zadugisti, 2013).

Actors	Characteristic	Reflection
Umar	Umar is described as a wise and firm person	In the style of language and diction used in adjudicating and overcoming a problem or incident and from the body gestures which also show his personality.
Aisyah	Aisyah is described firm but gentle, patient and very nurturing to her younger siblings, friends and even her sisters.	Her patience and gentleness is reflected in all her activities as well as in her speech, even when she is advising his younger sister who made a mistake.

Basically, women are more polite in using language than men because they care more about other people, are easy to work with, but besides that, women's language is considered less effective than men (Eckert & Ginnet, 2013). Men tend to rely on reason and logic when speaking or acting, in contrast to women who tend to prioritize their feelings (Prayitno, 2017). The patriarchal cultural characteristics of Arab society are strongly reflected in the spoken Arabic language and in their gender relations (Kalsum, 2021). These impressions are awakened and constructed consciously or unconsciously in both films. The existing construction of gender is also not spared from the role and influence of culture and society.

Conclusions

Gender will always affect the language a person uses in daily speech. These two films represent the differences in language characteristics that exist in the main male and female characters. The results of the study show that there are differences in linguistic characteristics at the phonological, morphological and lexical, syntactic and grammatical levels of the two characters with that gender. Differences in language based on gender are also influenced by social and cultural factors of Arabic and Islamic religious culture. These two films also explore gender stereotypes by displaying the concept of exemplary and ideal language and speaking according to gender. The findings presented in this study are based on limited data and analysis, namely language characteristics, social and cultural factors and existing stereotypes. Expanding the analysis on language characteristics at the level of other branches of linguistics or on other factors that affect speech based on gender such as cognitive and psychological factors will perfect and develop this research. This research also presents

opportunities for further research on language and metaphor on different material objects such as utterances or texts in poetry, novels, videos, social media and so on.

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