

THE ANALYSIS OF GENDER REPRESENTATION IN LOVE, SEX, DEATH, AND WORDS SURPRISING TALES FROM A YEAR IN LITERATURE BY JOHN SUTHERLAND AND STEPHEN FENDER

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ABSTRACT

The aims of this study is to find out the Gender Representation in Love, Sex, Death, and Words Surprising Tales from a Year in Literature by John Sutherland and Stephen Fender and to reveal the message between them. This study uses descriptive qualitative analysis since the data are not statistically analyzed and the data of this study are picture and text, which exist in the book. The findings of this study will show that diction and gender have integrated each other. Both of them have much influence in Love, Sex, Death, and Words Surprising Tales from a Year in Literature. Finally, this study has much beneficial for those who want to know more about the way gender takes part in the book. There are several ways to make a good literature work especially in this book and one of the strategy is gender. Gender has a unique way to make literature work can be seen beautifully. Additionally, this research gives additional information for those who intend to conduct the research on the same topic but different object of the research to get varied result of the research.

Keywords: Task, gender, literature, tales.

INTRODUCTION

Gender is one of the basic categories in our social life. According to Popenoe (1983) states ‘gender is the social and psychological traits associated with masculinity and femininity, whereas sex is the biological traits of males and females’. In short, as a biological trait, ‘sex is constant for all members of population.

Nowadays, study about gender is very common issues but it has special topic because it is not only talks about the differences on how man and woman use the language but also about why they use their language such kind of frontal or indirect speech and how it is influenced their language. Because woman is usually, speak directly or talk turkey to some people. That is why it is important to know how that case happens in our daily life. Those, which make study about language and gender, become the special topic.

That is why; this study is to find out the Gender Representation in Love, Sex, Death, and Words Surprising Tales from a Year in Literature by John

Sutherland and Stephen Fender and to reveal the message between them. This study uses descriptive qualitative analysis since the data are not statistically analyzed and the data of this study are picture and text that exist in the book.

Sex and Gender

Because of many different people often mistaken in defining sex and gender, therefore it is very essential to know the distinction between these two terms. In certain communities, those terms are not used appropriately based on the particular context. According to Hussey (2003) state that sex typically refers to biologically difference. It refers to the biological characteristics of being a man and a woman in which a man has a different anatomical reproductive system from a woman. A man is born with a penis, scrotum, testes, spermatic ducts, and sex glands, whereas a woman has vagina, ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, vulva, breasts, and mammary glands. In short, an individual with a penis is a male, whereas an individual with a vagina is a female.

In contrast, Lorber (2010) states that “gender as an institution that establishes patterns of expectations for individuals, orders the social processes of everyday life, is built into the major social organizations of society, such as the economy, ideology, the family, and politics, and is also an entity in and of itself” (as cited in Hussey, 2003). She also claimed that “... gender and sex are not equivalent, and gender as a social construction does not flow automatically from genitalia and reproductive organs, the main physiological differences of females and males” (as cited in Hussey, 2003, p. 11). Those statements show that sex and gender are different terms but the two are related. Sex has been given by God and gender is as a cultural concept constructed by the society, refers to the different characteristics possessed by males and females in life, touching nearly all aspects of life from the smallest to the largest area.

Language and Gender

All of people to communicate to each other use language. Without language, they cannot transfer their idea into other people. Therefore, language is very essential for every people and it must be studied hardly in acquiring the language. Language as stated by Romaine (2001: 157) that Language holds the key to challenging and changing male hegemony. For French feminists women’s oppression has to be understood linguistically. Any representations, whether of

women or men, are embedded first in language, and then in politics, culture, economics, history, etc.

Language certainly plays an important role in our daily life especially in the society. Without language, we cannot communicate and speak with our neighbor, our parents, etc. Hence, the first aspect, which is needed in our life, is language. Something that can make some nations to be united, to have one principle, etc.

It is also stated by Weatherall (2002) that gender is not just reflected in language but the concept of gender is itself constituted by the language used to refer to it. It can be said that how gender is reflected in language is the most important point. They have some differences on how they deliver their speech.

Language uses us as much as we use language. As much as our choice of forms of expression is guided by the thoughts we want to express, to the same extent the way we feel about the things in the real world governs the way we express ourselves about these things (Lakoff, 1975a). In the application of doing language, women and men are often speaking in different style. They have different characters in the way they deliver their language in communication with the interlocutor. Even, when they speak by themselves or when they write anything, between women and men have different characteristic. According to Lakoff (1975) about proposing women's speech can be distinguished from that of men in a number of ways, consisting of: *Hedges, Empty adjective, Apologize more, Speak less frequently, Avoid coarse language or expletives, Tag questions, Hyper-correct grammar and pronunciation: Use of prestige grammar and clear articulation, Indirect requests, Speak in italics.*

METHOD

This research is conducted in the field of discourse analysis study especially on language and gender. The data of this research are in the form of words, utterances, and sentences that are not statistically analyzed. It also has a function to get deep understanding on how the author expresses their ideas through the language use.

It is stated by Creswell (2012, p. 212) that another aspect of qualitative data collection is to identify the types of data that will address your research questions.

Thus, it is important to become familiar with your questions and topics, and to review them prior to deciding upon the types of qualitative data that you will collect. Therefore, by qualitative method can be used to get deep understanding about the topic that is discussed. From those points, descriptive qualitative method is applied for this study. This is the definition of qualitative research by Fraenkel & Wallen (1990, cited in Creswell, 2009:228). Qualitative research is the research that occurs in natural settings, where here human behavior and events occur. The focus of qualitative research is on participants' perceptions and experiences, and the way they make sense of their lives. Researchers are particularly interested in understanding how things occur. The data that emerge from a qualitative study are descriptive. That is data are reported in words (primarily the participant's words) or pictures, rather than in numbers (Fraenkel&Wallen, 1990).

Qualitative approach is chosen to analyze the dictions which is influenced by Gender role inside the making of the novel. The analysis will bond to how dictions constructed because of the influences of Gender toward the novel, and the reason, which influences the main characters, produce the utterances inside the novel. By using descriptive qualitative method, it gives more advantages for this study to be explored and widely observed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Bettina Baron and Helga Kotthoff in their edited book, *Gender in Interaction: Perspectives on femininity and masculinity in ethnography and discourse* (2001) stated that gender stereotypes: Women reported themselves to be higher in Neuroticism (negative character like nervousness, depression, and insecurity and easy to change their mind), Agreeableness (meekness, attraction to others, feeling empathy, helpful, forgiving, and cooperative). Warmth and Openness (open, tolerance, curiosity, eager to try new things) to Feelings. Whereas men were higher in Assertiveness and Openness to Ideas. Therefore, the book *Love Sex Death & Words Surprising Tales from a Year in Literature* (2011) is suitable to be reviewed page by page to find out how John Sutherland and Stephen Fender arranged tales from a year in literature. There are many writers in this book containing literatures from different background of knowledge and story that can be viewed by gender's perspective, seen by the theory of gender

stereotypes. Several data found the language style presented by these literary writers is highly integrated with the feelings and circumstances of the writers. Likewise, their writing style cannot be separated from the gender style of writers. For instance;

Datum I:

De Quincey drafted the letter to Wordsworth in his diary. It began:

What I am going to say, I know, would seem strange to most men: and to most men therefore I would not say it; but to you I will, because your feelings do not follow the current of the world. From the time when I first saw the 'Lyrical Ballads' I made a resolution to obtain (if I could) the friendship of their author. (Page 183)

Thomas De Quincey an English writer, the famous author of the classic romantic memoir, *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* (1822) ever drafted a letter to Wordsworth in his diary. The writings told us that Thomas De Quincey tried to great somebody like in the statement of *but to you I will*. De Quincey felt a little awkward when he wanted to tell all the most men in the world about something but to someone called *you* he stated directly *your feelings do not follow the current of the world.....* in this situation, it can be seen as a men great somebody. Thomas De Quincey is very confident and very firm in stating about something without shame. De Quincey greats his interlocutor can be categorized as the higher assertiveness that the men commonly have.

Datum II:

Theodore Roosevelt writes to Brander Matthews, professor of literature at Columbia: 'What a miserable little snob Henry James is! His polished, pointless, uninteresting stories about the upper classes in England make one blush to think that he was once an American'. (Page 246)

It looks very clear from Theodore Roosevelt no nonsense, to the point, with the passionate phrase straight away saying to Brander Matthews about someone called James; *His polished, pointless, uninteresting stories about the upper classes in England make one blush to think that he was once an American.* The straightforward Western style is very culturally distinct. Theodore Roosevelt expressed his idea about his dislike of the upper classes in England story presented by James using judgmental words, very typically men.

Datum III:

Disguised as a snake, the Devil invades a meeting of the synod in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but Mr Thomson, an elder of Braintree and a man of much faith, treads it under foot. (Page 308)

Stated in the journal of John Winthrop, Bay Colony at that time become a governor of the Massachusetts described a Mr. Thomson as the one who stepped on a snake that he illustrated as a devil which disturb the church meeting in Cambridge. This illustration sentences refers to the idea of Bay Colony. As a governor metaphor languages used to exemplify what he sees concerning mr Tom who a man that have much confidence dare to against bad people (a snake).

Datum IV:

A few pieces of poetry from Shelley of *Massacre of Peterloo*;

*Men of England, heirs of Glory,
Heroes of unwritten story,
Nursling of one mighty mother,
Hopes of her, and one another;*

*Rise like lions after slumbers
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you—
Ye are many – they are few.* (Page 310)

The Mask of Anarchy is a political poetry that was written by Percy Bysshe Shelley in 1819 inspired by the Peterloo Massacre. On August 16th, 1819, a crowd of people assembled at St Peter's field, Manchester to support parliamentary reformation. Then, the government ordered security forces of Manchester to disperse the demonstration but unfortunately, many people died from the dispersal incident. They were charged and killed and many more were injured. Shelley tried to interpret the incident through a firm poem. *Men of England, heirs of Glory, Heroes of unwritten story*, the statement of *heirs of Glory* seen as the praise and flatter the people who joined in that action. In addition, *Rise like lions after slumbers*, their courage is described by Shelley to commemorate their voluntary action to track down on iniquity. Those dictions used to describe the assertiveness that Shelley has as a man who believe the sacrifices that occur will not go to waste.

Datum V:

Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma bomber, chose the poem as his final statement to the world before his lethal injection for the murder of 168 fellow Americans in 2001;

*Let the poem speak for itself;
Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole
I think whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.* 1st stanza

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishment the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.* 4th stanza (page 318)

This poem is actually taken from the famous *Invictus* written by English poet William Ernest Henley (1875). Timothy McVeigh as his final statement chose this poem before his death. Even it is not his original work but it can be seen that McVeigh tried to show what is in his thought before being executed. *Out of the night that covers me, Black as the pit from pole to pole*, he tried to replicate in what condition he is. McVeigh argued that the bombing he was done is the revenge against the government. In the condition like that he chose the poem to make people know what actually the reason why he did bombing. He felt that he was in *unconquerable soul* doing that. As a man he was responsible for what he was done, whatever punishment he received, he felt that what he has done is right. His soul felt peace after all. By using the poem from the 4th stanza *How charged with punishment the scroll, I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul*.

Datum VI:

*"What should such fellows as I do,
Crawling between earth and heaven?"*

*Here is the phial; here I turn the key
Sharp in the lock. Click!--there's no doubt it turned.
This is the third time; there is luck in threes—
Queen Luck, that rules the world, befriend me now
And freely I'll forgive you many wrongs!
Just as the draught began to work, first time,*

*Tom Leigh, my friend (as friends go in the world),
Burst in, and drew the phial from my hand,
(Ah, Tom! ah, Tom! that was a sorry turn!)* (Page 344)

Amy Judith Levy as a revolutionary woman student at Newnham College; her feminist points; her living with others makes her to be called as a "New Woman" life, some of whom were lesbians. Then she was found in her parents' home in London committed suicide. It can be seen from the poetry that was written that she does melancholy terms in the diction *what should such fellows as I do, Crawling between earth and heaven?* In her life, she was also known as a person who eager to attract with other, she was easy in establishing a friendship relationship. In her poem she mentioned *Queen Luck, that rules the world, befriend me now*, in this verse, she invited fortune who she believed ruling the world to befriend her. She presented it with slightly melancholy language that showed her feminine side.

CONCLUSSION

Humans as divine beings have their respective representations because in fact, they are created differently, and in terms of gender, there are masculine who appear firm and feminism who look a little calmer and sometimes melancholy. From this fact, a literary writer cannot be separated from the fact that they have different characteristics in composing their writing. Of the many aspects that influence their writing, gender takes on the more impacted role. Because of course, the writing style of a man and a woman also plays an important role in creating a work.

From some of the data provided above, we can see some real differences. We can learn many things from some of the literary works above. There is writing that is very emphatic, without further ado and straight to the point in its delivery. There are also those who look male because they immediately take a word choice that looks harsh. In addition, Amy Levy's latest literary work looks a little melancholy, which shows the feminine side of the writer.

This study aims to show that whatever causes all works to be created there are fundamental things that influence it, namely gender representations. Moreover, hopefully this research can be useful for all those who need it.

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