

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This section presents the theory of sexism proposed by Mills (2008) to conduct this research. The theory used explains the sexist language and the classifications of sexism.

2.1.1 Sexist Language

Language serves a means of maintaining gender power and marginalizing other genders through speech and writing, known as sexist language. The use of sexist language creates gender stereotypes that limit women's ability to express themselves (Adawiyah & Laili, 2023). In her book "*Language and Sexism*" (2008), she classifies sexist language into overt and covert sexism, distinguished by the linguistic markers and how the speaker conveys the message to the recipient. Overt sexism is used to attack women clearly or directly and without ambiguity. Meanwhile, covert sexism is terms with hidden meaning for opposing or excluding women intentionally or unintentionally.

2.1.2 Classification of overt sexism

This categorization is used or spoken frontally through the use of linguistic markers, or the analyses of presumptions which are still related to expressions of woman discrimination and subordination. These are classifications of overt sexism:

2.1.2.1 Naming

Mills (2008) explained that naming is a form of word that is used to refer to a woman in a negative connotation. Although, naming can have positive literal meaning, it changes figuratively to be too excessive when it is attributed to women. Furthermore, it is commonly used by excluding women from the naming process and is used for representing women. For example, the use of terms of endearment such as “*honey*” to call a woman who is not in a close relationship (Maulani, 2024).

2.1.2.2 Generic pronouns and nouns

According to Mills (2008), Generic pronouns are constructed by using male terms instead of non-sexist terms, for example the suffix ‘-*man*’ and ‘-*he*’. These terms are categorized as sexist because they show women cannot be directly pointed out and must be using male terms to refer to women. As an example, the word “*chairman*” has the suffix -*man*, a specific male-term to refer to both man and woman.

2.1.2.3 Insult terms for women

The term is used to attack women by naming using parts of the body or stereotypical belief or sexualizing (Mills, 2008, p. 43). An example is “*hoe*”, which is an insult referring to a woman by stereotypically sexualizing a woman as a sex worker to denote her. Moreover, the term is not used by male only, but also women who use it refer herself or other women ignorantly. For instance, the word “*dykes*” in the 20th century was used by lesbian to call each other where

this word is derived from the word “*virago*” meaning troublesome woman (Mills, 2008, p. 25).

2.1.2.4 Transitivity

According to Burton (1982), female characters in literature have a tendency to be represented as the recipient of others' action (Mills, 2008, p. 69). It suggests that transitivity reflects men to have the power to control or to dominate women. Furthermore, Wareing (1995) argues that even in women's literature where women are expected to be self-determining, there are still tendencies that they are represented as passive (Mills, 2008).

2.1.2.5 Semantic derogation

Terms which are correlated with women or with femininity are shaped by historical factors such as society or culture to have negative connotations or less prestigious (Mills, 2008, p. 56). An example is the word “*housewife*” considered as less prestigious after the feminist campaign is telling that the “*housewife*” is a woman who is domesticated by staying at home.

2.1.2.6 Jokes

A word or phrase is expressed by referring to women as an “*inferior or subordinate group*” without taking responsibility for ejection in order to make people laugh (Mills, 2008, p. 71). An example is study by Fitriyah (2023), where a man jokes that he likes to be the subject of a woman's fantasy. Although it seems like men position themselves as a subject in that statement, it implies that women are seen as desirer of men.

2.1.3 Classification of covert sexism

The main difference is covert sexism is subtly disguised, making it difficult for the recipient to immediately recognize the sexism in the statement. Furthermore, these are classifications of covert sexism:

2.1.3.1 Conflicting message

According to Mills (2008), alternative utterance is used for avoiding sexism, but it causes doubt and ambiguous messages. In a case studied by Mills in the Dating Agency (1998), women were asked to fill a questionnaire about describing themselves and their partner type by using non-sexist terms. Non-sexist terms used were '*Ms*' instead of '*Miss*' or '*Mrs*' and '*unemployed*' as an alternative of the term '*housewife*'. The purpose of this study case was to treat women equally by avoiding sexist terms. However, there was an apparent problem where a woman who was a housewife was labelled as unemployed, showing degradation by not respecting the role.

2.1.3.2 Collocation

Collocation is the forms of words or utterances that are put together to create binary meaning to oppose women or subordinate them (Mills, 2008, p. 148). As an example, the term '*mum*' is often used to indirectly conflict a situation which is not related to mum's role or responsibility to oppose women, such as the term '*single mum*' where this meaning has negative connotation and relates to problematic issues.

2.1.3.3 Androcentric perspective

Androcentric perspective is a point of view based on man's thought which is related to norm or standard for women to behave in inferiority (Mills, 2008). For an example is the statement "*Girls do not play chess*" said by a male character to a female character in the Queen Gambit series (Dewi & Pratama, 2023). It presents the bias toward chess where the game is only played by men, not women.

2.1.3.4 Presupposition

Miles (2008) stated that presupposition is an indirect assumption in negative connotation by referring to women's attitude or prejudice in society. An example by Christie (2001) in her study, "*So, you women finished gossiping?*" shows a stereotype towards women having bad talk habits (Mills, 2008). In this context, the utterance shows a presupposition where women talking together could be supposed as gossiping.

2.1.3.5 Metaphor

Siregar et al. (2020) argued that metaphor is used to present the implication based on an analogy of the two different subjects (Noh et al., 2022). An example is study by Kaur et al. (2023), when a female character says "*she calls you a diamond of the first water*", it means she calls the person she refers to as a woman that will capture many suitors for marriage proposals.

2.2 Research Method

This section will present the research methodology to analyse the data, followed by type of research and data description, method of collecting and analysing the data.

2.2.1 Type of research

This research is qualitative with observation methods. The observation method was chosen because the role of researcher is not as a participant in the object of research, but as an observer. Furthermore, an observation method is used to holistically analyse the verbal data obtained from the object of research study, *A Memoir: Educated* by Tara Westover (2018) published by Random House.

2.2.2 Data and Data Source

The researcher conducted the primary data directly on the object of research study, *A Memoir: Educated* by Tara Westover (2018) published by Random House. The primary data is the utterances performed by the male and female members of the Westover family that contains sexism, according to Mills. The Male members are Gene Westover (the father) and Shawn Westover (the son). Meanwhile the female members are Faye Westover (the mother), and Tara Westover (the daughter).

2.2.3 Population and Sample

The population of this study consists of the utterances performed by Gene (the father), Faye (the mother), Tara (the daughter), and Shawn (the son) from *A Memoir: Educated* (2018). Meanwhile, the sampling is the utterances of these

characters that indicates sexism proposed based on Mills' theory (2008). Furthermore, the researcher used purposive sampling in this study by focusing on the utterances expressed by the characters that contains overt and covert sexism proposed by Mills (2008).

2.2.4 Method of Collecting Data

To collect the data, there were several steps as follows:

1. The author collected data by reading carefully the object of study, *A Memoir: Educated* by Tara Westover (2018). Furthermore, this research only focuses on the utterances of the characters in the Westover family.
2. The Westover family interactions performed by female characters (Faye and Tara), and male characters (Gene and Shawn) were annotated by using Nitro PDF Pro that contains sexist linguistic markers and biased language.
3. The selected utterances were organized in Microsoft Excel to ensure efficiency. There are three columns created as seen in **Figure 1**. The first column is populated with the names of the characters who are speaking. The second column consists of the gender of characters in the first column. The last column is the utterances performed by the characters.

Figure 1: Sample template

Characters	Gender	Utterances
Shawn Westover	Male	I see how you prance around with Charles like a prostitute ." He turned to Mother to the effect of his words on her (Westover, 2018, p. 133).
Shawn Westover	Male	"If you're smart, Siddle Lister ," Shawn said, "you'll use this on yourself. Because it will be better than what I'll do to you if you don't" (Westover,

2.2.5 Method of Analysing the Data

To analyse the data, the researcher employed these following steps:

1. After organizing all the utterances, two columns were added from the sample template in **Figure 1**. As presented in **Figure 2**, the first addition column consists of types of sexism, overt and covert sexism. The second addition column shows the classification from the types of sexism from in the fifth column.

Figure 2: Extended Sample Template

Characters	Gender	Utterances	Type of Sexism
Shawn Westover	Male	I see how you prance around with Charles like a prostitute.” He turned to Mother to the effect of his words on her (Westover, 2018, p. 133).	Overt sexism
Shawn Westover	Male	“If you’re smart, Siddle Lister,” Shawn said, “you’ll use this on yourself. Because it will be better than what I’ll do to you if you don’t” (Westover, 2018, p. 315)	Overt sexism

2. The collected data was analysed by using Mills’ approach of sexist utterances based on “*Language and Sexism*” published by Cambridge University Press (2008). For each type of sexism and its classification was discussed in the result and discussion (Chapter III).
3. Furthermore, a bar chart was presented to show the number and the comparison of male and female sexist utterances performed by the Westover family.
4. The next step is the analysis of comparison was studied to show how overt and covert sexism used to perpetuate sexism values.
5. Finally, the conclusion was drawn from the results of the analysis.