ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN *ON THE BASIS OF SEX* (2018)

A THESIS:

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for S-1 Degree Majoring Literature in the English Department, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

Tsabita Cahya Qur'ani

Student Number: 13020121120012

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY
SEMARANG
2025

PERPUSTAKAAN FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO

PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly state that this thesis is written by myself without taking any works from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 21 July 2025



Tsabita Cahya Qur'ani

PERPUSTAKAAN FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Allah does not require of any soul more than what it can afford.

Q. S. Al-Baqarah: 286

The hardships and pain now, I hope it will be something you'd be thankful for.

Chae Bonggu (PLAVE)

This thesis is dedicated to my parents,

for always supporting me in any condition

Thank you to everyone

for giving me the support to finish this study

PERPUSTAKAAN FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO

APPROVAL

ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN *ON THE BASIS OF SEX (2018)*

Written by:

Tsabita Cahya Qur'ani

NIM: 13020121120012

Is approved by the thesis advisor

on 21st July 2025

Thesis Advisor

Ayu Ida Savitri, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197908222008012013

The Head of English Department

Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra M.Hum.
NIP. 196710041993031003

VALIDATION

ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN *ON THE BASIS OF SEX (2018)*

Submitted by:
Tsabita Cahya Qur'ani
13020121120012

Approved by:
Strata 1 Thesis Examination Committee
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University
On September 2nd, 2025

Chairperson,
Dr. Dra. Nurhayati, M.Hum.
NIP.196610041990012001

Member,
Dr. Drs. Catur Kepirianto, M.Hum.
NIP.196509221992031002

Member,
Ayu Ida Savitri, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197908222008012013

Accepted and declared in Semarang on September 2nd, 2025
The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197211191998021002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise be to Allah SWT, who has given us His countless blessings and great mercy, so this thesis can be completed. This part is presented to show my gratitude to all who have given their support to me when I conducted this thesis. My words might never be enough to express how much their support means to me.

The deepest appreciation and gratitude I express to Mrs. Ayu Ida Savitri, S.S., M.Hum., my thesis advisor, who has spared his valuable time to patiently give her constructive suggestions and continuously guide me, as well as convince me to complete this thesis.

My greatest gratitude is also delivered to the following;

1. Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum., as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
2. Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra M.Hum., as the Head of the English Department of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
3. All lecturers of English Department Diponegoro University. Precious knowledge and their advice would be unforgettable for me.
4. My family, especially my parents who are the biggest reasons and motivations for me to finish my education.
5. My closest friends, Hasna, Shalsa, Shania, and Shasqia, who always give me strength throughout my college years. Thank you, for the support and memories we made together, for the time we shared, and the endless stories we talk.

PERPUSTAKAAN FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO

6. My high school friends, Delvita, Yaya, and Sekar, who always motivate me to finish this thesis.
7. My cousins, Dizza, and Kent for always sending me emotional support despite the distance.
8. My friends in English Department Class A, and linguistics class. Thank you for the amazing memories and time we shared.
9. To everyone who I cannot mention one by one. Thank you for being a part of my motivation.

This thesis still needs to be improved since I realize that this is far from being perfect. Thus, any advice and constructive suggestions would always be welcomed and appreciated. Lastly, I hope that this thesis will be helpful for people who want to learn or study about language and gender.

Semarang, 21 July 2025



Tsabita Cahya Qur'ani

PERPUSTAKAAN FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRONOUNCEMENT ..... **ii**
MOTTO AND DEDICATION ..... **iii**
APPROVAL ..... **iv**
VALIDATION ..... **v**
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ..... **vi**
TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... **viii**
ABSTRACT ..... **x**
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION **1**
1.1. Background of the Study 1
1.2. Research Questions 2
1.3. Objectives of the Study 3
1.4. Previous Studies 3
1.5. Scope of the Study 6
1.6. Writing Organization 7
CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK & METHODOLOGY **8**
2.1. Theoretical Framework 8
2.1.1. Language Features 8
2.1.1.1. Lexical Hedges 8
2.1.1.2. Tag Questions 9
2.1.1.3. Rising Intonations 9
2.1.1.4. Empty Adjectives 10
2.1.1.5. Precise Color Terms 10
2.1.1.6. Intensifiers 11
2.1.1.7. Hypercorrect Grammar 11
2.1.1.8. Super Polite Forms 12
2.1.1.9. Avoidance of Strong Swear Words 12
2.1.1.10. Empathic Stress 12
2.1.2. Social Factors Influence Language Choice 13
2.2. Research Method 14
2.2.1. Type of Research 14

PERPUSTAKAAN FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO

2.2.2. Data and Data Sources 15
2.2.3. Population and Sample 15
2.2.4. Method of Collecting Data 16
2.2.5. Method of Analyzing Data 18
CHAPTER III FINDING AND DISCUSSION 19
3.1. Findings 19
3.2. Discussion 21
3.2.1. Language Features 21
3.2.1.1. Lexical Hedges 21
3.2.1.2. Tag Questions 23
3.2.1.3. Rising Intonations 25
3.2.1.4. Empty Adjectives 27
3.2.1.5. Intensifiers 28
3.2.1.6. Hypercorrect Grammar 31
3.2.1.7. Super Polite Forms 33
3.2.1.8. Empathic Stress 35
3.2.2. Factors Influence Language Choice 37
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION 41
REFERENCES 43

PERPUSTAKAAN FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO