

THE SEXISM IN JANE AUSTEN'S *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*

ARTICLE

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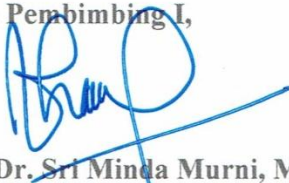
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ABSTRACT

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This study deals with *The Sexism in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*. This study was aimed as analyzing the types of sexist language that was consisted in the story of the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and to show the discrimination of sex in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. This research used qualitative research. The data was taken from the sentences in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The research deals with the theory which was conducted by Janet Holmes (2001), where she said there were three types of sexist language. There were three types of sexist language found in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, they were English Metaphors (10,60 %), Marked and Unmarked (89,02 %), and Generalization (0,38 %). It was find that the Marked and Unmarked (89,02 %) dominantly used in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* to shows that there are discrimination, especially found in women side as the discriminated sex in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

Keywords: *Sexism, Sexist Language, Discrimination.*

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INTRODUCTION

Background of The Study

Holmes (2001:305) says that sexist is an attitude where the people giving valuation or stereotype to a person based on the gender or sex rather than the attitudes of the person itself. It means, sexist focuses on sex to judge person, even the person has a good speech or good attitude they will get the negative stereotype because of the sex. Sexist language encodes stereotyped attitudes to women and man. Both of this theories will be conducted a new knowledge, that is language can discriminates one sex. As the phenomenon sexist brings the discussion of sexism, where sexism is the discussion of language which is discriminated one of the sex by the language used the stereotype.

Society is a location where the discrimination of sex can be found. The language which is used in the society will be reflected how the language discriminates the sex. In this case, the data are taken from the Jane Austen's novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. Novel is one of media which is described the conditions of a society, because a novel explains the story more detailed than a short story or poet.

In fact, in *Pride and Prejudice* the word which is reflected sexism found easily, it means there are sex discrimination act found in the story line. The example of sexist language where found in *Pride and Prejudice* Novel was:

My dear **Mr. Bennet**," said his lady to him one day, "have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?"

Mr. Bennet replied that he had not.

"But it is," returned she; "for **Mrs. Long** has just been here, and she told me all about it."

Mr = Mister/Master (Unmarked)

Mrs = Mistress (Marked)

The addressee of Mister and Mistress shows the status between women and men. Mister is an addressee for men, where in this word the status of men is hidden or we don't know that the status of the men is single or already married. In other hand, Mistress is an addresser for women, which is taken from Mister. This addressee shows the marital status of the women.

Based on the explanation above, the research about sexism is an important research to get the point of sex equality. This study will be focused on analyzing the sexism based on sexist language in *Pride and Prejudice* novel by Jane Austen and this research uses the theory about sexism conducted by Holmes (2001)

Sexism can be happened in every condition and every situation, in this research, the data taken from a novel which is supported this study. There are many genres of novel, such as scientific fiction, romance, horror, criminal and etc. In a novel we find a reflection of a life story, because a novel wrote the story in a very detail one. In this research, the novel which is used is "Pride and prejudice" by Jane Austen's. This novel is a romance novel where the novel predicate as the most romantic novel till now and this is one of the reasons why this research uses this novel as the data. The popularity of this novel make the novel as the favorite novel to the readers and it is made the novel have a big impact to the readers.

Pride and Prejudice is one of the most popular literary works and nominated as an important novel in the history. There are some studies that held by some researchers on analyzing this novel. The first by Murdianti, entitle *Woman's Language Analysis on The Main Character in Jane Austen;s Novel Pride and Prejudice*. She used theory that is conducted by Lakoff in Janet Holmes book titled *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics 2nd Edition (2001)*. She found that there were so many classifications of women's language in Pride and Prejudice novel where it is made the women language more complicated than men language.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The study is completed by the theories correlated to the topic researched in order to enhance the knowledge toward the topic. The theories are consisted of sexism, sexist language and novel.

Wilson (1990) in Nancy's journal (2015:232) says sexism as a set of expectations of women's appearance, actions, skills, emotions and proper place in society. It is generally conceived as anything that conveys that one sex is superior to the other.

Graddol in Nancy's journal (2015:232) defines sexism as any discrimination against women or men because of their sex, and made on irrelevant grounds. It means sexism can be happened to both of the sexes, not only women but also men. Sexism is a discrimination based on the sex of the person, where this discrimination makes one of sex as the weak one and the other one is the superior one. This discrimination usually focused on woman as the weak one and man in the superior position although men also can get the discrimination on sex.

Sexism involves behavior which maintains social inequalities between women and men (Holmes 2001:305) From the explanation from Holmes, it makes sense that women and men can be discriminated as the weak one or the powerful one, or can be a positive one and negative one.

The inequalities of women and men in the society will discriminate one sex as the weak one, and rise up another sex as the superior one. In this case, women will be the weak one and men the superior sex.

Language conveys attitudes. Sexist attitudes stereotype a person according to gender rather than judging on individual merits. Sexist language encodes stereotyped attitudes to women and men. in principle, then, the study of sexist language is concerned with the way language expresses both negative and positive stereotypes of both women and men. in

practice, research in this area has concentrated on the ways in which language conveys negative attitudes to women. (Holmes 2001:305).

Holmes (2001:305) says that feminist already said that English language is a sexist language. This is supported by the definition of feminism itself, where feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression (Hooks 2000:1).

Holmes (2001:305) states there are a number of ways in which, it has been suggested that the language discriminates sex, in this case discriminates women. They are English Metaphore, Marked and Unmarked and Generalization.

Novel is emerged first in Spain during the seventieth century and England during eighteenth century, employs the elements in e very deliberate manner (Klarer 2004:10). For the very first time in the seventieth century novel was develop and pass time after time until now. Novel is different with short story, but in one subject in prose. Novel is longest than short story where a novel tells the story more completely and specifically.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research conducted by qualitative research. Qualitative research focused on understanding social phenomena from the perspective of the human participants in natural settings (Ary 2010: 22). Walliman (2011:10) states that qualitative research is a research design based on the data to observe the problem. After the data is collected, the data can be analyzed subsequently.

Qualitative researchers seek to understand a phenomenon by focusing on the total picture rather than breaking it down into variables. The goal is a holistic picture and depth of understanding rather than a numeric analysis of data (Ary 2010:29).

The source of the data was from a popular novel in the world which was said as the most romantic novel all of the time, the novel was *Pride and Prejudice* written by Jane Austen.

Data of this research was collected by documentary technique. The documentary technique is a method of collecting the data which is collected in the form of document (Ary 2010:442). The document data which is collected in this study is taken from a novel, entitled *Pride and Prejudice*.

DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS

The data as stated in the chapter three was taken from a popular romance novel that is written by Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*. The data that was collected are limited from chapter I to chapter X. There are 264 data collected from the novel.

The data collected were in term of sexist language which was stated by Janet Holmes in her book. Then, the data were analyzed to find out the types of sexist language that was existed in the novel of Jane Austen. It was finished by classified the data and analyzed it into the dominant types of sexist language and the last described the data as followed below:

1. The Types of Sexist Language

a. The English Metaphors.

Metaphor was an analogy or imagery of an object using the other object. The metaphors in sexism usually give the representation of women and men by object such as animal, food, sweet name, and etc. But, the object that was used to describe women and men can be different, and it made the status of the sex can be not equal. The English metaphors in the novel described women in a highly derogatory compared to those used to describe men.

The English metaphors were found in the novel. This type of sexist language showed the discrimination of women in the novel by using some metaphors to imagery or described the women and men, and almost all of negative metaphors were given to women, such as the following:

“Don’t keep coughing so, **Kitty**, for heaven’s sake! Have a little compassion on my nerves. You tear them to pieces.” (chapter III, p. 4)

Kitty is a call name of Katherine Bennet. This name was taken from a cat, so that it can be called Kitty. This name representative a sweet, and weak animals – so that a women. This sentence was said by Mrs. Bennet, where she was a woman and Katherine’s mother. This

showed that the sexist language also can be happened between woman to woman, in the other side Mrs. Bennet and Kitty were on different status.

"*You* are dancing with the only **handsome girl** in the room," said Mr. Darcy, looking at the eldest Miss Bennet (Chapter III, p. 7)

This metaphor used to appreciate a woman with a beauty face, even the word that was used a little bit sarcastic, because it described a woman with a word for men. Even it had a positive meaning, the word used by Mr. Darcy put the women as an abnormal woman because of the used of handsome word. This sentence was a conversation between Mr. Darcy with Mr. Bingley in a party or a ball. This context was showing us that the sex discrimination can be happened on a formal situation, where Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy are friend.

b. Marked and Unmarked

The marked and unmarked are the type of sexism which is giving a mark of a status of women or men. In this analysis, the marked is the one which is giving the information of status of women and men, and all of them are found on women. This marked status is giving an information of the women that they aren't single anymore, but for men it wasn't happened because of their addresser are unmarked. Some of the addressee found in the novel such as following:

Mr. or Mister is an addresser for men without any relation to the status of the men or boy. Mister can be said to a single man and a married man. From that statement can be concluded that Mister is an addresser without any marked on it, so that people will be didn't know the status of them, and this is a great opportunity to a men to hide their status. For example, in the below are two men with a different status, but called by an addresser Mr.:

"But, my dear, you must indeed go and see **Mr. Bingley** when he comes into the neighbourhood" (Chapter I, p. 3)

Bingley is a single man who is lived at Netherfield Park. He moved to that village with his sister and a friend Mr. Darcy. Mr. which is used in this section is for a single man. In the other side with another sentence:

"My dear Mr. Bennet," said his lady to him one day, "have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?"

Mr. Bennet is a marrid man with five daughters and a wife. He live in a house at ... with his family. Elizabeth's father, Mr. Bennet, is a bookish man and somewhat neglectful of his responsibilities.

Both of the addressee is a same addressee, but has a different status on people who get that addresser. From that, can be known that Mr. Bennet can be used his addresser to say that he is a single man or not, because of his addresser doesn't give any status of him. The conversation on this case is happened on a formal and informal situation, where this conversation also said by a woman on man and man on man. This addressee is used by almost people who consist on this story, but for this addressee as said before, there is no discrimination happen there.

The last example is the addresser that is used for a woman. If a single and married man got a same addresser, in the other side that rules aren't existed on woman one. There is different addresser which is given to a single and married woman, where both of this addresser is used to give information of the woman status. The addresser is following below:

"**Mrs. Bennet** deigned not to make any reply, but, unable to contain herself, began scolding one of her daughters." (Chapter 2, p. 4)

Mrs. or Mistress is an addresser that is given to a married woman, as on the example, Mrs. Bennet is a wife of Mr. Bennet with five daughters. Her addresser is Mistress to give the

information to the society that she is a woman with a husband. This addresser makes woman who is already married can't hide her status on the society and this is an equal addresser if we compared it to a married man who is still get Mr. as his addresser. The other one is:

"Your picture may be very exact, Louisa," said Bingley; "but this was all lost upon me. I thought Miss Elizabeth Bennet looked remarkably well when she came into the room this morning. Her dirty petticoat quite escaped my notice." (Chapter 6, p. 16)

"You may depend upon it, Madam," said **Miss Bingley**, with cold civility, "that **Miss Bennet** will receive every possible attention while she remains with us." (Chapter 9, p. 25)

Both of the sentences shows Miss as an addresser which is given to a single woman. This addresser is only given to a woman who is still a single, so that their status will be known by the society.

Both of the addresser shows us that for woman, there are two addresser that is used. This is not a good addresser, because a woman can't hide their status because of their addresser already shows their status, which means there are no equal addresser between woman and man. This addressee is a general addressee, where it means this addressee can be said on every situation and can be said by everyone, such as a woman to a man, man on man and so on. In the novel also found that this kind of sexist language is used by all people on all situation and condition.

c. **Generalization**

Generalization of the sex is giving a power to one gender to be a superior one, because their sex will be the representative of the both of the sex. In this case, one of the sexes will be a visible one and the other sex are hidden. The women is the one which is hidden and men is the visible and of course the superior one.

"I honour your circumspection. A fortnight's acquaintance is certainly very little. One cannot know what a **man** really is by the end of a fortnight. But if *we* do not venture somebody else will; and after all, Mrs. Long and her daughters must stand their chance; and, therefore, as she will think it an act of kindness, if you decline the office, I will take it on myself." (Chapter II, p. 4)

Man is the name of the sex which is represented men. In the other side, man is also used to representative human being generally. In this novel, Jane Austen used this word to generalize the human being in the story. The generalization also can be happened on the every situation, but in the story the generalization mostly happened on the formal situation, and said by man on man rather than woman on man or woman.

The types of sexist language in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* showed in this following table:

Table 4.1

The Types of Sexist Language

No.	Sexist Language	Frequency	Percentage
1.	English Metaphors	28	10.60 %
1.	Marked and Unmarked	235	89.02 %
2.	Generalization	1	0.38 %
	Total Number	264	100%

2. The Discrimination of The Sex

Table 4.2

Sexist Language on Women

No.	Sexist Language		Frequency	Percentage
1.	English Metaphors	Negative	27	18.24%
		Positive	-	-
2.	Marked and Unmarked	Marked	52	35.14%
		Unmarked	69	46.62%
3.	Generalization		-	-
Total Number			148	100%

Table 4.3

Sexist Language on Men

No.	Sexist Language		Frequency	Percentage
1.	English Metaphors	Negative	--	
		Positive	1	0.86%
2.	Marked and Unmarked	Marked	-	
		Unmarked	114	98.28%
3.	Generalization		1	0.86%
Total Number			116	100%

The Table 4.2 and Table 4.3 were giving us information of the sexist language that is existed on both of the sex. The table already classified the sexist language with the positive and negative side between the sexist languages. It can be seen that a woman was the only sex which was discriminated by the sexist language, where in English metaphors there were 18,24 % negative words over the text, and 35,14 % in Marked and Unmarked, and there were no one generalization word used woman sex in the story. On the other side, there's no discrimination given to men by the sexist language. As can be seen from the table, men got a positive review on English metaphors, so that on marked and unmarked, and the last one there was a man word used to generalize men and women in the text. It meant that woman was the only sex which was discriminated by the sexist language.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

After analyzing the data, it can be concluded that:

1. The three types of sexist language, that is (1) English Metaphors, (2) Marked and Unmarked and (3) Generalization were found in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The dominant sexist language that is found in the novel is (1) Marked and Unmarked (89,01%), (2) English Metaphors (10,60) and the last one is (3) Generalization (0,37%)
2. Sexist language that is found in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* dominantly against women as the weakest sex, where the sexist language was represented women as negative sex in the English metaphors, then women was the marked one where there is no one marked sexist language on men and the last is generalization only found in men word.

B. Suggestions

1. Sexism is a discrimination which is give to a man or women. Based on Holmes, the three types of sexist language can be represented negative view and positive view of men and women. In this analysis, the women was discriminated by the sexist language with there are so much negative sexist language that is given on women. This phenomenon must be stop, because language is a general tool which is used by the people, so that language must be equal on both of the sex.
2. This thesis can be an additional material for the other researches for understanding sexism and also the other researches can developed the analysis of sexist language on the modern literary works where the *Pride and Prejudice* is an old novel.

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