Women's Patterns of Talk in *The Third Wife* Movie Script (In Family Environment)

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Abstract

In this study, Deborah Tannen's theory is used to explain how women talk in the Third Wife. To examine the data, a qualitative descriptive method was adopted in this study. The Third Wife script serves as the main source of data for this study. From the analysis, the researchers notified there are three ways to demonstrate the women's speaking patterns in context, notably those related to mother dynamics, connection and control, and metamessage. These are present in polygamous homes, particularly in the context of this film. Nonetheless, there is an exchange of positions in which women fill the void since the absence of a husband figure influences how they interact with one another, as the first wife. This happens because there is a special relationship that is formed between the wives which makes the pattern of talk create itself between them. The lack of a husband figure impacts how they interact with each other, as the first wife (Ha), is in control and holds the most important rank in the family, followed by the second wife (Xuan), and the last one the third wife (May). The status of the family heavily impacts the wives' talk to each other and the style of their speech. In the family setting of this movie, women with higher status may use more assertive language and dominate conversations

Keywords: connection and control, metamessage, mother dynamic, sociolinguistic, third wife

INTRODUCTION

The study of language and gender reveals that each gender (men and women) has its own speech style. Gender and the environment both contribute to this trend. Deborah Tannen talks about how different environments affect speech patterns differently depending on genders, such as the workplace and the family. In her book (2003), Deborah Tannen only employs two pronouns that express the meaning of the gender mentioned, namely "she and he." She stated that language and gender both played a role in the formation of linguistic patterns. (2010). Language and gender examinations now take into account assessments of sexual orientation, ethnicity, multilingualism, spoken, written, and signed gendered identities. This interpretation is consistent with the statement made by Oxford that a theoretical understanding of how language and gender interact requires a detailed examination of the social actions that produce them together (2011). The aforementioned phrase implies that race, multilingualism, and class are also included in language and gender studies in addition to sexual orientation (she or he). These factors have a significant impact on how gender is perceived, which is a broad and encompassing concept.

Language and gender enable social connection, according to Holmes (1995). It's referred to as sociolinguistics. Language in society is studied by sociolinguistics, according to Hudson (in Chaika, 1994). According to the aforementioned claims, sociolinguistics is a subfield of

linguistics that focuses on exploring how language is used in social interaction depending on the circumstances and setting in which individuals speak. In addition to this, gender is another element that influences speech patterns, and the theory of language and gender is one study that explores how gender impacts language in social communication.

Movie is one of the most well-known literary works of our century and has gained popularity as popular literature. As a result, a movie's message is carefully delivered and, to the greatest extent possible, is a reflection of society. The language and gender are among the issues or messages that movies frequently portray. In this instance, women in the household milieu are the ones who use the pattern of speech. A movie, according to Hornby (2006:950), is a collection of moving images that are captured with sound and presented in a theater. The term "movie" or "film" refers to individual motion images. The field of movies is a branch of the motion picture industry.

Movie and society have a close relationship. Considerable amounts of movies are related to society because they take what is happening in a society framed in a movie. Also, movies are created as reflections of social values, interests, and phenomena in a social context. The object used in this study is *The Third Wife* movie script. *The Third Wife* is a 2018 Vietnamese costume drama film written and directed by Ash Mayfair; this movie raises issues in the family environment and is examined using Tannen's theory of language patterns. In this movie, the writer observed an inequality of men's and women's positions in representing the language pattern, in which women dominate the conversation. The interaction that takes place in this movie involves the use of verbal communication and body gestures as ways for characters to engage with one another.

One of the most prominent issues in this movie is metamessage; metamessage is an unwritten and verbal meaning collected based on how a person speaks to the sound tone, revealing, and on the affiliates that are carried. Messages communicate word meaning, but messages result in the meaning of the heart. For example, a child is offered by his mother a vacation, and the daughter nods with a smile, the gesture of nodding and smiling is a message, and the meaning received by the mother through the nod is a message between the mother and the daughter. Another example of meta message in this movie is when the maid whispers her congratulation to May, yet instead of replying in words, May only nod in response to the servant without speaking.

Mother dynamic is a speech pattern based on the speaker's status. The higher the speaker's age and education, the more likely they will be able to judge and control their speech. For example, a mother gives responsibility to the eldest child to take care of her sister; it can be seen that the eldest can control the younger ones. An example of the mother dynamic in this movie is when the family attends the family dinner, and the first wife always initiates the topic of discussion.

A conversational pattern known as "connection and control" reveals people's relationship with and capacity for control simultaneously time. For example, a woman argues with her partner and does not allow her partner to talk and fulfill all of her wishes. The example of connection and control in this movie is when the three wives talk about the first night of the wedding and teach many things to the third wife, and she must follow everything they say.

The writer chose this theory because its applicability aligns with the goals and objectives of the object of this study, as the theory integrates with the object, making it an ideal choice. The writer believes that gender is a fundamental aspect of identity and how language is used in which individuals express their selves. Women and men often speak differently, and studying women's talk patterns can provide insight into how gender influences language use.

RESEARCH METHOD

The qualitative method is used in this study. This method examines objects that numbers or other exact measures cannot measure. Qualitative understanding can also be interpreted as descriptive research and tends to use an analytical approach using an inductive approach (Merriam, 1999). Qualitative research is a type of research that seeks answers to questions that are also carried out systematically and involves gathering evidence.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the writer presents the study results on how women's patterns of talk occur in The Third Wife movie, which is based on Deborah Tannen's theory. The writer describes the findings and then explains the meaning of the findings as in the point below.

Women's Patterns of Talk

The purpose of this section is to present the results and discussed the findings regarding the actions of account aspect in the characters. It aims to answer the problem that arises. In analyzing the data, the writer used the pattern of talk theory by Deborah Tannen (2003). Based on the study, the writer identifies and classifies three types of patterns talk aspects performed by the characters in this movie. The source of data in this study is *The Third Wife* Movie.

Mother Dynamic

Data 1

Grandpa : My grand-daughters. Come to me. My pretty girls. You two. Have you seen the newborn

           calf?
Children : We haven't**.**
Wife 1 : *They didn't watch the cow giving birth. But tomorrow I'll show them the calf.*
Husband : That calf is worth a lot.
Wife 2 : *After we sell it, can we buy some new gowns for the girls?*
Grandpa : I know... Son would love a new horse**.**
Family : Yes, father**.**
Wife 1 : *Father. My son is of marrying age now. We should save up for him***.**
Grandpa : You're right**.**
Children : So will brother Son get a new horse? Can I have one? Mother?
Grandpa : My dear.

In this scene, it can be seen that all family members are attending a dinner party. This is interesting because there are conversations that show the levels of the position of each family member. Of the three wives, the first wife was the first to offer a topic of discussion regarding the birth of a cow and the husband responded and stated that a cow that was ready to be sold

would have an expensive price. Hearing this, the second wife offered an idea to buy a dress for a daughter after the cows were sold, but the husband's parents responded immediately and said they would buy a horse for the boy.

Mother dynamic often occurs at dinner time, here, all family members mostly spend their time altogether. It is shown from the scene that all family members consist of a husband, wives, children, and father-in-law. Status at the dinner table greatly influences the right to speak; this is in accordance with the rules mentioned in the pattern of talk mother dynamics that age and status affect the right to speak in social settings. This shows that the final decision on a topic depends on the older ones, while the younger ones can only offer their opinion. This is the way of working or the pattern of talk from mother dynamics. The child of the second wife (Xuan) tries to bring back the topic of discussion regarding buying dresses but does not directly talk to the father-in-law or the husband. It is more of asking for approval from the first wife, namely her mother, this shows that age and position really influence the way they behave.

Metamessage

A metamessage is found in this data which is the true meaning or intent of a word or sentence that is spoken, the first thing that must be considered in interpreting a metamessage is the context and way of delivering someone's tone. The response was given by the first wife by saying "They didn't watch the cow giving birth. But tomorrow I'll show them the calf." The husband's statement made the second wife respond by saying, "After we sell it, can we buy some new gowns for the girls?" the metamessage that the second wife was trying to convey was a solution to using the funds after the calf was sold, but on the other hand the grandfather responded by saying he would buy a horse for his grandson. Hearing this, the third wife responded by saying "Father. My son is of marrying age now. We should save up for him." The metamessage contained is that the first wife tries to tell which one is more urgent and needs more money from the sale of calves. Not long after that, the son of the second wife also said that he wanted a horse like his grandson.

Connection and Control

Data 2

Wife 2: **It's right in the middle. On top of the opening. It's very shy. So you have to be gentle at first. If you want to get there, you must be patient.**
Wife 3: How do you know when it will happen?
Wife 2: **You will know.**
Wife 1: **Every woman is different.**
Wife 2: **True. I start to feel it when my feet warm up. Just think of it like putting on a dance. You do it to yourself first. You learn what your body likes. Then when you are with him, then you show him what you remember Like this. Here.**
Wife 3: When he's inside me I only feel pain.
Wife 2: **Just pretend that you like it so that he will like it. One day you will like it for real. Sister Ha can only feel it when our husband is rough.**
Wife 3: Rough?
Wife 1: **Laugh now, till it's your turn. That's what giving birth will do to you.**
Wife 2: **Here. Try it. Lovely.**

Based on this scene, the wives are gathering and talking in their free time in the house. The first and second wives, Ha and Xuan, are teaching May, the third wife, a lesson in bed, which is a sexual activity with their husband. The second wife says that before having intercourse, May needs to relax and let her feel the sensation before getting into it. The sensation that she feels is as if people dancing, she has to be patient and in no rush. The second wife also demonstrates how and what May should be doing during intercourse with their husband. She says to May that she needs to learn about her body first and get to know what she likes. May says that it hurts when she does it with her husband. The second wife explains to May that it's okay to fake it at first because later they will grow to like it. Even the first wife, Ha, likes it rough, as she says it happens because of pregnancy that wears her body down.

Connection and control can be explained by discussing a pair of lovers as an example, in this case, connection and control can occur when there is a bond and the ability to control the interlocutor to do something, connection, and control is slightly different from mother dynamics. On the mother dynamic, status and age have an influence while connection and control, it is not affected by age and status but is it can occur in two directions. In this scene, it can be seen that the third wife is being taught by the second and first wives about activities in bed. Based on the explanation in the example of connection and control in Deborah Tannen's book, it can also be concluded that the pattern of connection and control is always an action based on the experience of the speaker. As happened in this scene where the second wife and first wife give suggestions to the first wife, this action is, of course, an action that is considered as a suggestion from wife to wife when viewed from the point of view of the first and second wives, but according to the third wife, writers consider the advice given by the second wife to be a suggestion that contains seduce addressed to her considering that the first wife was eventually found out secretly liking the second wife not as a fellow wife but as a partner.

Data 3
Wife 1   : May. **Don't eat guava. Bad for the baby.**
Wife 3   : **Yes, Mistress.**

The family consists of the wives and the children going outside for a picnic. The third wife seems to be pregnant at this moment, and the three of them are enjoying their leisure as they look at the children playing together. The third wife tries to reach for the guava that is provided along with other fruits, yet the first wife forbids her from eating it. This is because the first wife believes that the fruit is not good for the unborn baby's health.

The pattern of talk connection and control is always in the form of orders or suggestions that are formed from the experience of the speaker to the listeners. Of course, this is a suggestion between the wives when viewed from the perspective of the first wife, but it is different if this action is seen from the perspective of the third wife because in that scene the third wife looks so depressed by the attitude of the first wife who seems too motherly.

Data 4
Wife 2 : **It's right in the middle. On top of the opening. It's very shy. So you have to be gentle at first. If you want to get there, you must be patient.**
Wife 3 : How do you know when it will happen?
Wife 2 : **You will know.**
Wife 1 : **Every woman is different.**

Wife 2 : **True. I start to feel it when my feet warm up. Just think of it like putting on a dance. You do it to yourself first. You learn what your body likes. Then when you are with him, Then you show him what you remember Like this. Here.**
Wife 3 : When he's inside me I only feel pain.
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Wife 3 : Rough?
Wife 1 : **Laugh now, till it's your turn. That's what giving birth will do to you.**
Wife 2 : **Here. Try it. Lovely.**

Based from this scene of the movie, the wives are gathering together and talking on their free time in the house. The first and second wife, Ha and Xuan, are teaching May, the third wife, a lesson in bed, which is a sexual activity with their husband. The second wife says that before having an intercourse, May needs to relax and let her feel the sensation before getting into it. The sensation that she feels is as if people dancing, she has to be patient and in no rush. The second wife also demonstrates how and what May should be doing during the intercourse with their husband. She says to May that she needs to learn about her body first and getting to know what she likes. May says that it hurts when she does it with the husband. The second wife explains to May that it's okay to fake it at first because later they will grow to like it. Even the first wife, Ha, likes it rough, as she says it happens because of pregnancy that wears her body down.

Connection and control

Connection and control can be explained by discussing a pair of lovers as an example, in this case connection and control can occur when there is a bond and the ability to control the interlocutor to do something, connection and control is slightly different from mother dynamics. On connection and control, it is not affected by age and status but is it can occur in two directions. In this scene, it can be seen that the third wife is being taught by the second and first wives about activities in bed. Based on the explanation in the example of connection and control in Deborah Tannen's book, it can also be concluded that the pattern of connection and control is always an action based on the experience of the speaker. As happened in this scene where the second wife and first wife give suggestions to the first wife, this action is of course an action that is considered as a suggestion from wife to wife when viewed from the point of view of the first and second wives, but according to the third wife it is considered the advice given by the second wife to be a suggestion that contains seduce addressed to her considering that the first wife was eventually found out secretly liking the second wife not as a fellow wife but as a partner.

Metamessage

In this data the writer also found metamessage which is the true meaning or intent of a word or sentence that is spoken, the first thing that must be considered in interpreting metamessage is the context and way of delivering or someone's tone. Every speech issued by the character in the data above contains a metamessage. The first metamessage comes from the second wife saying "It's right in the middle. On top of the opening. It's very shy. So, you have to be gentle at first. If you want to get there, you must be patient." Looking at the context of the conversation, the meaning of the second wife's words to the third wife is to teach her how to enjoy sexual intercourse. it was the first wife who taught this to the third wife because the relationship between the second wife and third wife tended to be closer and this was due to a mother dynamic rule which made the third wife unable to speak directly to the first wife but had to go through the second wife. In response to that statement the third wife also stated "How do you know when it will happen?", the meta message contained in this statement is

curiosity and is a literal question or not a made-up question. In the middle of the conversation being carried out by the second and third wives, the first wife interrupted to provide a response to the ongoing conversation by saying "Every woman is different." previously. It can be seen that the first wife immediately spoke without being asked beforehand. This happened because in terms of experience, of course the first wife had more experience than the second and third wives.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion above, a conclusion can be drawn that women's patterns of talk in terms of mother dynamics, connection, control, and metamessage also occur in families that practice polygamy, particularly in this movie. Nonetheless, there is an exchange of positions where women fill the void, this happens because there is a special relationship that is formed between the wives which makes the pattern of talk create itself between them. The lack of a husband figure impacts how they interact with each other, as the first wife (Ha), is in control and holds the most important rank in the family, followed by the second wife (Xuan), and the last one the third wife (May). The status of the family heavily impacts the wives' talk to each other and the style of their speech. In the family setting of this movie, women with higher status may use more assertive language and dominate conversations, like the first wife (Ha), and the second wife (Xuan). They may also use more persuasive language and employ a more direct communication style than those with lower status. In this case, the third wife (May) is the submissive one because of her status which is lower than the first and second wives. This proves that connection and power occur among women as can be seen in the relationship of these three wives especially when it comes to the family setting.

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