Woman's Language Features Used by Female User in "Love and Deepspace" Game Instagram Account

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Abstract

This study explores the linguistic features used by women to express emotions in the Instagram comment section of the Love and Deepspace game. Anchored in sociolinguistics and gender studies, the research examines how women employ language to construct identity, navigate social relationships, and convey emotions in this digital platform. The study specifically analyzes a corpus of comments to identify linguistic features such as lexical choices, syntactic structures, and discursive practices. Data collection occurred between May and July 2024, focusing on 27 samples of game-related comments. The analysis also considers how linguistic features vary depending on the nature of the game content and the interactive dynamics of the comment section. For example, the use of intensifiers, hyperbolic expressions, and emotionally charged vocabulary was observed in comments responding to pivotal game developments or community interactions. The findings reveal that intensifiers were the most dominant linguistic feature, with 7 instances identified among the 27 data samples. This pattern highlights the strategic use of intensifiers to amplify emotional expressions and create a stronger connection with others in the community. The analysis also points to the unique ways women adapt their language to suit the interactive, public nature of digital spaces like Instagram. Overall, the research sheds light on the intersection of language, emotion, and digital communication, emphasizing the importance of understanding linguistic strategies in gendered contexts. These insights contribute to broader discussions on language use in online gaming communities and the role of social media in shaping modern communication practices.

I. INTRODUCTION

The advent of digital communication has significantly transformed the way language is used, perceived, and studied. Social media platforms, in particular, have become fertile ground for linguistic analysis due to their massive user base and the diverse forms of language expression

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they facilitate. This study focuses on one such platform, Instagram, and a specific game account, *"Love and Deepspace,"* to explore the linguistic characteristics employed by female users.

The intersection of gender, language, and digital culture is a complex and multifaceted area of inquiry. Previous research has extensively documented gender differences in language use in face-to-face interactions, but the digital sphere offers a unique context for examining these differences. While some studies have explored gendered language on social media, there is still a need for more in-depth analysis of specific platforms and contexts.The concept of "*woman's language*" has been a subject of linguistic inquiry for decades. Early studies often portrayed women's speech as inferior, hesitant, and powerless. However, more recent research has challenged these stereotypes, emphasizing the complexity and variability of women's language use. It is now understood that women adopt different linguistic styles depending on various factors, such as social context, interlocutor, and desired communicative goals.

In sociolinguistics and other parts of social sciences studies, gender refers to how someone potrays their own sexual identities in relation to culture and society around them. When included in language studies, language and gender discussed about the set of ideas, similarities and differences, as well as the relationship between the language of male and female of how words are used to reflect and strengthen social attitudes of their own respective genders. The study of language and gender within sociolinguistics has undergone a significant evolution, progressing from deficit to dominance, difference, and ultimately, constructionist perspectives. Early research often suggests that women's language was inferior to men's. This view is apparent in the mid-20th century, was exemplified by works such as Robin Lakoff's "Language and Woman's Place" (1975), which identified certain linguistics features of women's language.

Subsequently, the dominance approach emerged, challenging the previously deficit perspective. This framework argued that language differences were rooted in power imbalances between genders, with men holding greater linguistic authority. Scholars like Dale Spender, in "Man Made Language" (1980), contended that language systems were inherently biased towards men, reinforcing patriarchal structures.

A shift towards the difference perspective occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s. This specific approach development emphasized the distinct linguistic styles of men and women, viewing them as separate but equally valid cultural systems. Deborah Tannen's "You Just Don't Understand" (1990) popularized this perspective, highlighting the communication differences between genders from different cultural norms and backgrounds.

More recently, constructionist theory has gained popularity. This certain framework stated that gender is not a fixed category but a social construct, dynamically created through language use by people. It emphasizes the performative nature of gender, arguing that individuals construct their gender identities through linguistic practices that often happened around their daily life and interactions. Judith Butler's work on gender performativity has been influential in this area.

In summary, the study of language and gender in sociolinguistics has moved from viewing women's language as deficient to recognizing the complex interplay between language, gender, and power by, challenging essentialist notions and emphasizing the role of language in constructing gender identities in society when using language.

This study will be grounded in Robin Lakoff's theory of women's language, a seminal work in the field of sociolinguistics. Lakoff's theory, presented in her book "Language and Woman's Place" (1975), posits that women's speech patterns differ significantly from men's, reflecting and reinforcing societal gender roles.

Lakoff identified several features characteristic of women's speech, including hedges, super-polite forms, tag questions, empty adjectives, hypercorrect grammar, avoidance of strong swear words, precise color term, rising intonations, intensifier, emphatic stress. Below is the explanation of each features.

Lexical hedges or fillers

Hedging is the use of linguistic devices to weaken or soften the force of an utterance. This can be achieved through the use of words or phrases like "kind of," "sort of," "I guess," "maybe," or "you know." According to Lakoff (1975), women tend to use hedges more frequently than men, which she attributed to their perceived need to be more tentative and less assertive.

Super-polite forms

In her book *"Language and Woman's Place"* (1975), This women's language feature is referring to an excessive politeness markers, including frequent use of please, thank you, honorifics, and apologies.For instance, instead of saying "Close the door," a woman might use a super-polite form like "Would you mind closing the door, please?" This expression demonstrates a higher degree of politeness and deference compared to the direct command to another person in order to sound demure or not aggressive.

Tag Questions

Lakoff defined tag questions as linguistic structures that turn a declarative statement into a question, such as "It's a nice day, isn't it". It is argued that women's frequent use of tag questions is indicative of their uncertain and tentative speech style to ask for other's validation or opinions. From this feature is suggested that these linguistic features reflect women's subordinate social position and their desire to mitigate their speech, avoiding a forceful or authoritative tone.

Empty Adjective

Empty adjectives are adjectives that add little semantic information, such as "divine," "adorable," and "lovely.".The concept is a characteristic of women's language Lakoff's work.These are adjectives that primarily convey emotional reactions or approval rather than providing specific descriptive information.

Hypercorrect Grammar

Overly formal or correct language usage. This implies that women often adhere more strictly to prescribed grammatical rules than men. Some examples are avoidance of non-standard forms by not using terms considered vulgar or coarse, such as "ain't" and emphasis on correct pronunciation as often women pay closer attention to precise pronunciation, for instance, sounding the final 'g' in words like 'going' instead of the more casual 'goin'.

Avoidance of strong swear words

Women's language is often marked by a higher degree of politeness and delicacy compared to men's and a preference for milder expletives or euphemisms.As part of this overall linguistic style, women tend to steer clear of profanity and vulgarity. This avoidance of strong swear words is seen as a reflection of women's social role and their desire to maintain a positive image, as an example profanities are not used often when women speak to others.

Precise color term

According to Lakoff (2004), women tend to use more specific and detailed color terminology compared to men. While men might simply refer to a color as "red," women are more likely to use terms like "crimson," "scarlet," or "maroon.".This tendency towards precise color terms reflects women's greater emphasis on appearance and detail orientation, often associated with traditional gender roles.

Intensifier

Intensifiers are words or phrases used to emphasize or strengthen a statement. In Lakoff's theory , women tend to use it frequently as a way to soften their speech and being overly assertive, examples such as "This movie is so scary" or "I'm very happy to meet you".

Emphatic Stress

Robin Lakoff discusses *emphatic stress* as part of her broader analysis of language and gender. Emphatic stress based on i is the utilization of increased volume on specific words to highlight their importance or significance to either a statement or assertion to certain things, examples such as "I *REALLY* like that dress" or "She is a GOOD teacher".

Lakoff argued that these linguistic features reflect women's subordinate social position and their desire to be seen as polite, deferential, and uncertain. While subsequent research has challenged some aspects of Lakoff's theory, it remains a foundational framework for understanding gender differences in language.

By applying Lakoff's theory to the digital context of Instagram and the specific game "Love and Deepspace," this study aims to investigate whether and how these linguistic features manifest in the online interactions of female users. It is important to note that Lakoff's theory was developed in a face-to-face context, and it remains to be seen how applicable it is to the digital realm. Therefore, this study will also consider potential modifications or extensions of the theory to account for the unique characteristics of online communication.

It is essential to acknowledge the criticisms and limitations of Lakoff's work. Some scholars argue that her theory oversimplifies the complexities of gender and language, and that it fails to account for factors such as social class, ethnicity, and age. This study will address these critiques by considering the intersectionality of gender with other social categories and by examining a diverse range of female users on the platform itself.

Additionally as the textual analysis supporting theory for the data analysis of women's language features, field-tenor-mode will be applied to the data analysis as well. These three components are a part of linguistics framework, which is describing how a text is deconstructed part by part whether it is written or spoken. In brief definitions , here are the components explanation :

Field

Field is the main subject matter of a text. It explores the theme of the text itself or what it is talking about and its purpose for the audience.

Tenor

Tenor is the relationship between the author and audience , etc. Most tenor could be used to explain the connection about who made the text and the ones reading it.

Mode

Mode is the construction of the text, which specifically talks about the structure or type of the text in any form , spoken or written.

While the term "*woman's language*" is contested, it serves as a useful shorthand for discussing gendered patterns in language use. This study employs the term cautiously, acknowledging its limitations and recognizing that not all women use language in the same way. Instagram, as a visually-oriented platform, offers a unique space for linguistic expression through captions, comments, and direct messages. The game account "*Love and Deepspace*" presents an interesting case study due to its potential to evoke emotional responses and engage users in role-playing scenarios. By examining the language used by female users within this context, this research aims to contribute to the understanding of how women negotiate gender, identity, and social relationships in the digital realm.

The findings of this research have the potential to contribute to several fields of study, including linguistics, gender studies, and media studies. By examining the language used by female users on a popular social media platform, this study can provide insights into the ways in which women construct their identities and negotiate social relationships in the digital age. Additionally, the research may have implications for the design of online platforms and the development of effective communication strategies.

Previous research around woman's language features in movies have been done by (Arista ; 2023) entitled *Women's Language Features of Eilis Lacey in The Brooklyn Movie Script* , Pamikat (2020) *Woman's Language Features Used by Female Characters in "A Star is Born"* , Nuringtyas (2022) *Women's Language Features on Utterances of Charlie's Angels Movie*. These researches discussed the woman's language feature utilized in movies or scripts that has actual interlocutors or characters that reciprocates the conversation. In this particular research, the major differences lies in the woman's language features written in a digital environment, not spoken.

In conclusion, this research would like to analyze features of women's language used by female game users in the official instagram account of *"Love and Deepspace"* game. By examining the linguistic practices of female users within this specific context, this research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of gender, language, and digital culture.

II. METHODS

This research article, the datas for analyzing women's language features were taken from the official Instagram account of the 3D interactive game in a sci-fi world developed by Infold Pte. Ltd. called Love and Deepspace spanning from video or reels posts comments in May to July 2024, sampling only a few videos of each characters named Xavier, Zayne, Rafayel, and Sylus. The main source of data are from the phrases , sentences and emoticons provided in the comment section of each posts. The reason why this particular source is chosen was because of the game's popularity amongst women and its abundance of women's language features in the comments in official social media accounts , specifically Instagram.

The research utilized qualitative research to investigate and analyze the women's language features in Love and Deepspace's Instagram comments section from sociolinguistics approach. Since the data source is a written data provided in a social media posts, researchers used documentation method of collecting data, the data was collected from the selected posts comment section by reading and taking screenshots, then examining and categorizing the data to its correct classification.

III. RESULTS

In the table below, data samples from May to July 2024 will be displayed and explained in further detail. While there are 10 features of women's language in Lakoff's theory, since the data is mainly written, only 6 are suitable to categorize the data. Here are the table of data provided by the researchers to conclude the numbers of collected data:

Table 1. Distribution of Women's Language Features in Instagram Comments for Love and Deepspace Game

No.	Woman's Language Features	Total
1	Hedging	6
2	Super-polite forms	3
3	Tag questions	1

4	Empty Adjectives	5
5	Avoidance of swear words	5
6	Intensifier	7
	Overall Total of Findings	27

This section below will present and analyze only representatives data examples from the actual numbers found above for compact and effective research discussions.
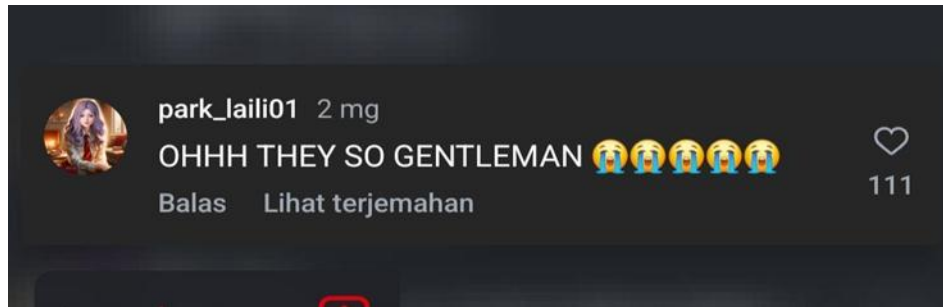
Intensifier

Data 1

Figure 1. Comments with Intensifier on Instagram

In this data , the word "So" is considered an intensifier because it emphasizes the commenter's feelings of the characters being gentlemanly. The analysis of field, tenor, and mode explanations are provided as written below :

Field :

This word conveys a deep and emotional response, literal information. she used "SO" as an intensifier when she stated her feelings. She also used it to strengthen her statement and to show that they are amazed and touched by the character's video.

Tenor :

The commenter is a user of the game *Love and Deepspace* speaking from a personal perspective to an audience in a comment section or community interested in the character's gentlemanly attitude or demeanor.

Mode :

The context is a comment that focuses on the vocalization or expression of the account user about the video that they already watched. The use of "so" and the repeated use of a certain emoji ( ), known as "loudly crying face," expresses very strong feelings, usually sadness or despair. However, in this case the emoji is used to express how moved the commenter is by the character's display of gentlemanly attitude within the video.

Data 2

Figure 2. Comments with Empty Adjectives on Instagram

In this data , the commenter would like to stress the fact that after seeing the video of particular character, she giggled and kicked her feet around by adding the word "really" , which is categorized as an intensifier, the explanation of field, tenor, and mode are explained as these :

Field :
This word conveys a deep response and emotional, literal information. The commenter uses "really" as a filler when she states her statement and the phrase "made me" to reinforce the statement and to show pleasure or happiness over seeing the character.

Tenor :
The phrase "He really got me giggling and kicking my feet" shows a cheerful, happy, and joyful feeling, "He really got me giggling" shows that someone's action or behavior makes the speaker laugh cheerfully. The relations are shown by the commenter as a user commenting on the posts.

Mode :
The phrase "He really got me giggling and kicking my feet" means that the character made the speaker giggle and was so happy or amused that his feet were moving or kicking my feet. This phrase describes the user's playful mood and may feel very amused or embarrassed by the way things are done. Usually, this phrase is used in informal contexts to describe a very positive reaction to something funny or adorable done by another person.
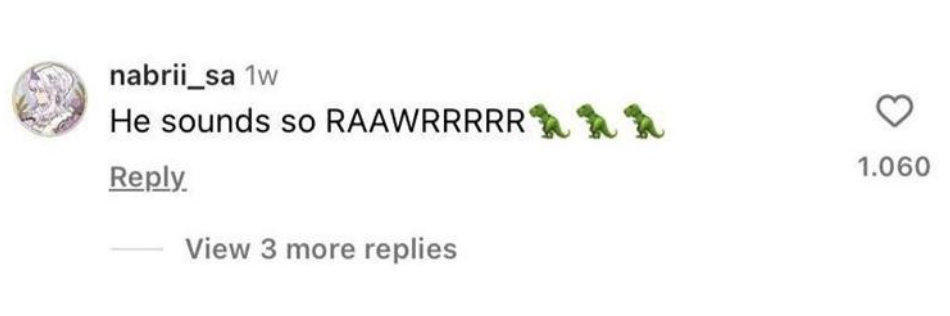
Hedges or Filler

Data 1

Figure 3. Comments with Hedging or Filler on Instagram

The word "RAWRRRR" in this data is considered as hedges or fillers because it provide little semantic meaning to the whole sentence itself, only to express the deep and guttural voice of the specified character in the video that makes this commenter described it as such. However, it could be understood wholly due to the words before for providing the context. In terms of field, tenor, and mode explanations are as below :

Field :
This word conveys a visceral and emotional response, rather than literal information. It adds an element to the description of how "he" has an attractive voice

Tenor :
The commenter describes a person ("he/she") in a way that suggests that they make the sound clearly described by "RAAWRRRR". The commenter was a user of the game Love and Deepspace, which had just released a new character.

Mode：
The context is a comment that focuses on a person's vocalization or expression. The use of *"RAAWRRRRR"* implies a situation where the character has a deep voice, which in the dinosaur emoji symbolizes a dinosaur-like voice to express an emotional reaction and the phrase acts as an adjective , describing the deep voice similar to a roar , or something similar.

Data 2

Figure 4. Comments with Emotional Filler on Instagram

In this particular analysis,the data "AAAAAAAA !!!" can be categorized as "filler" because it functions as a dramatic emotional expression and often has no specific meaning or clear information, but rather as filler or emphasis in informal communication to show strong feelings. Here are the analysis in field, tenor, and mode explanations as below :

Field :
The function of this sentence is to express feelings of great pleasure. The type of data expressed is written through a comment on one of the posts to convey very strong feelings. This illustrates that she was very surprised by what she saw in the post.

Tenor :
This commenter is a user of the game *Love and Deepspace*. They use exaggerated expressions to express their feelings of appreciation and infatuation to the character that is displayed in the promotional video. It is a clear thing of

Mode :
The mode is an informal written text of comment often found and made in private messages, social media, or online forums where people express their feelings openly and dramatically towards something they liked or found interesting.

Data 3

Figure 5. Hedging Comments on Instagram

In this case, this data falls into the category of "hedges" because the use of the phrase "I think" indicates the uncertainty or personal opinion of a user in the game which softens the statement and implies that the speaker may not be entirely sure of the strength of what they are expressing. Here are the explanations in field, tenor, and mode explanations are provided as below :

Field :
It expresses excitement yet unsureness for something that one has yet to see in its entirety. The word "I think" as a hedge indicates uncertainty or personal opinion about the situation. The speaker also expresses enthusiasm in this type of online comment data towards the topic of something new and exciting.

Tenor :
A commenter is a user of the game *Love and Deepspace* speaking from a personal perspective to an audience in a comment section or community interested in the same topic. The relationship is

informal, where the speaker shares their reactions and feelings with others who may share the same interests.

Mode :

The use of phrases such as "*yay!*" and "*bad boy alert woop woop*" indicate a cheerful and energetic atmosphere. The mode is informal written text in comment sections that is often used in situations where people share their feelings and reactions in a spontaneous and emotional way.

Empty Adjectives

Data 1

liaacto 6w
Bro is beautiful, handsome, pretty, elegant,
breathtaking, gorgeous, attractive, charming,
heavenly, stunning, exquisite, cute,
magnificent, divine, alluring, pleasing, lovely,
delightful, appealing, engaging, winsome,
ravishing, gorgeous, glamorous, irresistible,
bewitching, beguiling, graceful, elegant,
exquisite, aesthetic, magnificent, hot, sexy,
foxy, tasty, divine, beddable, pulchritudinous,
dazzling, fascinating, fine, good looking,
graceful, grand, splendid, superb, wonderful,
sublime, statuesque, ravishing, radiant, ideal,
nice, excellent, enticing, classy, admirable,
fancy, angelic, beauteous, luscious, fetching,
adoring, adorable, scrunkly, embellishing,
flawless, perfect, personable, desirable,
seductive, snazzy, striking, showstopping,
glossy, eye catching, fabulous, prime, top
notch, sensational, premium, tempting,
magnetic, captivating, prepossessing, bright,
my light, curvaceous, dollish, tantalizing,
enchanting, pleasant, flamboyant, glorious,
spectacular, fantastic, dandy, hunky, jaw
dropping, droolable, rapturous, blissful,
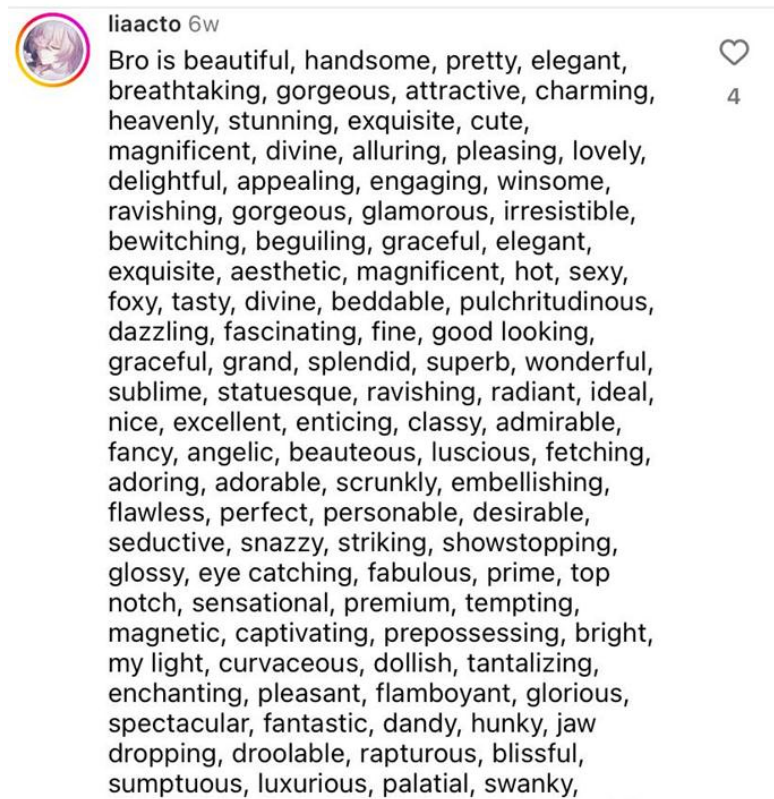sumptuous, luxurious, palatial, swanky,

Figure 6. Comments with Empty Adjectives on Instagram

This data falls into the "empty adjectives" category because long, redundant lists of adjectives such as "beautiful," "handsome," "gorgeous," and so on, tend to be used to give compliments without conveying concrete or specific information about the character's qualities. These words often have a general meaning and do not provide additional details about why the character is considered attractive. In this case, the user of the game complimented one of the characters from the game Love and Deepspace. The explanation of field, tenor, and mode are as below :

Field :

The function of this data is to give praise of one of the game characters on the Love and Deepspace instagram which implies that the quality of the character is very interesting. The type of data used only expresses adjective words in the comment column.

Tenor :

The relationship of the data is that the speaker is a user of the game. It implies that the characters that appear are very attractive in their looks. That is why to describe the looks of the character using various adjectives that has little semantic meaning.

Mode :
It is commonly used to express the attractiveness of the look to be the center of attention. It is an informal word that occurs in a private comment on social media.

Avoidance of Swear Words

Data 1

Figure 7. Comment with Avoidance of Swear Words on Instagram

In this case, the word "rubbish" is placed as the avoidance of swear words as it is a replacement for words often considered a euphemism for stronger, more vulgar language.It's a milder way to express dissatisfaction, anger, or frustration."rubbish" is less offensive and more socially acceptable in most contexts, rather than "stupid". Here are the explanations in field, tenor, and mode explanations are provided as below :

Field :
In this particular case, the setting is perceived to be informal yet in an online community and the word "rubbish" is used as commonly used word to replace the swear words in the commentary or casual conversations to give an impression of polite way of writing thoughts and feelings on the section that typically is seen publicly.

Tenor :
This comment indicates equal or familiar relationships among users of the game in the community with humorous and playful tone as well as expressing their frustration as the posted video description of the character are not the same as their experience while playing the in-game entertainment.

Mode :
The comment is an informal type of writing that it is common in comments section that could be seen in the online forum of discussion.
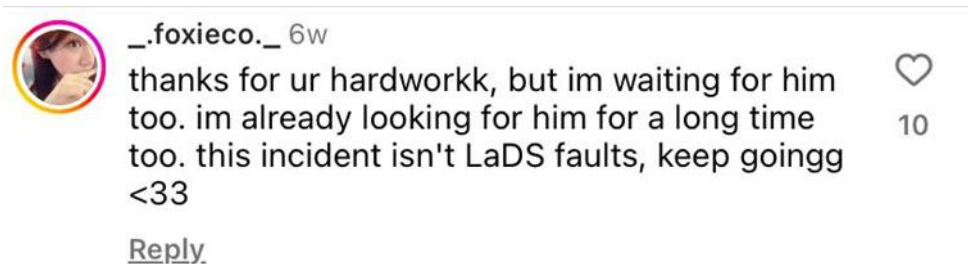
Super-polite form

Data 1

Figure 8. Comment with Super Polite Forms on Instagram

From the picture above , it could be said that the data falls into the category of "super polite forms" because the use of the phrase "Thanks for ur hardwork" shows sincere gratitude and appreciation to those who make the game better. this sentence is delivered with polite and

supportive language. It reflects an attempt to show courtesy and empathy, as well as providing positive encouragement. The explanation of field, tenor, and mode are as below :

Field :
The phrase "Thanks for ur hardwork" is used to appreciate the efforts of a person or group of people. This type of data is in the form of appreciation and support for the *Love and Deepspace* app in the comments column using polite and kind language.

Tenor :
The speaker is the one who is involved or impacted by the situation being discussed. The speaker is a user of the game *Love and Deepspace* and is providing support and encouragement to the other players or developers.

Mode :
The type of comment is informal text giving their opinion about the situation in the game incident that may have occurred involving the game *Love and Deepspace*. the speaker asserts that the fault does not lie with them. This shows that the speaker is providing support and encouraging continued effort, while stating that the user of the game also has personal expectations related to the situation's outcome.

Tag Questions
Data 1

Figure 9. Comment with Tag Question on Instagram

The data can be categorized as a "tag question" because the use of "right??" serves to ask for clarifying information, by adding a short question at the end of the statement to seek reassurance and support from the audience or fellow users of the game. This tag question reflects the speaker's uncertainty and concern of the character's safety in later story progression. The explanation of field, tenor, and mode are provided below :

Field :
This sentence serves to ask for clarification and express concern. The use of tag questions such as "right?....right?....right!!!" indicates uncertainty and seeks confirmation that one is not going to die. This sentence has a data type in informal text in a comment column on one of the character's posts in the official instaram account of *Love and Deepspace.*

Tenor :
The speaker is speaking to an audience which is a community of other users of Love and Deepspace who can give information or support. The relationship is friendly, where the speaker seeks comfort or confirmation from others in a comment section.

Mode :
This statement is made in a context where the speaker is feeling anxious about the fate of one of the characters in the game Love and Deepspace that they care about. This could be in a situation where there is bad news or rumors about the future storyline of one of the characters. The use of

tag questions and requests such as "Pretty pls" show an emotional mood and urgency in getting a comforting answer. people share their feelings and reactions in a spontaneous and emotional way.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this study provides a foundation for further exploration of women's language in digital gaming spaces. By uncovering the linguistic practices of female users on the "Love and Deepspace" Instagram account, this research contributes to the broader understanding of gender and language in online communities.

After thorough researches and investigations of the language features, 17 datas are gathered and the most dominant features in women's language found within this research is intensifiers. The researchers concluded that the main reason for this is women feel the need to strengthen the meaning of other expressions and emphasis of their emotions as well as being specific on the degree of the emotions they felt. Though for other classification of women language features , such as precise color term, emphatic stress, and hypercorrect grammar are not found because the research's data is written while these three category needed spoken data.

The findings contribute to the understanding of how women construct their identities and engage in social interactions within the context of a gaming community. While this study offers valuable insights, it is essential to acknowledge its limitations. The focus on a single Instagram account restricts the generalizability of the findings to other online platforms or gaming communities. Additionally, the research relied on self-reported data through public posts and comments, which may not fully capture the nuances of language use in private interactions.Future research could explore the dynamics of language use across different gaming genres, compare language patterns between male and female users, or investigate the impact of these linguistic features on player experiences and social interactions.

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