

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF GENDER RELATED ISSUES IN THE NOVEL THE AGE OF INNOCENCE BY EDITH WHARTON AND BIG LITTLE LIES BY LIANE MIROARTE

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Abstract

The aims of this research is to find out the different perspectives of two female authors in the novel *The Age of Innocence* and *Big Little Lies*. The researcher has compared these novels to find out the different types of women language, the impact of social norm, and how the marriage lives of the main characters. This research used descriptive qualitative research in order to describe the phenomenon and its characteristics that are related to the topic. Using the Lakoff's theory, the researcher has categorized women language of main women characters using the theory of Women by Lakoff. The researcher applied feminism approach to find out practical of liberal feminism as the effect of social norms, rules and habit in these two novels. The result of this study indicates that there are 8 types of women language using in *The Age of Innocence* and 5 types of women language using in *Big Little Lies* based on Lakoff theory. Then, social norms are very affected to the characters life in these two novels. *The Age of Innocence* shows old era while *Big Little Lies* shows modern era. The marriage is very crucial things in the *Age of Innocence* while in *Big Little Lies* the marriages is complicated. The freedom to speak up is related to the social norms and rules applied in that place.

Keywords: *Women language, feminism, novel, comparative*

INTRODUCTION

The term genders both male and female created by God are different. Men and women have many differences, both in terms of physicality, behavior, language skills, the level of brain or patterns of thought, etc. The brain is an extremely complex organ. Gender variations in perceptions, cognition, memory, and brain processes have been discovered in studies (Zaidi, 2010, P.37). Another perspective about gender came from Dong, J (2014, p. 92) who stated Gender differences in language are not coincidental; they have a profound social origin. Men and women have different positions and perform different roles; hence their obligations and rights differ. It demonstrates that the phenomenon of men and women speaking different languages has a long history.

It is being phenomenon that males are dominantly using logic while females are dominantly using feeling. Lakoff (1975) cited in Holmes (2011) observed that Because women are more submissive than men, they have a lower social position. As a result, women are more mindful of how they speak, hedging and enhancing their utterances to attract the attention of the addressee.

Because the differences of gender, it may produce the differences perspectives about many issues. Oktapiani, et al. (2017, p.220) explained the effect of gender on language use is the focus of language and gender study in sociolinguistics. Gender issues include all aspects and concerns about women's and men's lives and positions in society. Gender related issues are included the areas of discourse analysis. Another study was conducted by Mahmud, M., and Sahril Nur (2018, p.52) have showed gender related issues is including the areas of discourse analysis. Gender issues play a vital influence in people's lives. Gender plays a significant role in communication. Men and women's communication patterns may be influenced by their relationships, as well as their different ways of expressing themselves in different ways. So, language, society and gender had connected each other.

The researcher is interested in finding out how people's perspectives on marriage and how life is in a household and other related thing. Marriage is not just to unite two people in a sacred bond, but how can this male and female live a new life with all its joy and sorrow. How to understand each other, learn from each other and complement each other's strengths and weaknesses. These arguments made the researcher is interesting in choosing the issue of marriage as the research topic. The Researcher is curious and gain insight into how marriage and married life has viewed in New York and in Australia as the setting of place in the novels that has examined.

Sahin (2015, p.5) in his article "On Comparative Literature" has assumed in general definition, comparative literature is the study of literary texts that has different meanings and are written in a different language style by each author. It's a kind of study that goes beyond linguistic, literary, and cultural restrictions. Novel is a kind of literary work that is created by the authors imagination. It can be based on true stories in real life or it just fiction. Choeda, C (2018, p.1099) found in the 18th century, the novel as a literary genre was at its pinnacle. Defoe, Richardson, Fielding, and Sterne all made significant contributions to the English novel's evolution. The industrial revolution's chain effects improved people's lives and living standards. The development of educated middle-class people increased the number of people who read, resulting in an increase in demand for novels to read.

The researcher is interested to do research by using this novel because some of reasons. The age of innocence is a very good novel in old era. There are so many moral values we can get from this novel. The plot also is very interesting. This novel made us flashback to the history and situation in old English, especially in Victorian era. It won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, making Wharton the first woman to win the prize. The novel also became one of the most requested books in New York libraries and bookstores in the 20s. This novel has been brought to the big screen or in the other words has been adapted into a film. While the novel of big little lies is a novel that has a very interesting plot with many conflicts and lessons about married life. The language is very easy to understand so that even though the number of pages is very large, it will not make us bored to read it. The story has a really real feel to it. The novel was named to the New York Times Best Seller List and won the Davitt Award in 2015.

In this study, the researcher looked at the woman language used by female characters in Edith Warthon's "The Age of Innocence" and Lieane Miroarte's "Big Little Lies." Actually, there are another theory about man and woman language. But, after the researcher identify and comparing this theory with another theory, Woman's Language Theory by Robbin Lakoff is more completed. This theory also easy to understand and suitable to investigate deeply how the use of woman language in the woman's character of both novels. According to Lakoff's (1975) theory, there are ten varieties of woman language: The first feature is lexical hedges or fillers; the second feature is rising intonation on declaratives; the third feature is precise color terms; the fourth feature is intensifier; the fifth feature is 'empty' adjectives; the sixth feature is hypercorrect grammar; the seventh feature is tag questions; the eighth feature is 'superpolite' forms; the ninth feature is avoidance of strong swear words; and the tenth feature is emphatic stress. Overall, beside the similarities that can be found in the previous studies and my research, it is likewise we can see the difference.

This is a new research which compared woman language features using Lakoff's Theory by combining it with social norms applied in each partial setting in both novels The Age of Innocence by Edith Warthon and Big Little Lies by Lieane Miroarte. The comparative study about marriage issues in using there two novels hasn't been learned yet. Marriage has slice of life lessons. This research would see the different perspectives of gender related issues in literary works by analyzing the way of the characters act and communicate which can be seen from the social context, rules and habits and see the impacts in those two novels.

Gender related issues

Gender and social norm

Gender is also a social construct. According to the World Health Organization, "gender refers to the socially built qualities of women, men, girls, and boys" (WHO). According to Bicchieri (2018) cited from (Ju, 2017), it has been suggested that social norms should be viewed as a type of social interaction grammar. Like a grammar, A set of norms defines what is and is not acceptable in a community or organization. Social norms are rules that apply in society where everyone cannot act arbitrarily. These norms are usually made and determined by the government in the place concerned.

Language and Gender

Boys are more likely to use language to develop emotional relationships with individuals, whereas girls are more likely to use language to identify objects and activities. Males are more likely to use logic, whilst females are more likely to use feelings. Cakiki (2011, p.461) claims that biological differences between males and females determine gender through causing long-term differences in skills and dispositions. Due to higher testosterone levels, men are regarded to be more aggressive than women, and men are seen to be more "logical" due to their left-brain dominance, whilst women are thought to be more "emotional" due to their lack of brain lateralization.

Mahmud, (2015, p.172) in her research states gender differences are an interesting phenomenon in today's culture, as they are socially and culturally manufactured. Gender is about male and female with various differences about many things which has correlation with their life unsure. According to Heidari et al (2016, p.6) in "Research Integrity and Peer Review." It has an impact on how people view themselves and others, how they act and interact, and how society distributes power and resources. In all communities, gender is a

significant division. It affects how we interact with others and how we are treated in the world. This applies to both our own words and those spoken about us.

Women's language theory by Robbin Lakoff

According to Lakoff (1975), there are ten features of female language cited in Badari et al (2019) has identified, those are:

Lexical Hedges

Lexical hedges or fillers are an indication of lack of confidence or expressing uncertainty in the conversation, or it may also show insecurity with the goal of filling the space between conversations or taking and holding on the conversation's turn, starting the conversation, and keeping it on track.

Tag question

It is a short question that is added at the end of a statement to ask for information or seek approval. Question tags are used to request information or approval from another person, and they can also be used as a sort of affirmation.

Rising Intonation on declaratives

To communicate passion or empathy, women commonly use high intonation in declarative words.

Empty adjectives

The use of empty adjectives indicates that the word is mainly concerned with emotional reactions and not particular information. A woman, on the other hand, is allowed to employ neutral adjectives as much as she wants.

Precise Color Terms

Talking about color, women's ability to see and classify color names correctly is much sharper than men's. For example: beige, navy, dusty pink, lilac, Fuchsia, Rubi; French Rose, and Punch. Women are more knowledgeable about numerous colors based on their category, whilst men are simply knowledgeable about the general ones.

Intensifiers

Intensifiers are adverbs such as rather, somewhat, very, etc. This adverb can function as a form of emphasizing something.

Hypercorrect grammar

The use of hypercorrect grammar is to avoid using abusive language, apologize more frequently, and use the politest form as an additional feature.

Super polite forms

A woman is more likely than a man to use polite language. Women usually seem softer in their speech acts because there is an instinct that makes their sensitivity level to something high.

Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

The term invective refers to a form of interjection or exclamation that can be used to show severe wrath and is considered a harsh emotion.

Emphatic Stress

According to Lakoff, to strengthen the significance of communication, women tend to use words that emphasize speech.

The concept of novel

Literature, being a creative art form involving humans and all aspects of life, can be used to express a concept or a human emotion. Novel is a kind of literary work that is created by the authors imagination. It can be based on true stories in real life or it just fiction.

Feminist approach

Definition of feminism approach

Feminism derives from the Latin word femina, which means feminine. This term first appeared in the 1890s to describe to the philosophy of gender equality and the campaign for women's rights. Hambur & Nurhayati, (2019, p.183) examined that feminist thought is important in cross-cultural literature. It is related to gender equality. Thus, they think it is necessary to conduct a comparative literature study related to feminism thought.

Kinds of Feminism Approach

To help the researcher find out the impact of social norm, it has connected with the example of feminism practical happen in Australia as the spatial setting of "Big Little Lies" novel, and in old New York, as the spatial setting in "The Age of Innocence" novel. Septa (2016, p.435-438) in her journal, noted that feminism view of the differences in gender role of men and women in general can be categorized as follow:

Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism emphasizes women's ability to defend their rights to equality by their own actions and decisions. It allows people to find their own purpose in life, make their own decisions, and grow into whole

human beings (personhood). This kind of feminism states that women should be completely incorporated into all roles and there's no one gender dominates.

Cross cultural understanding (CCU).

Cross Cultural Understanding (CCU) is one of the competencies that humans will need in the twenty-first century or nowadays. In doing something in every country, it is determined and limited by the norms that have been established in the country concerned. Cross cultural understanding become an important thing to know when we are going to go to another place. We need to understand how the social life and culture there in order we can adjusting in adapting to the new environment. Kaukab, E (2020, p.41) in his book "Cross Cultural Understanding: *Literasi Pencegah Gagap Budaya*" stated that to be able to interact well with different cultures, everyone must have competence in communicating which includes three things: cognitive, attitude, affective.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

In this research, the researcher used qualitative research methods in the form of non-numerical data, which is kind of text. It is used to find out and get understanding about the gender related issues related to the novel. According to K. Yin, Robert (2016, p.3.) in his book, "Qualitative Research: From Start to Finish", Qualitative research recognizes the context complexity of these settings, allowing you to examine the daily lives of a variety of people and what they think about in a variety of situations.

Source of Data

In this research, the researcher has taken the data in two types. there are primary and secondary data. the primary data has taken from two novels. it's the novel *Big Little Lies* by Liane Miroarte and the novel *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Warthon. While for secondary data, the researcher took several references from journal, article, and books related to the research statements. The journals and articles are about the feminist approach, comparative literature, and woman language and other related journals about gender related issues especially about marriage and social life.

Data Collection Procedure

There were some procedures of data collection in doing this research, those are:

1. Downloading the novels *Big Little Lies* by Liane Miroarte and *The Age of Innocence*.
2. Reading two novels *Big Little Lies* by Liane Miroarte and *The Age of Innocence* comprehensively.
3. Explore the social life through the characters' life in the novels *Big Little Lies* by Liane Miroarte and *The Age of Innocence* by doing the interpretation of the text. It's including social norm, rules, and habit as seen in those novels.
4. Identify the dialogues in the novels *Big Little Lies* by Liane Miroarte and *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Warthon, especially on the women's characters dialogues.
5. Making sticky note to the important points refers to the related answer for this research problems.
6. Classifying the language aspects of the women's' characters dialogues based on the theory of woman language by Robbin Lakoff (1975).
7. Collecting the journal, book, article, and other supporting resources related to the topic of research.
8. Elaborates the primary and supporting data to find out the conclusion of the research.

Technique of Data Analysis

The process of data collection is obtained by applying four methods according Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2018, p. 12-15) have described four steps in conducting data analysis namely data collection, data condensation, data display, and verify.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Woman language using by main women characters

The researcher chose to analyze women language used by main women characters in this novel by using women language theory by Robbin Lakoff. These quotations above would show the typical of women language used by main women characters along with its function.

The Age of Innocence by Edith Warthon and *Big Little Lies* by Lieane Miroarte

The researcher chose to analyze women language used by main women characters in this novel by using women language theory by Robbin Lakoff. There are three main characters have chosen by the researcher. Those are May, Countess Olenska (Ellen) and Mrs. Welland. These quotations above would show the typical of women language used by main women characters along with its function.

Lexical hedges

According to Lakoff (1975), Lakoff (1975) argued that lexical hedges are used by the women that used to fill the gap between dialogues or to initiate and maintain the discourse. It shows that the women are lack of confidence and uncertainty about something.

Extract 1

"You know my niece Countess Olenska?" Mrs. Welland enquired as she shook hands with her future son-in-law. (The Age of Innocence, p.10)

The extract above shows Mrs. Welland asked Archer because she wanted to confirm whether he knows about her niece Countess Olenska. Here, the speaker use hedges you know. Lexical hedges are employed to make an assertion appear weaker. The hedges you know refers to the uncertainty of Mrs. Welland about something. In the findings, the writer analyzed the quotations which are related to the problems above.

Extract 2

Jane laughed at Madeline's imitation of a low, melodious voice.

"You probably will make friends with Bonnie," said Madeline. "She's impossible to hate. I'm very good at hating people, and even I find it difficult. I really have to put my heart and soul into it." (Big Little Lies, p.32)

In this extract, it shows Madeline statement about Bonnie, her ex-husband's wife. Lexical hedges are used to weaken the strength of an assertion. Madeline used the hedge "you probably will..." that shows lack of confidence about herself and reflects insecurity. Madeline felt that Jane might be friends with Bonnie because she was impossible to hate.

Question tag

The goal of utilizing question tags according to Lakoff (1975), is to ask for information or permission from the other person about something.

Extract 3

"We DID use to play together, didn't we?" she asked, turning her grave eyes to his. "You were a horrid boy, and kissed me once behind a door; but it was your cousin Vandie Newland, who never looked at me, that I was in love with." Her glance swept the horse-shoe curve of boxes. "Ah, how this brings it all back to me—I see everybody here in knickerbockers and pantalettes," she said, with her trailing slightly foreign accent, her eyes returning to his face. (The Age of Innocence, p.10)

In this extract, it shows the conversation by Ellen who asking to Archer about something happened in their past. She remembered what they did in the past. But, she used tag question "We DID use to play together, didn't we?" to make sure about her memories. She believes that her statement would be trusted. It can be seen from how she explained to Archer what they did in the past. According to Lakoff (1975), in English, the tag question, the utility and syntactic form, is a definite declaration and a yes or no question.

Extract 4

"Twenty-four," breathed Madeline. "I'm forty today. I told you that already, didn't I? You probably think you'll never be forty, right?" (Big Little Lies, p.31)

In this extract, Madeline convinces Jane that she has told him about her age, 40 years old. She used a tag question by saying "I'm forty today. I told you that already, didn't I?" That shows her confidence because she believed she had done something.

Intensifier

Intensifiers according to Lakoff are used to show emphasizing about something. It can be as the form of are adverbs such as so, very, long, and so on.

Extract 5

"I verily believe," Mrs. Welland continued, "that if the horrible business had come out in the newspapers it would have been my husband's death-blow. I don't know any of the details; I only ask not to, as I told poor Ellen when she tried to talk to me about it. Having an invalid to care for, I have to keep my mind bright and happy. (The Age of Innocence, p.92)

In this extract, it shows the conversation between Archer and Mrs. Welland about horrible business. In above extract, Mrs. Welland didn't want this horrible business which could endanger the life of her ailing husband appeared in the newspapers. The use of intensifier 'verily' in this extract shows emphasizing and amplifying Mrs. Welland's believe.

Extract 10

"Oh my God, I love them. They're absolutely gorgeous," said

Madeline. She carefully took one out of the box and held it up to the light, admiring the intricate design, rows of tiny moons. "They must have cost you a small fortune." (Big Little Lies, p.35)

In this extract, it shows Madeline's statement about a gift that she got from Celeste. Madeline intensifies "absolutely" in order to make its meaning stronger and emphasize that she admired the gift given by Celeste.

Rising Intonation on Declarative

In declarative statements, women commonly use strong intonation to convey passion or empathy.

Extract 6

She shook her head and sighed. "Oh, I know—I know! But on condition that they don't hear anything unpleasant. Aunt Welland put it in those very words when I tried.... Does no one want to know the truth here, Mr. Archer? The real loneliness is living among all these kind people who only ask one to pretend!" She lifted her hands to her face, and he saw her thin shoulders shaken by a sob. (The Age of Innocence, p.48)

In this extract, it shows conversations between Ellen and Archer. Ellen screamed full of emotion about her family and friends. She expressed her emotion about loneliness that she felt. On above extract Ellen explained to Archer that she knew about someone who liked her and wanted to help her. Then, Ellen said that she knows about that, but she explained the truth about the real loneliness. "Does no one want to know the truth here, Mr. Archers?" means that Ellen asked archer about the truth. It can also refer to the effect that the speaker was looking for confirmation.

Empty adjective

Empty adjectives suggest that the word is mostly concerned with emotional reactions rather than specific information. It refers to a set of adjectives in the speaker's vocabulary that communicates approval or respect for something.

Extract 7

"Yes. She's awfully fond of dancing," the young girl answered simply. "But suddenly she made up her mind that her dress wasn't smart enough for a ball, though we thought it so lovely; and so my aunt had to take her home." (The Age of Innocence, p.15)

In this extract, it shows the conversation between May and Archer. May said to Archer that "she's awfully dancing". The use of empty adjective "lovely" refers to admiration for something that is considered beautiful. However, the use of the empty adjective "lovely" has a special meaning that emotionally the speaker provides information that leads to demeaning his cousin's clothes.

Extract 5

Stick with the nice boys, Chloe!" said Madeline after a moment. "Like Daddy. Bad boys don't bring you coffee in bed, I'll tell you that for free." (Big Little Lies, p,20)

In this extract, it shows the statement of Madeline to her son, Chloe. As seen above, Madeline uses the word "nice" which refers to her indirect approval or admiration for her husband, Ed by saying "like daddy". Above extract shows that Madeline wanted her son to stick with nice boys.

Emphatic stress

According to Lakoff (1975), women tend to choose phrases that highlight speaking to increase the importance of communication. It could take the form of repeating words, italic, bold, or a verb to highlight a point.

Extract 8

"May is a darling; I've seen no young girl in New York so handsome and so intelligent. Are you very much in love with her?"

Newland Archer reddened and laughed. "As much as a man can be." (The Age of Innocence, p.39)

In this extract it shows the conversation between Ms. Welland and Archer about her compliments to May. She used emphatic stress "May is a darling; I've seen no young girl in New York so handsome and so intelligent. Are you very much in love with her?". These emphatic stresses are used to emphasize the utterances to strengthen the meaning of the utterances. This is to emphasize may's appearance and characteristics.

Extract 11

"I am forty," she said out loud as she drove. She drew the word out in slow motion, like a sound effect. "Fooorty."

She caught the eye of her daughter in the rearview mirror. Chloe grinned and imitated her mother. "I am five. Fiiiive." (Big Little Lies, p.17)

In this extract, it show conversation between Madeline and Chloe about her age. She used emphatic stress "forty" that she said out loud as she drove "fooorty" to emphasize speech at once to reinforce the meaning of speech that she is really forty years old.

Superpolite form

A woman is more likely than a man to use polite language, according to Lakoff (1975). When express their emotion, they tried to use words that avoid strong swear words.

Extract 11

"How delicious! May I think it over, and write to you tomorrow morning?"

She spoke amiably, yet with the least hint of dismissal in her voice.

"Why not now?" (The Age of Innocence, p.67)

In this extract, it shows conversations between Ellen and Beaufort. Actually, on ellen's statement above there's seems like a refusal to write a letter. It can be prove by the use of modals "May". The modal "may" can

also state possibilities, request permission and make suggestions. Ellen politely asked to write the letter tomorrow with the intention of first considering what to do.

Avoidance strong swear word

According to Lakoff (1975), the term invective refers to a form of interjection or exclamation that can be used to show severe wrath and is considered a harsh emotion.

Extract 13

He had an inspiration. "Why not wear your wedding-dress? That can't be wrong, can it?"

"Oh, dearest! If I only had it here! But it's gone to Paris to be made over for next winter, and Worth hasn't sent it back." (The Age of Innocence, p.122)

In this extract it can be seen that May is confused about which dress to wear when they are traveling. Then, Archer suggested to May to wear her wedding dress by saying "Why not wear your wedding-dress? That can't be wrong, can it?". May seems like annoyed about it but she still avoidance of strong swear word by just saying "Oh, dearest!". Although she is annoyed and feels little bit emotion because in the extract above it can be seen from the use of exclamation marks, but she still used words in politer version "dearest".

Social norm and its effect in both novels

Social norms in New York as described in this novel are very influential on the lives of the characters in various aspects. Their actions are dictated by the conventions of society, especially among the upper class. Here is one example of the findings:

Extract 12

"She said "reading the newspaper" in the tone in which a Minister's wife might have said: "Presiding at a Cabinet meeting"—not from any arrogance of mind, but because the habit of a life-time, and the attitude of her friends and relations, had led her to consider Mr. van der Luyden's least gesture as having an almost sacerdotal importance." (p.32)

In this extract it shows that social stratification affected to people's perception. Van Der Luyden's is highly respected in New York because of the power he has and his relationships with the upper class. It affected to people's perception about Van Der Luyden's action as said in above extract that Mr. van der Luyden's least gesture as having an almost sacerdotal importance.

While in Big Little Lies, the character's life shows more modernity. It can be seen from how they interact and how they do things. Here is an example of its:

Extract 12

"Miss Barnes: Obviously parents form their own social groups outside of school. " (p.84)

In this extract, a social group is a collection of people or people who are interconnected, interact, influence each other, and generally have a common goal. One of the things that cannot be denied is the formation of social groups in their own environment. It is based on how they can be frequency or formation in terms of paying attention to their social background. In the above extract it shows that Parents at Pirriwee Public form their social groups outside of school. The formation of their social groups is motivated by aspects that make them in line.

Marriage in both novels

The researcher has chosen to describe how the housholding of some main women characters. it shows how the household of Archer and May welland during their wedding. It also shows a little description of how Ellen's marriage as the mistress of the man character, Archer. Here is one example of the findings:

Extract 2

"Dear," Archer whispered, pressing her to him: it was borne in on him that the first hours of being engaged, even if spent in a ball-room, had in them something grave and sacramental. What a new life it was going to be, with this whiteness, radiance, goodness at one's side!" (p.14)

In this extract, it shows that in their engagement, Archer wants to dance with May. He really wants this engagement to be legal as seen in above extract that "it was borne in on him that the first hours of being engaged, even if spent in a ball-room, had in them something grave and sacramental." Engagement to marriage in New York for distinguished families always do dance as a form of wedding ritual that shows the existence of a clan or social strata of the family.

While in Big Little Lies, the researcher has decided 3 main characters of women characters in this novel. Those are Jane, Madeline, and Celeste. Each character in this novel has a variety of different marriage and household stories. There's domestic violence, divorce, infidelity, etc. Here is one example of the findings:

Extract 3

Gabrielle: Everyone thinks Celeste and Perry have the perfect marriage, but I'm not sure about that. I walked by them, sitting in their car parked on the side of the road on the trivia night. Celeste looked gorgeous, of course. I've personally witnessed her eating carbs like there's no tomorrow, so don't tell me

there's any justice in this world. They were both staring straight ahead, not looking at each other, all dressed up in their costumes, not saying a word. (p.56)

In this extract, it shows Gabrielle's opinion about Celeste and Perry's marriage. Everyone thinks Celeste and Perry have the perfect marriage, but I'm not sure about that people consider Perry and Celeste's marriage perfect because of the physical and material wealth possessed by both. However, Gabrielle had witnessed by herself that in Trivia night, the behavior of the two did not indicate a perfect marriage. Their actions show disharmony.

Discussion

In the Age of Innocence novel, Edith Warthon as the writer of that novel shows how social background and strata influence and even limit the character's life. May's character is mentioned as a woman formed by society. All his actions are dictated by prevailing tradition. This shows his freedom in doing everything. On the other hand, the character of Archer was originally described as a figure who inevitably has to follow conventions in society as a form of maintaining the image of a family that comes from the Upper Class.

Even though liberal feminism was thought to break traditional social rules and traditions, the researcher discovered various applications for it. It may be observed in the character Ellen, who is defined as a figure who constantly does things freely, such as how she dresses, how she explores the worlds, her courage when she wants to divorce her husband who is suspected of having an affair. The character Mrs. Beaufort demonstrates the practical application of liberal feminism as he designs his own house without adhering to societal house design rules. In this novel, the characters Archer and Ellen demonstrate their decision-making freedom. Even though Archer was previously engaged to May, they love one other and demonstrate it through their deeds. Archer's behavior also demonstrates fairness to his family members when Archer, Janey (Archer's sister), and their mother love and respect each other despite their differing viewpoints.

While in the novel Big Little Lies, there are two main characters of woman action that shows practical of Liberal feminism. Character Jane and Madeline were the example of woman freedom to become a career woman. In addition to carrying out her nature as a mother to take care of her child, she has a part time job as an employee at the book club. Then Jane works as one of the educators at the school community, Pirriwee school. Just like it, the characters Jane and Madeline are strong women who are able to struggle to raise their children because of an irresponsible husband. This shows that women can also rise from adversity through their actions. In this novel also women are free to socialize and interact with other people.

Another example of liberal feminism in action is Madeline's bravery in speaking up to demand justice for Abigail from her ex-husband. She ventured to disagree with her ex-husband, who decided on his own. This novel demonstrates Jane's entitlement to her husband's riches in relation to marital life and the wife's rights to what her husband has. What belonged to her spouse is now the property of the house. Another heroine, Jane, is able to obtain justice through her child. She and Celeste both have children from Perry. So that makes her son also get insurance from Perry's death.

People's lifestyles are more in the Old era in the novel The Age of Innocence. Layers of society, particularly the upper class, continue to apply social rules. These social standards and practices have undoubtedly had a significant impact on the lives of the novel's characters. In comparison to "The Age of Innocence," the novel "Big Little Lies" depicts how life is more modern. People are becoming freer to communicate and connect with one another, and even the female character is free to work. Many parts of the character's life were affected, as portrayed in the novel. The way an event is held is influenced by people's habits.

As depicted in the novel The Age of Innocence, marriage was a particularly sacred institution in New York at the time. Marriage has been bound and restricted by social conventions, especially for the upper class. There are three main protagonists in Big Little Lies. Madeline, Jane, and Celleste are their names. Each character's marriage and family life is different. Some of them demonstrate how the advancement of digital technology has altered married life today.

Based on the discussion above, the researcher hypothesized that in these two novels, there is a link between how the character is free to speak up and how social standards apply in the character's life. The major female characters in the novel The Age of Innocence mostly utilized super polite language and avoided using powerful swear words. It's because, especially in the upper class, societal norms in Old New York at the time upheld ethics, including ethics when speaking up. When speaking with other individuals, the major female characters in the novel Big Little Lies frequently use empty adjectives, empathetic stress, and intensifiers. It's used to show emotion, admiration, or to emphasize a point. They have the freedom to interact and express their emotions. It's because they live in the era of modernity so they have the right and freedom to express their opinion.

CONCLUSION

These two novels are based on the real story. The author of the *Age of Innocence* novel has inspired from her real life in upper class. Meanwhile, the author of *Big Little Lies* had inspired from the interviews that she heard from radio.

The researcher found in these novels that there are 8 kinds of woman language used by the main woman characters in the novel “*The Age of Innocence*” used by Lakoff’s theory. While in “*Big Little Lies*” novel, the researcher has found there are 5 kinds of women language used by the main woman characters.

Social norms and habit brought big impacts for the characters life in these two novels. The novel “*The Age of Innocence*” refers more to the old era while *Big Little Lies* refers more to modernity.

In the novel “*The Age of Innocence*”, marriage is a very crucial thing and various scandals such as the affair scandal are highly guarded. On the other side, in “*Big Little Lies*”, each character has different story of their marriage and house holding. There's infidelity, domestic divorce, violence, free sex, how is the relationship between ex-wife and ex-husband, etc.

SUGGESTION

The researcher believes that this thesis is still far from “perfect”. Therefore, the researcher suggests to the next researcher to use this research as a reference for related study in the future, analyze different aspects in these two novels deeper. Reading, collecting extracts, analyzing and relating them to related theory needs many times, especially when we want to analyze a novel that has hundreds of pages. Also analyze these novels in wider scope.

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