

FORMAL FEATURES OF CO-OPERATIVE TALK AMONGST  
MALAY FEMALE SPEAKERS

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DECLARATION OF ACADEMIC WORK

I, Hafizah Ahamad, registration number TGB 99028 hereby declare that the work in this dissertation entitled: **Formal features of co-operative talk amongst Malay female speakers**, is my academic work with the exception of citations which have been acknowledged.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hafizah' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Date: 29-10-2004

## ABSTRACT

This is a study of the formal features of language in an all female Malay group that promotes co-operative talk. The data is primarily drawn from audio recordings of several Malay women involved in informal conversations. They are also English lecturers at a local private college.

The theoretical perspective that formal features of language do promote the idea of co-operativeness in an all female group is drawn specifically from the work of Jennifer Coates. Insights from other scholars both foreign and local such as Janet Holmes, Lynette Hirshman, Jamaliah Md. Ali and Jariah Md. Jan have been included as well.

The approach taken in this study is qualitative in nature. However, some quantitative measurements have also been included wherever appropriate. The main findings suggest that this group of Malay ladies are co-operative in nature. Therefore, it is evident that many features of language such as minimal responses, hedges, overlaps, simultaneous speech, interruptions and tag questions are widely used in all female group conversations and these features do promote co-operative talk.

## ABSTRAK

Ini adalah satu kajian mengenai ciri-ciri linguistik yang wujud di dalam penggunaan bahasa oleh sekumpulan wanita berbangsa Melayu dan bagaimana ciri-ciri tersebut dapat membantu mewujudkan satu kerjasama dalam perbualan seharian. Data yang diperolehi untuk kajian ini telah direkodkan secara pita audio. Perbualan seharian beberapa orang wanita Melayu yang terdiri daripada pensyarah bahasa Inggeris dari sebuah kolej swasta tempatan telah direkod dan ditranskripsi sendiri oleh penyelidik.

Teori yang mana ciri-ciri linguistik yang wujud dalam perbualan wanita membantu mewujudkan satu kerjasama dalam perbualan wanita adalah berpandukan kerja-kerja penyelidikan yang telah dilakukan oleh Jennifer Coates. Pandangan dari ahli-ahli linguistik dari dalam dan luar negara seperti Janet Holmes, Lynette Hirshman, Jamaliah Md. Ali dan Jariah Md. Jan juga telah dimasukkan untuk mengukuhkan lagi kajian ini.

Pendekatan secara kualitatif telah diambil oleh penyelidik. Bagi melengkapkan kajian ini, ukuran data secara kuantitatif juga digunakan.

Hasil kajian ini mendapati kumpulan wanita Melayu yang dikaji, bersifat saling Bantu membantu antara satu sama lain bagi menghasilkan satu perbualan yang bersifat kerjasama. Penyelidik juga mendapati perucap- perucap ada menggunakan ciri-ciri linguistik seperti 'hedges', maklumbalas minima, pertindanan ujaran, celahan dan juga soalan di dalam perbualan mereka untuk mencapai satu objektif iaitu untuk menghasilkan perbualan yang bersifat kerjasama.

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