LANGUAGE & GENDER: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF HILLS LIKE WHITE ELEPHANTS

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ABSTRACT:
The study explored the relationship between language and gender in the context of the short story entitled "Hills like White Elephants" by Earnest Hemingway. The basic purpose of it has been to make a comparison between the expressions of both genders in terms of language use. As already mentioned above, the data has been taken from a short story from American literature by the use of purposive sampling technique. Penelope Eckert and Sally McConnell Ginet (2013) model of gender and language has been utilized as a theoretical framework. While, in term s of data analysis, the researcher has made the use of content analysis approach. The findings of this particular study revealed that throughout the story, the male character has been dominant in terms of language use as he used complete meaningful sentence within an element of confirmation while the girl continuously has been observed making the passive use of language as she made the vast use of tag questions which showed her lack of decisiveness, confidence and confirmation about her relationship.

INTRODUCTION:
Language is a convenient and a best way for human beings to communicate and express everything. They exchange their ideas, believes, feelings, emotions and knowledge with one another due to the system of language and no other species except human beings have been blessed with it (Azizul Hakim, 2018). According to Edward Sapir (1921) language is the non instinctive system of conveying ideas, emotions and desires of the individuals and society by means of a system of deliberated produced symbols. These systems of symbols give meaning to the language.   Native speakers have inherent capability to

understand and form new sentences. It is like a tradition which every generation transmits to other generation with some changes and developments.

Language and gender describes the relation between the languages of both sexes. Gender is constructed psychologically and socially by the processes of interactions in the social, educational and familial settings. It is something we do, and perform, not something we have (Shubhra Gaur, 2006). Gender is not something that we get with birth but it is created mentally and socially when they communicate with each other in the society. Gender differences do not only describe difference between male and female speeches, but also living style and attitudes of the people.

In gender social, cultural and psychological gaps between men and women are concerned (Giddens, 1989). In our society gender differences are created through the magazines, television and personal experiences for example women are assumed to stay at home and to take care of children while men are presented as leaders and the heads of the families. In educational institutions gendered based recruitments are offered for the students to fulfill the future job positions. Although the men and women use the same language but their speech differs from each other due to their choice of vocabulary, sentences length, and pronunciation. Females tend to use emotional vocabulary to describe their close relationships with others and to convey their feelings. On the other hand boys tend to use language to describe events and objects and suppress their emotions. According to Bergwell (1999) both men and women have different patterns of language use. Those linguistic devices are focused more by the women who stress solidarity whereas men focus on increasing their power and status. In same social context women use more standard forms then men and are more flexible than men stylistically.

Sociolinguistics is the study of relation between society and language. Its main concern is with the language part which it plays in maintaining the social roles in a community. Sociolinguistics describes how different factors such as gender, sex, class and race are used to govern our language. Language is a system of communication and a social phenomenon. The relationship between language and society is deep rooted. In a community language and society both are integral for each other. It is impossible to have society without language and language without society because it is a tool for communication (Adam J.H, 1982). Language is the basic tool for attaining law and order and objectives in the society but its inappropriate use can deconstruct the society. To avoid the conflicts and to resolve the individual differences government must follow the conformity while governing. Our language is controlled by the society by the options of acceptable and unacceptable norms because everyone has his own point of view. Social changes are a cause of changes in language (Merlitomarciano, 2011).

According to Maria Tabolt (2003) there are some words which represent men and women in terms of their talking style. Women are represented in terms of helpful, closeness, connection, sympathy, fellowship and familiarity while men are classified as lecturing, problem solver, status and freedom. Thus the language represents women as subordinate and men as powerful. Some

languages have developed complicated systems of androgynous vocabulary. Women have a different language, vocabulary and sentence construction methods from the men.

The present study is focused to explore this difference in a short story namely Hill's like White Elephant" by an American author Earnest Hemmingway. Hemingway faced a lot of criticism for being misogynist. He portrayed women as helpless, irrational, and inferior ones who are always unable to take intellectual decisions and seek the guidance of their male partners. The same thought process can be observed in this particular story "Hills like White Elephant.

The story under this study opens with a description of a railway station enclosed by cliffs, pastures and trees in a valley in Spain. An American man sitting with his girlfriend outside the station in a cafe is waiting for the fast moving, unstoppable train which is going from Barcelona to Madrid. He is going to Madrid with his girlfriend for some operation. Due to the hot weather the man orders two beers and the girl says that the nearby hills look like white elephants that symbolizes her desire to keep the baby but is compelled by the American man for the abortion. The American orders more drinks and says to his girlfriend whom he calls" jig" to have an operation, although the kind of operation is never specified. He seems perturbed and tries to foreground the seriousness of the operation. He argues that the procedure of the operation is very simple and it isn't even an operation at all.

The girl remains silent for a while, but then she questions what will happen after the operation. The man replies that things will be refined subsequently, just like they were before. He tries to convince by describing the experience of many people who have had the operation and now living happily. The girl impassively agrees with him. She agrees with him on only one condition that he will love her in the same way as he does even after the operation and will live with her happily afterwards. Then the man emphasizes his care for her, but she asserts not to worry about what happens to herself. They argue for a while and then she requests him to stop talking but after the sometime she feels better and they get into the train.

"Hills like white elephants" describes gendered miscommunication between the jig and his boyfriend an American man. Jig is pregnant due to her relation with the American man but the American man wants freedom by aborting this baby through operation. To fulfill his wants and needs he pushes aside the thoughts and feelings of jig who doesn't want that abortion. During the conversation Jig is a passive listener and the American man is dominant. Jig's feelings are not important for her boyfriend he just wants jig to act upon his advice.

RESEARCH PROBLEM:
Gender discrimination constructed by a society also gives birth to difference in language use in males and females on the basis of their social status. So, the problem of this is to identify this difference in a short story Hills like White Elephants.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:
1.   To explore the differences between the language use of the characters in the story Hills like white Elephants.
2.   To trace how language can be a cause to oppress a particular gender.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:
1.   What are the differences between the languages of both main characters in Hills like White Elephants?
2.   How language seems to oppress a particular gender in Hills like White Elephants?

LITERATURE REVIEW:
Karlsson (2007) held a research to explore the gender related differences in language use. He took 80 participants from two different schools of north Sweden as a sample. An open ended and close ended questionnaire was used to gather the data and by writing a dialogue different theories were tested with the implemented attributes. The results revealed that female use more hedges and intensifiers than the men and are less forceful. Female use more polite language than the men.

Reda and Vilija (2007) conducted a study to examine the gender differences in the language of E. Hemingway's fiction and to describe the linguistic methods which describe male or female dominance or powerlessness in different social settings. Contrastive method and linguistic text analysis and literary discourse analysis were used to interpret the differences and similarities across language and gender use. For this purpose 32 examples were taken from the Finca Vigia's 1998 edition naming "The complete short stories of Earnest Hemingway". The analysis showed that the male members use more tag questions than the female members. The male members use tag questions coincidently in the content based social situations for the confirmation of their viewpoints. Women are presented as weak and need support and acceptance of their views from men. Differences among men and women occur in the language due to the class conscious society, inter cultural differences, misapprehension of the purpose of other sex and the dominant male position in the society.

Buyukahisaka, D. (2011) conducted a study on gender and language to examine the differences between the language of men and women and to define sex and gender effects on first and second language acquisition. To explain why male and female learn language differently sex based differences were carried out. The results revealed that men and women are brought up differently and have unique roles in society. Teachers should use different language techniques and materials while teaching students belonging to different genders.

Jie li (2014) did a sociolinguistics study on the language and gender use in the American TV series "Desperate housewives". As a sample data was taken randomly from the eight season episodes, one episode from each season. Through the comparison and contrast method qualitative and quantitative analysis was done. The study was mainly conducted to focus on the amount of talk and the amount of turns. The study revealed that men are more talkative

than the women because most dialogues were delivered by them and men are inclined for longer time to take the turn floor.

Alashjaai (2014) conducted a study to explore the interpersonal relationship between Jig and the American in Hemingway's hills like white elephants. In order to analyze the dialogue in hills like white elephants he employed the new criticism. The analysis revealed that both the characters have different needs and desires. The dialogue between the couple sounds simple and sometimes meaningless. Miscommunication among the couple is evident. Jig is on a cross way, whether to abort the baby to prove her love for her boyfriend or to keep this baby. American man wants to abort the baby without caring jig's will.

A study was conducted on the story 'Hills like White Elephants" in the year (2014). The name of the researcher was Robin Lee. His topic of investigation was "Feministic Analysis of Hills like White Elephants". Through this study, he explored that how patriarchy tries to overcome the opposite gender through the analysis of the characters of Jig and the American man. He found American man a powerful and dominant character while female character as a subordinated compelled to do what he wants. Jig is forced to abort her baby against her desire.

Rahmi (2015) did a study on the language and gender use .To explore the different expressions of men and women he described the different theories such as dominance theory, deficit theory, difference theory, radical theory and the reformist theory. He concluded that gender discrimination is a global issue, found in many languages. Gender based language, not only describes the differences in men and women language in common expressions but also found in various proverbs and fictions. Women languages are inferior to that of men due to the incomplete sentences, discontinuity and not having the logical speech order. The social status and power difference between both the genders in which men are more powerful affects their roles in language. Furthermore, stereotypes related to the women's language express negative opinions.

Kristina (2017) conducted a study to examine the relationship between language and gender. Five different studies on gender and tentative language were taken as a sample to examine the differences of men and women using unassertive speech forms. The results revealed that the hedges or mitigating devices are not used by women more than men. Men and women are not different in their speech as Lakoff asserted and in some situations women use more certain speech forms than the men.

Jiahong (2017) held a study for the analysis of characters' speech acts in hills like white elephants. Speech act theory was used to explore how the writer portrayed both the characters in the story. The results revealed that the biggest character of this story is the white elephant which symbolizes baby and the lovers' attitude and the problems solution. American man has some characteristics of lost generation and the influence of war on people. He wants to get rid of baby and his responsibilities. Hemingway left a lot of space for the readers to imagine and think deeply. To make the content of the story obvious

Hemingway uses a unique structure which makes them to guess, feel and imagine the content.

A study was conducted on this short story in the year (2018) on the topic entitled "The Stylistic Analysis of Hills like White Elephants". The study mentioned above was conducted by the researcher named Donald Kahindi, student of the University of Nairobi. Through this study, he explored that the writer had used enigmatic language in the short story. The complex stylistic patterns had enhanced the conflict of both Jig and the American man and also explored the brutality in the language of the American man.

Zhang (2019) did his study on the Hemingway's Hills like white elephants from the feminist stylistics perspective. Through the analysis of the frequency of verbs he revealed that the female's social status is deprived, neglected and subjugated by the heroine of story Jig. Through the usage of verbs he found hero in a powerful position in the conversation, compelling the heroine to take abortion that he desires, while the heroine is in a vulnerable position in the dialogue and her wants and needs are ignored.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:
The present study has followed the model of Penelope Eckert and Sally Mcconnel-Ginet (2013) on how language is used for social gender construction and how someone's socially developed gender, influences language use. Language and gender are used contextually and socially and produced within interactional local constraints and according to societal norms. Gender is socially and psychologically constructed phenomenon as Simon De Beauvoir has said 'women are not born, they are made. (Eckert, P. & Ginet, S.M., 2013, pp.1-7) The making process of men and women starts from their birth and continues throughout the life. For example at the time of doing shopping for the baby people choose blue color things for the boy and the pink color for the girl. After the birth girl or the boy's moves are controlled and according to their sex they are taught what to do and what not to do. Gender is a collaborative affair and all the people around the child help him/her to perform as a male or female. People treat male and female children differently according to their sex and even their pitch of voice and crying due to some pain are also shaped accordingly. Men are taught not to express their emotions in front of any one because it is considered a symbol of weakness and men has to be strong. (Eckert, P. & Ginet, S.M., 2013, pp.7-21)

All the members of the community are not equally involved in enforcing gender differences. Males are more engaged in creating gender differences than the females. Boys' activities are more valued than girls, those boys who take interest in girls activities are strongly bashed. Children are forbidden from playing with the opposite sex from the very childhood and this separation results in miscommunication. (Eckert, P. & Ginet, S.M., 2013, p.21) Due to the society's portrayal of perfect couple through various advertisements both the genders develop a desire for the other sex and to attract the other sex they learn society norms for example girls learn how to be delicate and extrovert in their emotions and boys to be powerful and introvert in their emotions. This gender transformation does not stop in childhood or adolescence but continues as we

enter into the market as a professional and as our family status changes to husband, mother, father etc. In a gender based society we learn how to act and participate in particular ways in communities and relationships. Gender differences are developed by everyone. These are relatives, institutions, media and public spaces who define the gender differences among girls and boys. This gender division also remains in working field by confining women only to homes for nurturing their children and serving their families and men to the public sector. (Eckert, P. & Ginet, S.M., 2013, p.35)

Language is a structured system of signs and gender is inlaid in these signs. Gender is substance of the sign and the associated meaning with the sign. The tone, pitch, intonation, pronunciation, choice of words and grammar patterns all reflects gender. For example those people who pronounce words against the edge of front teeth are associated with the gays or women. In some languages it is necessary to specify gender as in English cats are referred as she and dogs are referred as he. (Eckert, P. & Ginet, S.M., 2013, p.62)

Men are considered a sign of intelligence and a good leadership. They are motivated to talk on all the events and express their views but in case of female sex those women are considered ideal who are submissive and remain silent in front of their husbands. Gossiping, dirty talking, arguing, joking, lecturing and small talking are associated with the women. (Eckert, P. & Ginet, S.M., 2013, pp.88-106) Women are not considered as good professors and writers, due to this issue many women publish their works under male pen name as George Eliot real name was Mary Ann Evans. In social settings women play a role of cooperator and men as a competitor. Women are other oriented and more polite than the men and their speech and grammar is more standard than the men. Men focus on self direction and are straightforward. In socio economic sector this difference is greater than the men. Men are preferred for the jobs and have paid higher salaries than the women in spite of equal work. Speech of women is very often full of questions, unwillingness, uncertainties and lack of confidence. (Eckert, P. & Ginet, S.M., 2013, p.141)

Society creates gender oppositions among us that men are strong, brave, aggressive, impassive, rational, direct and competitive and women are weak, timid, passive, emotional, irrational, indirect, cooperative and nurturing. Society always portrays men better than women due to these portrayal men began to consider women inferior than them. They began to control their lives according to their will. Not only in public and private life men control women but also during the conversation they try to put the words of their own choice in the women's mouth. During the conversation men are the active and women are the passive participants.

METHODOLOGY:
As far as the method of this study is concerned, it is based on qualitative method. Qualitative method can be defined as a flexible approach of inquiry, it helps to study different subjects in their natural settings and attempts to make the meaningful interpretation about them to bring a certain positive change (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005). However, the data of the study has been comprised of a short story from American literature namely "Hills like White Elephants" by Earnest

Hemingway. In terms of data collection, the researcher has applied the purposive sampling technique to have the required data. Hence, Penelope Eckert and Sally McConnell Ginet (2013) model of language and gender has been applied as a theoretical framework and the desired data has been analyzed by the use of content analysis technique. Content analysis technique assists a researcher to organize and explore meanings from the gathered data and to get realistic conclusion from it (Bengtsson, 2016).

ANALYSIS:
Gender cannot be taken something that human beings are born with and not they have rather it refers to the things they do. It is a label which a society assigns to someone regarding their social roles. Language has always been the main tool for assigning these roles. For example; in any society a boy is not supposed to have the delicacy of his mother rather he prefers to follow his father proudly as sticks out his chest and does everything which can help him to look like his father. In the same way, a girl is always supposed to look like her mother in every matter like to do household chores and to obey the male members and whenever she tries to set her own way she is not liked by the society (Eckert& Ginet, 2013). This pattern of thought proposes a great discrimination between both genders by giving the men higher social status over the opposite sex. This difference can be felt even in the language use as well. In this way, every society wants women to be more polite and less expressive than its male members and this is the main reason that women most of the time make the passive use of language marked with the lack of the elements of confirmation, they do so because they communicate just to intimate the relationships rather to impose their opinions.

This type of societal approach is observed in the story entitled "Hills like white elephants". In this story, both characters use a gender-linked language not only in their verbal actions but in their non- verbal expressions as well. Jig the protagonist of the story represents a feminine role which required her to push her desires and thoughts aside just to please her partner who has been the representative of American masculinity throughout the story.

When the story opens, the writer shows them at a railway station waiting for a train. While, few minutes later, they both look having a discussion just to kill the time. Jig seems to use metaphorical language apparently to appreciate the beauty of the surroundings but actually she wants to escape the topic which her male partner is very excited to discuss. Then, it reveals that they are talking about an operation and it is the point when they use a gender-based language which leads towards a miscommunication. The language used by jig presents a lack of confidence and dependency on her male partner to take every decision of her life. In the start of the story, she compared white hills situated in the surroundings and takes them as unwanted gift just like her baby. She thought so because she just realized that her baby is unwanted for her partner because he wanted her to abort that baby and tried to crush her maternal feelings. She seems exhausted towards her relationship with the American man but still she drags it.

What should we drink? The girl asked.
It's pretty hot, the man said.
Let's drink beer.

The question asked by her shows her dependency on the American man as she is not in a position to make any decision without getting the approval of her partner. She used a series of tag questions which stands for her lack of lower social status and self- confidence. In this way, she remains passive throughout the story as she is portrayed as weak, dependent and confused girl who continuously required the guidance of the American man.

Further, she was well aware of her feeling regarding to have her baby alive but just to sustain her relationship with her partner she got ready to torture herself not only physically but mentally as well. She suffered a continuous fear that if she will not take the operation (abortion) she will lost her relationship with the American man who is indirectly pressurizing her to take the operation.

On the other side, The American man is the active one in the story. Through the analysis of his language, he seems to be a self- centered person who only loves himself and tries to mold the life of his girlfriend according to his own desires. Further, throughout the story, he seems to stick to the masculine pattern of communication as he is continuously emphasized that he is Jig's greatest well wisher and she should blindly trust her in every matter.

It is really an awfully simple operation, jig, the man said.
It's not really an operation at all.
I know you won't mind it.
It's not really anything.
It's just to let the air in.
The girl did not say anything.

His pattern of language is very casual and shows his indifferent behavior towards the feelings of jig, a sensitive girl. Further, his language indicates a sense of authority and confidence. The language of American presents a lack of sympathy towards Jigs emotional state of mind. He keeps to convince her to take that operation by mentioning that how much painless and easy the operation will be without considering her deep love for him that is the only reason which got her agree to take that painful operation.

Jig does not give a verbal response to this argument rather she prefers to be silent as she wants him to understand himself what she wants but when she does not see any flexibility in his behavior, she gives up and says:

I I'll do it because I do not care about me.
What do you mean?
 I do not care about me.

Language used by Jig is profoundly imprecise and she is looking very concerned to know whether he is paying attention to what she is talking or not. Moreover, it shows her helplessness and lack of control on her own life and reflects the

social approach of that time, when women were supposed to sacrifice her own desires over the desires of their male partner just to keep them happy.
That is the only thing that bothered us
It is the only thing that made us unhappy

The above use of language made by the American man indicates his selfish nature and insincerity towards his relationship with the poor Jig. He knows her desire to give birth to her child but keeps on insisting her to abort child because he considers the baby as a hindrance in their life which can be very problematic to both of them.

Come back in the shade, he said.
You must feel that way.

Apparently, he shows his concern for her but actually he does so because he considers her inferior to him, unable to face the harshness of the climate and presents his services to protect her just to make her understand that he is superior to her in every matter and she is nothing without his support.

Would you do something for me now?
I'd do anything for you
Would you please please please please please please please stop talking?

Again Jig makes the use of tag questions which not only indicates her broken state of mind but also reminds her communicational dependency on the American man to get some relief from such an irritating topic like operation (abortion).

FINDINGS:
The present study traced the gender - based miscommunication between the both protagonists as the male character is observed making the active use of language as he used the logical sentences marked with the element of confirmation without leaving any ground for doubt. His language proposed a rigid pattern and reminded the audience his higher social status during 1927 era which required him to be more intellectual in every mater than his girlfriend Jig. On the other hand, Jig was observed to make the vast use of tag questions which showed her linguistic dependency, lower social status and her feminine desire to invite her partner to have more discussion to take a certain decision. As for as the second question of the study is concerned, how language can be a cause to oppress a particular gender? It is to say that society always been involved to cultivate the seeds of gender discrimination. It always provided a more respectable place to men in any sphere of life which makes them more confident and urges them to turn the life of the other gender into the pathetic one. Same thing happened in this story, The American man is very well aware of Jigs desire to bring the children in this world but still he insisted her to abort that child who according to his own opinion can make them unhappy and a hindrance in his way of freedom. Throughout the story, the language he used reflected a harsh tone and indicated his lack of understanding and sympathy for the poor Jig who ultimately got ready to take that operation because she did not want to lose her relationship with him.

CONCLUSION:

The present study has been executed to explore the relationship between gender and language in the context of the short story "Hills like Elephants" by Earnest Hemmingway. So, the study revealed that these are the societal norms which empower one gender by letting down the other one and this sort of discrimination ultimately leads the males to practice an authoritative role in every matter and language use is not exceptional to this. This is the reason men are considered more direct and rough in terms of language use and women are polite because they do not want to get in any sort of clash with someone rather they always try to intimate the relationships. This difference can be observed when men speak, they use meaningful and complete sentences within an element of confirmation unlike the women who while having conversation use a lot of tag questions within an intention to provide a ground for further discussion about a certain thing.

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