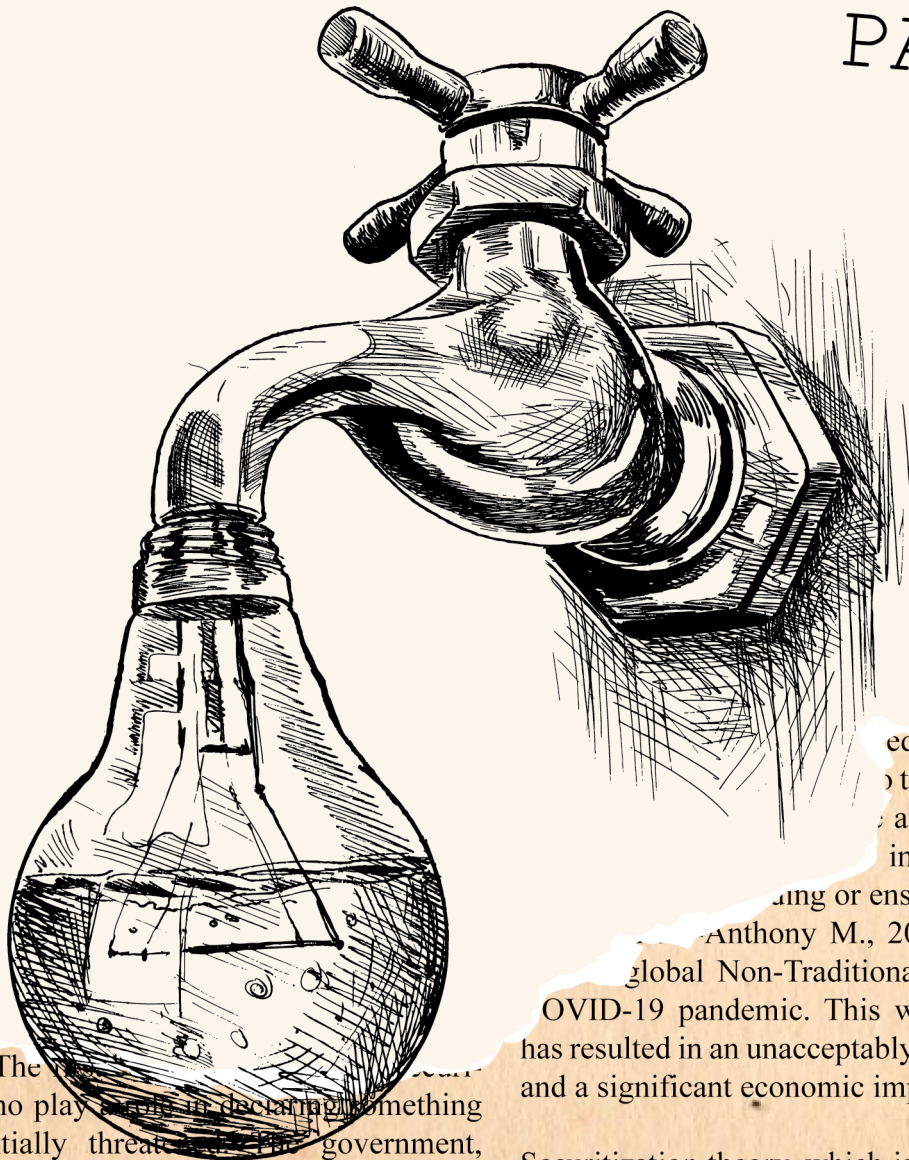


A R T /

I N N O V A T I O N

PART I



... issue. The...
... actors who play... in declaring something
... that is existentially threatening to the government,
... represented by high-ranking officials, lobbyists, and
... even pressure from a group are all examples of securitizing
... tizing actors. Next is the issue or threat that potentially
... brings harmful effects towards peace and stability of
... of the country and lastly is the reference object or who
... needs the security. This is how actors secure the

... eg
... that those mo
... actors, political
... individuals can h
... ing or ensuring their own se
... Anthony M., 2018). One of the m
... global Non-Traditional Security risks is the
... COVID-19 pandemic. This worldwide health crisis
... has resulted in an unacceptably high number of deaths
... and a significant economic impact.

Securitization theory, which is employed as a frame-
work analysis, is the basic theory that underpins the
analysis in this study. Securitization developed from
Copenhagen School (COPRI – Copenhagen Peace
Research Institute) of security studies pioneered by
Barry Buzan, Ole Weaver and Jaap De Wilde (1998),

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DISCOURSE AND IDENTITY

Unveiling The Identity Of Ping Fa Zhou In The Movie Mulan

a chapter by

NATASHA BINTI ZUHAIMI
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Kampus Raub



Introduction

*“A bride serves her husband,
Just as she served her father
Her voice cannot be heard nor can her body or
shadow be seen
With her husband’s father and elder brothers
She has no conversation.”*

(The Family Instruction of the Grandfather, Tang dynasty, China)

The above phrase is China’s portrayal of women during the ancient time. Just by reading the excerpt, it could be observed that women during the ancient China time were represented to be submissive and weak, to the extent that the role of women were not even significant. Unable to speak their own thoughts and do things as they please as if they are living in prison in their own body. Women during the ancient China time were moulded by the philosophers and societies to follow the norm and culture brought by their ancestors. Cartwright (2018) stated that Confucius, one of many influential Chinese philosophers, believes that women should first be subservient to parents and then to husband, and also taught to be humble and only take the most menial duties. Confucius further stated that women should follow the Three Obedience and Four Virtues which are; obedience to father, to husband and to sons as widows; the virtues; morality, courteous speech, modest appearance and diligence. If they violate the Three Obedience and Four Virtues, they will be viewed as a disgrace to their family as well as a disgrace to the eyes of society. Likewise, the history of the famous Yin and Yang has also been depicted biased focusing the male as a strong entity. The male

(yang) is associated with predominant and subtly superior qualities compared to female (yin), for instant, poor v. rich, forceful v. submissive, dark v. light and many more (Adler, 2013). Due to the stereotypical views and beliefs on women, the society were very conscious to ensure their daughters do not bring dishonour to the family. Hence, this paper intends to unravel the identity of Ping Fa Zhou (male version of Mulan) based on Robin Lakoff (1975) claim on “female speech features”, and identify whether Ping Fa Zhou’s language reflect Mulan’s identity as a female.

Research Objective

The objective of this paper is:-

To investigate whether Mulan’s female identity reflected in her male identity as Ping Fa Zhou.

Research Question

This paper aims to answer research question:-

Does Mulan’s female identity reflect in her male identity as Ping Fa Zhou in the movie?

Literature Review

Language and Identity

To be accepted in a certain group of community, language and identity plays a pivotal role in adjusting ourselves to the environment. Language and identity moves simultaneously, just like how we adjust ourselves talking to the

elderly as compared to how we adjust ourselves communicating with our peers. Burke (2015) mentioned that in understanding social identity and its relationship to the discourse it is based on how we present ourselves to others are changeable, strategic, and jointly constructed. He further mentioned that language is the main source to perform variety identities. Depending on the situation that we are in, our identity change and adapt to the current situation to show specific portrayal. James (1927) cited in Leary & Tangney (2012) stated that multiple personalities are common and that everyone has multiple identities when interacting in different situations. Similarly, Cartwright (2018) explained human's identity depends on the community that they mingle with, and that is called speech community.

Aside from the personal identity portrayal and the speech community, different gender has their own stereotypical traits as well which define their identity through the language used. According to Lakoff (1990), women belong to those language spoken by the powerless while men's language as the language of those with power. The identity created by Lakoff depicted men are superior to women in terms of language. The claim is further supported by Tannen (1990) which he summarised that men's communication style is mainly to maintain status in a hierarchical social order, while women use language to bond. He also revealed that males are more direct (abrupt) in conveying speech while females tend to be indirect (polite) in their language style.

Female Speech Features

Female speech features or also known as "women's language" is a famous claim made by Robin Lakoff that holds many scholars' attention to research on the topic in different fields. To begin with, Robin (1975) claimed that women belong to a powerless group and very often use intensifiers (e.g. that's really a good idea) and hedges (e.g. that's sort of good) in interpersonal communication. Hedging devices can be used to weaken the strength of an assertion while boosting devices known as intensifiers that can be used to strengthen an assertion.

Similarly, McMillian et al. (1977) quoted that women used more "uncertain" forms of speech than men, through four variables; tag question, intensifiers, modal constructions (use of words such as "might" or "may" when stating claims) and an imperative constructions (substituting question for a command). Lakoff (1975) further explained the features of women's language; Women use vocabulary items that men do not use, question forms in communicating, use more polite forms, many "hedges", use the intensive such as "so", women are more "hypercorrect" grammar and use more "empty" adjectives. It is believed that women's use of tag questions, along with the practice of initiating topics by asking questions, shows how they facilitate conversations (Fishman, 1982).

Other significant feminine language includes hedges (e.g. sort of, probably) which believed to represent female uncertainty, self-doubt, and internalisation of negative interaction. Below is the simplified list of Women's language claimed by Robin Lakoff (1975); -

- Lexical hedges or fillers (you know, sort of, well, you see)
- Tag questions (She's very nice, isn't she?)
- Rising intonation on declaratives (It's really good?)
- "Empty" adjectives (divine, charming, cute)
- Precise colours (magenta, aquamarine)
- Intensifiers (I like him so much)
- 'Hypercorrect' grammar (consistent use of standard verb forms)
- 'Super-polite' forms (indirect requests, euphemisms)
- Avoidance of strong swear words (fudge, my goodness)
- Emphatic stress (it was a BRILLIANT performance)

Methodology

The objective of this research is to identify whether the identity of Mulan change when she disguised herself as Ping Fa Zhou (a male version of Mulan) in the movie Mulan (1998). The data is retrieved via website.

Data analysis

The data analysis is focused on the claim by Robin Lakoff on Female speech features. The difference of language and identity of Mulan and Ping Fa Zhou were observed, recorded, gathered and transcribed. The first step is choosing a character to be observed and one character has been chosen called Mulan who plays the role of Ping Fa Zhou, the created identity to camouflage with the soldiers. Ping Fa Zhou's language and identity throughout the movie had been recorded and gathered. The conversation of Ping Fa Zhou has been observed throughout the screen-time.

Findings and discussion

Table 1 and 2 shows the result on Female Speech Features uttered by Ping Fa Zhou;-

Table 1

Dialogue	Female Speech Features
Ping: Okay, okay, how 'bout this? Ahem. <i>[in her manly voice]</i> excuse me, where do I sign in? Ihah, I see you have a sword. I have one too. They're very manly and tough <i>[Mulan bites her lip as she mishandles pulling the sword out of the scabbard and it falls to the ground. Khan rolls on his back in laughter. Mulan throws her shoe and hits Khan in the head with it quieting Khan].</i> I'm working on it. Who am I fooling? It's going to take a miracle to get me into the army.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excuse me (Super-polite) Hah, I see (lexical hedges) Very (intensifiers) Manly (empty adjectives) Tough (empty adjectives) Miracle (emphatic stress)
Ping: Sorry . <i>[in her man voice]</i> Uhh, I mean , sorry you had to see that. <i>[with her fist she taps Shang on the shoulder]</i> You know how it is when you get those, uh <i>[pounding her chest]</i> manly urges and you just have to kill something <i>[slapping her hand]</i> , fix things, uh , cook outdoors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sorry (super-polite) Uhh, I mean (lexical hedges) uh (lexical hedges) You know (lexical hedges) Manly urges (emphatic stress) Just (intensifiers) kill (emphatic stress) fix (emphatic stress)
Ping: Um , he... doesn't talk about me much. <i>[Mulan tries to hawk up a loogie and spit but the saliva just runs from her mouth. The recruits laugh]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Um (lexical hedges)
Ping <i>[speaking nervously and unaturally in a manly voice]</i> : Oh hi guys, I didn't know you were *here* . <i>[Yao, Ling and Chien-Po share "this boy is strange" looks]</i> I was just washing, so now I'm clean and I'm gonna go. Bye, bye. <i>[Mulan hides behind a rock keeping her front facing the rock]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oh (lexical hedges) I didn't know you were here (rising intonation on declaratives) Just (intensifiers) So (intensifiers)
Ping <i>[in a manly voice]</i> : Hey, I'll hold him and you punch, heh, heh... <i>[Shang walks by without reacting]</i> or not . <i>[calling out to Shang]</i> For what it's worth, I think you're a great captain. <i>[Shang pauses to glance back, then continues forward]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hey, I'll hold him and you punch, heh, heh...or not (rising intonation on declaratives) I think (lexical hedges) Great (emphatic stress)

Table 2

Female speech Features	Lexical hedges	Rising intonation on declarative	Empty adjectives	Intensifiers	Super-polite	Emphatic stress
Frequency	7	2	2	3	2	5

Based on the findings, the most frequent used female speech features are lexical hedges and emphatic stress. Although Mulan disguised herself as Ping Fa Zhou, she could not hide her

nature of being a female through the language used which describes her identity. McMillan et al. (1977) claimed that women use more uncertain speech than men in delivering their utterances and women were considered as a powerless group. Aside from the reason that Mulan is considered weak, the environment played a significant role in shaping the identity of Mulan that has been reflected by Ping Fa Zhou. Tracing back at the history of ancient China, during the Han dynasty in which the movie plot takes place, the leading doctrine during that time is Confucian, he is the one who set the proper relationship for everyone in China and women were put below men (Eisenhauer, 2017). When Ping Fa Zhou made her first appearance, she had problem speaking with the males, because she is a devoted daughter to her father, Fa Zhou. According to Confucius, one of the prime "Three Obedience" belief is "obedient to father" (Cartwright, 2018). Hence, resulting her identity of being "uncertain" when communicating with other men, in fact she struggles to carry the identity of Ping Fa Zhou.

Emphatic stress is the second frequent female speech features uttered by Ping Fa Zhou. Based on the claim by Lakoff (1975), emphatic stress is an act of emphasizing words to show the importance of the content. She further explained that using emphatic stress is a form of direction to tell someone how to react since what is said by the speaker is less convincing therefore he/she would better double force to ensure that the addressee can understand what the speaker wants to say. In order to be noticed and taken seriously, Ping Fa Zhou use emphatic stress as an indication that she can be in par with the males. As mentioned by Lakoff (1975), male is considered to have a power in language when compared to female. Hence, emphatic stress gives the identity of "power" to Ping Fa Zhou when she is communicating with the males.

Conclusion

The depiction of women, especially Disney's princesses have shifted its cultural ideals over the years (Barber, 2015). McKenzie Barber has set several examples of the newest portrayal of women through Ariel, Mulan and Rapunzel. These characters have taken a final shift in female

characters as they are viewed as independent and free spirit. Even though the portrayal changed, the female speech features are still visible to the viewers. Lakoff (1973) and Burke (2015) cordially agreed that if a woman uses so-called “rough language” she will be warned not to use the language again. Even though Disney’s characters have shifted the behavioural traits and identity the language used still portray the female nature.

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Appendix

[Cut to outside of the medic tent. Mulan and Medic are inside. Shang stands by the entrance. Yao, Ling and Chien-Po look quite concerned. Ling drums his fingers on his knees. The medic comes out from the tent and whispers to Shang. Shang looks astonished and goes into the tent. Mulan is lying down. She opens her eyes, sees Shang and smiles at the sight of him. She sits up allowing the blanket to fall to her waist revealing her form fitting bandages on her chest. She sees Shang’s surprised look and realizes her feminine form is noticeable]

Mulan *[gasping as she covers up]*: Huh, I can explain.

Chi Fu *[stepping into the tent]*: Huh? So it’s true.

Mulan *[calling after Shang as he steps out of the tent]*: Shang!

[Cut to outside the tent. Chi Fu hauls out Mulan by the arm. Mulan uses her other hand to hold the blanket]

Chi Fu: I knew there was something wrong with you. *[Chi Fu takes off Mulan’s hair tie and throws her to the ground]* A woman.

[Ling, Yao and Chien-Po are shocked]

Chi Fu *[to the troops]*: Treacherous snake.

Mulan *[on the ground kneeling and hunched over, speaking to Shang]*: My name is Mulan. I did it to save my father.

Chi Fu *[to the troops]*: High treason!

Mulan: I didn’t mean for it to go this far.

Chi Fu *[getting in Mulan’s face and speaking to her while she winces]*: Ultimate dishonor.

Mulan: It was the only way. Please believe me.

Surat kami : 700-KPK (PRP.UP.1/20/1)

Tarikh : 20 Januari 2023

Prof. Madya Dr. Nur Hisham Ibrahim
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