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**Gendered Language in Lucy M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* and  
Ernest Hemingway's "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Master  
in Linguistics.**

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### **Declaration:**

We hereby declare that the dissertation entitled “Gendered Language in Lucy M. Montgomery’s *Anne of Green Gables* and Ernest Hemingway’s “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”” is truly the result of our investigation to accomplish the requirements for master degree of linguistics in English language and letters department, Faculty of letters and languages, Ibn Khaldoun University of Tiaret. We further declare that the collaborative contributions have been indicated clearly and acknowledged. We clearly marked and separately listed all of the literature and all of the other sources which we employed when producing this academic work.

## **Dedication**

*I dedicate this work to my family, a special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents. Thank you for all the love and support.*

*To my dear brother Mohamed Amine for his constant support*

*To my beloved sisters Linda, Ferial and my little niece Anayis who have supported me throughout the process*

*To all people who supported me by prayers near or far,*

*To my friends,*

*And To myself*

*Tirhinane*

**Dedication:**

*From the bottom of my heart, I dedicate this work to all those who are dear to  
me,*

*TO MY DEAR MOTHER LaiIA*

*No dedication can express my respect, my eternal love and my consideration for  
the sacrifices you have made for my education and my well-being.*

*TO MY DEAR FATHER BENAÏSSA*

*For his support, his affection and the trust he gave me.*

*To my dear brothers Mouhamed and Yahya, my sister Karima and my best  
friend Chaima for their support and encouragement.*

*To my partner Tinhinane for her support and patience*

*To my friend Tamani for her encouragement.*

*To my team of football "Saidi Mouhmed".*

*To all whom I know and love thank you for being by my side*

*Wafaa*

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## Abstract

This dissertation attempted to study gender differences in using language in two selected works: *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” by Ernest Hemingway in order to answer the following research questions of how male and female characters use language differently and how male and female authors present women and men in their works regarding language use. We opted for the descriptive qualitative research in which data were classified based on Robin Lakoff’s presumptions such as hedges, tag questions, empty adjectives, intensifiers, and swear words. We explained the context of the selected data which are in the form of words and statements, and then we analyzed them according to Robin Lakoff’s theory of gender. Based on the analysis, women’s speech differs from men’s speech. The results of the study found clear support for Robin Lakoff’s theory which claims that female characters use more tag questions, hedges, empty adjectives and intensifiers, whereas male characters tend to use more swear words and taboo language.

**Keywords:** *Anne of Green Gables*, gender differences, language use, Robin Lakoff theory, “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”.

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# **General Introduction**

Communication, as an essential part of our social life, is built on language as a means to convey information and strengthen relations with humans. People use language to express their feelings, thoughts, arguments and opinions; however, the way human beings communicate differs from one person to another for many reasons, and the most common factor that influences language use is gender. In fact, it is widely believed that men and women have different communication patterns. To put differently, gender differences control the lifestyle of men and women which in turn alters their speech styles; accordingly, gender differences, as a significant topic, have been the interest of many researchers in different fields of study such as sociolinguistics, psychology and literature. In this regard, many scholars attempted to investigate these gender disparities in terms of using language and constructing sentences.

One of the fundamental topics that had pulled in the interest of numerous sociolinguistics is to understand the why language is used in distinct social contexts and how these linguistic disparities are influenced by social factors such as age, gender, status and so forth. Actually, society plays an important role in shaping the language of its people and gradually, society changes and influences its language. Nowadays, many words are no more used and many others are added to our vocabulary. In the same vein, many scholars have studied linguistic differences in distinct societies. William Labov, for example, conducted many studies about language changes such as social esterification of English in New York City.<sup>1</sup> He studied language in its social context. The study of gender and language in sociolinguistics begun with Robin Lakoff's article "*Language and Women's Place*" in 1972 which turns to be a book in 1975. Lakoff work is regarded as the first book in language and gender studies.

In sociolinguistics, the relation between gender and language has attracted considerable attention for many years. According to Jie Li, The first studies on language and gender date back to ancient Greece. Many dramas of the period had gender disparities in language. Language and gender, on the other hand, did not draw the attention of anthropologists and linguists until the early twentieth century.<sup>2</sup> In 1922, Otto Jespersen mentioned that the language used by women is linguistically weak, he stated that:

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<sup>1</sup> William Labov conducted a research in 1966 about the rhotic R variable in New York City, he found out that rhocity is related to social status.

<sup>2</sup> Li, J. (2014). "A Sociolinguistic study of language and gender in Desperate Housewives". *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*. Vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 52-57. Retrieved from 79 doi:10.4304/tpls.4.1.52-57.

Woman is linguistically quicker than man: quicker to learn, quicker to hear, and quicker to answer. A man is slower: he hesitates; he chews the cud to make sure of the taste of words, and thereby comes to discover similarities with and differences from other words, both in sound and in sense, thus preparing himself for the appropriate use of the fittest noun or adjective.<sup>3</sup>

According to him, men and women are different in language use. Man takes all his time to choose the correct words, he is linguistically competent; however, women are rapid, answer quickly and lack linguistic proficiency.

In the 1970s, with the raising of female liberation movements people became more curious about the gender differences in language and the study of gender and language has developed greatly. In 1973, Robin Lakoff published *Language and Women's Place*, an article which has become widely recognized for its assertions about linguistic gender differences. Robin Lakoff in her deficit theory believes that language is interrelated to society's gender roles; she assumes that the language used by men is more powerful; whereas, women are socialized to talk like a lady. In other words, Lakoff focused on the linguistic discrimination experienced by women in society.<sup>4</sup>

The second approach in language and gender studies is dominance approach. Mary Talbot criticized this approach, she stated that: "In the dominance framework, language patterns are interpreted as manifestations of a patriarchal social order".<sup>5</sup> In other words, in the dominance theory, society is patriarchal and males have the total power in speech over females. In the difference theory, Deborah Tannen discussed in her book *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* the two-culture model of men and women, she stated that:

...conversation between women and men is cross-cultural communication. Although each style is valid on its own terms, misunderstandings arise because the styles are different. Taking a cross-cultural approach to male-female conversations makes it possible to explain why dissatisfactions are justified without accusing anyone of being wrong or crazy. Learning about style differences won't make them go away.<sup>6</sup>

Based on Deborah Tannen theory, men and women talk differently because they belong to different cultures; however, no pejorative value should be attached to them, they both have

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<sup>3</sup> Jespersen, Otto. *Language, Its Nature, Development and Origin*. London: George Allen & Unwin. 1922. p.249

<sup>4</sup> Lakoff, Robin. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper and Row. 1975. P.4

<sup>5</sup> Talbot, Mary M. *Gender and Language*. Cambridge, United Kingdom; Malden: Blackwell, 1998. p.131

<sup>6</sup> Deborah, Tannen. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. The United States: The New Yorker, 1990. p.47

valid styles with different patterns of speech. The three approaches, deficit approach, dominance approach, and difference approach discussed how gender disparities are communicated through language usage.

When it comes to the relationship between linguistics and literature, it is obvious and clear that *language* is the link that relates both fields. While linguistics focuses on the scientific study of language, literature uses the linguistic features of language to express what the writer wants to say. In other words, language is a medium of expression. Examining the linguistic features of a literary work can contribute a great deal to the reader's understanding; besides, in literary studies Linguistics is shown as means to elucidate the way language is used to convey meaning through written texts. That is to say, no literary work of art can be made without the presence of *language*.

Literature is the mirror of society; it reflects the social system and reveals the values and truths of society. In literature, every stylistic choice of language is constrained by sociolinguistics. In the same vein, Hector A. Torres stated "A sociolinguistic approach to literature takes each and every and stylistic choice made by an author as a speech event or moment of utterance conditioned by sociolinguistic exigencies."<sup>7</sup> The features of society can be seen in the way the author use language. Books, novels and short stories are produced by authors who live in a social environment; therefore, literature is the art work that is associated with social life.

Gender is a subject that is worth to be studied, at first counter with the term gender many questions raise: what is gender? Does it affect the writing style? Do women use different speech patterns? We chose to investigate the differences between male and female speech in two of our favorite works: *Anne of Green Gables*<sup>8</sup>, a compelling story of a spirited orphan who became a classic of children's literature and "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"<sup>9</sup>, a short story that combines between passion, regrets, weakness, hope and love.

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<sup>7</sup> Hector A. Torres. *For a Sociolinguistics of Literature: The Question of Style*. New Mexico: University of New Mexico, 1990. (p.5)

<sup>8</sup> Montgomery, Lucy Maud. *Anne of Green Gables*, Boston: L.C. Page & Company, 1908. Hereafter, all references of this work will be cited in the discussion as (AGG)

<sup>9</sup> Hemingway, Ernest. *The Snows of Kilimnajoro*. London: vintage, 1961. Hereafter, all references of this work will be cited in the discussion as (SK)

Identifying the possible differences between male and female in using language was the interest of many linguistic researchers for decades; however, most of them focused mainly on the consistent differences that exist in speech. To put it differently, Most of the previous works have investigated differences between male and female language use in speech, such as Labov 1990, Janet Holmes 1990 and Peter Trudgill 1972. The present study serves to investigate gender differences in speech in two selected literary works and to see whether female writer introduces the language used by female characters in conversation as the same as male writer does.

The aim of this study is to investigate gender differences in using language in two selected literary works written by two different authors, *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” by Ernest Hemingway in order to see whether male and female characters in written texts use different language to express their ideas and how male and female authors present the language used by men and women in their works.

By conducting this research which is the analysis of the selected stories *Anne of Green Gables* and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”, we intend to answer the following questions:

- How male and female characters use language differently in conversation?
- How male and female authors present women and men in their works regarding language use?

In order to provide reliable answers to these questions, the following hypotheses have been put forward:

- Women use adjectives more than men. However, men tend to use swear words
- The female author will present the language used by women with less tag questions and less adjectives; whereas, the male author will use a lot of empty adjectives and hedges to reveal women’s conversational style.

In order to answer the research questions, we adopted for the descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data, the data are utterances such as words, sentences, phrases and clauses that contain hedges, tag questions, adjectives, intensifiers and curse words. What should be born in mind is the fact that *Anne of Green Gables* was written by Lucy Maud, who is a female writer, and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” was written by Ernest Hemingway, who is a male writer. An online version was chosen in order to make the process of collecting data easier. In collecting data, the sentences that contain hedges, tag questions, adjectives and

intensifiers were identified based on Robin Lakoff theory. These helped for better analysis starting with selecting the passages and explain the context of the selected sentences before analyzing them in order to respond to the study questions. Using Lakoff's theory, the last steps were to interpret and discuss the data results.

This research is divided into three chapters; the first chapter is the theoretical part. We start with explaining the relationship between gender and language and how gender reflects society; furthermore, we tackle gender differences in language use according to the Danish linguist Robin Lakoff where we discuss some of his assumptions about speech patterns; moreover, we talk about gender at linguistic level and how males and females have different writing style.

The second chapter is devoted to the analysis of *Anne of Green Gables*. We begin with an overview of the story, then we discuss the language used by the author Lucy Maud Montgomery and the literary elements employed in her book; furthermore, we analyze the language used from a female perspective by both male and female characters according to Robin Lakoff theory 1975 where we deal with some claims such as hedges, tag questions, adjectives and intensifiers

In the last chapter, we deal with the analysis of the short story "The Snows of Kilimnajor", following the same precedent steps. We start with an overview of the story then we move to the language used by the author Earnest Hemingway and the importance of his work in the world of literature; moreover, we analyze the language used from a male perspective by both male and female characters by applying Robin Lakoff theory (1975) about gender. We analyze passages of the story that contain tag questions, hedges, adjectives, intensifiers and curse words. At last we will finalize our research with a general conclusion which summarizes the main points that we have dealt with, then we will discuss the findings and results of our work in order to answer the research questions.

The finding of our research will give a great deal of theoretical and practical contributions to the field of sociolinguistics. Theoretically speaking, the results will enrich the theory of gender and its relation with language. This research will enhance Robin's Lakoff's theory (1975) in gender studies and widen knowledge on how male and female use different speech patterns in conversation. Practically, this research will give contribution to the students of English department who are specialized in linguistics and literature, especially those who

wish to conduct research that is related somehow to our work. The linguistic analysis will be considered as material for their courses and will help them to enrich their knowledge about gender and language use in literary works; moreover, the findings and analysis of this research can be considered as an additional material for sociolinguistics and gender courses. This work is expected to provide readers with more information about gender and how it is related to language; besides, researchers who are going to conduct the same study will find many beneficial references that may be helpful.

## **Chapter One: The Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**



## 1.1. Introduction

This research is aimed to investigate the language used in the selected stories *Anne of Green Gables* written by a female author Lucy Maud and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” written by a male author Ernest Hemingway to exhibit how males and females use language differently. In order to initiate this study, this chapter attempts to examine the relation between language and gender, gender differences according to Robin Lakoff, and gender differences at linguistic level as a means to get a better understanding of the present study.

## 1.2. Language and Gender

Gender plays an important role in the language use; it is an interdisciplinary field of study. In the view of the fact that this research is about investigating the language use in two selected stories: *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” by Hemingway, it is mandatory to tackle the relation between gender and language use. According to Deborah Cameron, language use is influenced by gender for three main reasons. First, gender affects our daily activities; thus, the way individuals use language is controlled by the demands of the activities they are engaged in. Second, gender is related to the disparity in power and status between males and females which is reflected in their verbal communication. Third, gender is an integral part of our personal identity beside the fact that the communicating identity is the core function of language.<sup>10</sup> In other words, there are discrepancies in how males and females use language; however, it is the situation demands and what people do that may have influence on language more than gender does. Usually, in many parts of the world, people with higher status tend to speak more than the lower status ones and in most institutions, men are more likely to occupy the highest status positions while women lack of power. The social status of women makes them appear docile, and they are judged and interrupted by men when talking about politics, sports and economics.<sup>11</sup> They are expected to talk less when it comes to what is supposed to be directed to men. As believed by Deborah Cameron “it is argued that women’s preference for cooperative and relational ways of interacting puts them at a disadvantage in the public sphere.”<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, gender identities are varied and distinct from one person to another; as a result, the language used to express them is diverse. Gender is related to the process of language and communication

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<sup>10</sup> Deborah, Cameron. ”sex and the power of speech”. cited in <https://www.aqr.org.uk/a/20100301-speech> . Accessed on February 9<sup>th</sup>,2022

<sup>11</sup> ibid

<sup>12</sup> Deborah, Cameron. *The Myth of Mars and Venus*, Oxford University Press, USA, 2007.(p123)

development. The language we use is not only performed to communicate and to exchange information, it is also used to express our identities.

Language also reflects society. As stated by Talbot Mary, the language we use influences our gender divisions.<sup>13</sup> The way people use gendered words determines their assigned places in the social world. Miss. and Mrs. are simple examples. People usually use the term Miss when addressing to an unmarried woman; however, Mrs. is used when addressing to a married woman. Women are viewed as sensitive creatures. When they speak they tend to express their feelings whereas men use language to assert and suppress; thereby, in the world of work, jobs that acquire taking serious decisions are occupied by men. In other words, women are subordinate in position. As Suzanne Romaine states:

Women occupy what might be called a problematic or negative semantic space; they are seen as derivative of men or inferior versions of men. In particularly all fields of research, it is women s differences from men and masculine norms which are seen as standing in need of some explanation ... Women typically use the speech style they do because they are in less powerful positions than men.<sup>14</sup>

To say it differently, the female term suggests a negative attribute known as *lexical asymmetry*. It occurs when some unnecessary words are used to designate whereas the attribute is negative or positive. To illustrate, this can be reflected in the common expressions “stop acting like a *little girl*” and “be brave and strong *like a man*”. Women speech style differs from men speech style according to their positions in different societies. In the same context, Dale Spender asserts:

*The word for women* assumed negative connotations even where it designated the same state or condition as it did for men. *spinster and Bachelor*, for example designate an unmarried adult but when this word is marked for males it is positive while when it is marked for females it is negative. The only variable is that of sex and this variable is crucial to the semantic system.<sup>15</sup>

According to her, women do not share the same social position with men, regarding the semantic derogation.<sup>16</sup> *Women* have become disparaging while *men* have remained unsullied and pure and that is due to the protection of the semantic association with male. In other

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<sup>13</sup>Talbot, Mary M. *Gender and Language*. Cambridge, united kingdom; Malden: Blackwell, 1998. (p14.)

<sup>14</sup> Romaine, Suzanne. *Language in society: An introduction to sociolinguistics*. Oxford, UK; Oxford University Press, 1994. (p101.)

<sup>15</sup> Dale, Spender. *Man Made Language*. Routledge & Kegan Paul, London: Boston, 1980. ( p17.)

<sup>16</sup>The semantic derogation documented in 1975 by Muriel Schulz, is defined as change in meaning, she suggested that there was a systematic basis to linguistic sexism; she pointed out that there are positive words for males and negative words for females.

words, in concordance with the semantic rule, words that are marked to women are negative while words that are marked to men are positive.

### **1.3 Men and Women Language by Robin Lakoff**

There is a widespread view that women are equal to men; however, in different contexts, women are not considered as equal as men. In conversation, women and men develop distinct communication styles. To put it differently, women and men use different languages. Robin Lakoff in her book *Language and Woman's Place* mentions ten features for women's language that have served as basis for the other researches on the topic. Robin Lakoff considered the language used by women special "when we leave the lexicon and venture into syntax, we find that syntactically too women's speech is peculiar".<sup>17</sup> Women use more lexical hedges, tag questions, raise intonations patterns, speak in super polite ways, use correct grammar, standard variety, a lot of adjectives and avoid using swear words.<sup>18</sup>

#### **1.3.1 Use of Hedges**

Women tend to use hedges more than man, "my impression is that women do it more, precisely because they are socialized to believe that asserting themselves strongly isn't nice or ladylike, or even feminine".<sup>19</sup> In fact, women hedge their statements because of their lack of power and inferior position in society, they use these features to protect both the hearer and the speaker faces in order to create unity, for example "sort of", "I think", and "you know". These expressions can be used to reduce the force of a statement and to express politeness towards listeners.<sup>20</sup> To put it differently, hedges are considered as protective signals; however, stereotypically talking, they are features associated with women's speech. Women tend to talk in a politer way, and they use hedges to demonstrate politeness and uncertainty since women are more hesitant than men.

#### **1.3.2 Use of Tag Questions**

Women use tag questions and raise intonation when giving a statement. As Robin Lakoff stated in *Language and Woman's place* "Question intonations where we might express declaratives: for instance tag questions ("it's so hot, isn't it") and raising intonation in

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<sup>17</sup> Lakoff, Robin. *Language and Women's Place*. New York: Harper and Row, 1975.( P.17)

<sup>18</sup> Lakoff, Robin. *Talking Power: The Politics of Language*. New York, Basic Books, 1990. (P.204.)

<sup>19</sup> Lakoff, Robin. *Language and Woman's Place*, ibid. (p.54)

<sup>20</sup> Brown, Penelope and Stephen C, Levinson. *Politeness: Some universals in language usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978. (pp. 113–114)

statement contexts (“what’s your name, dear” “Marry Smith”)”<sup>21</sup> According to robin lakoff women use tag questions in situations where they are not certain about something which the addressee is likely to know better. That is to say, women use tag questions as an indication of insecurity and as tools that lessen the force of an assertion, because they are *reluctant* to make direct assertion .In contrast to Lakoff, Janet Holmes points that tag questions are not regarded as expressions of insecurity or uncertainty.<sup>22</sup>She defines them as devices for extracting information or response from the addressee and they can be either *modal* or *affective*.

### 1.3.3. Politeness and Correct Grammar

Women talk in politer ways than men do, as Lakoff mentions in his book *Language and Women’s Place*. Their politeness in speech is related to their correctness of grammar. In other words, a woman uses a standard form of speech to express politeness towards the speaker. Many studies have shown that women use correct linguistic forms. For instance, according to Trudgill women are generally more status conscious than men; therefore, they are more sensitive to the linguistic norms.<sup>23</sup> That is to say, women are expected to behave better in society in order to gain a higher status; thus, they are expected to use a standard variety to signal their social status; Thenceforth, women speech respects the norms of a language that are recognized as the most appropriate by its users. Women and men are socially different with distinct gender roles assigned by the society; as a result, their language reflects this society fact as well. As Trudgill mentions in his book *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*:

As a women interviewed in a Norwegian dialect survey said, when asked why she used the prestige pronunciation (eg) egg while her brothers said (aeg):’it isn’t done for a woman to say (aeg).’...the larger and more inflexible the difference between the social roles of a men and women in a particular society, the larger and the more rigid the linguistic differences tend to be.<sup>24</sup>

As previously mentioned, language is a social phenomenon. Society assigns different gender roles that are reflected in people’s behavior patterns. To rephrase it, men and women are

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<sup>21</sup> Lakoff, Robin . *Language and Woman’s Place*. New York: Harper and Row . 1975.Op. cit.(p53)

<sup>22</sup> Holmes, Janet. ‘Hedging your bets and sitting on the fence: Some evidence for hedges as supportstructures’1984.TeReo27:4762.Researchgate,[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/246363637\\_Hedging\\_your\\_bets\\_and\\_sitting\\_on\\_the\\_fence\\_Some\\_evidence\\_for\\_hedges\\_as\\_support\\_structures](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/246363637_Hedging_your_bets_and_sitting_on_the_fence_Some_evidence_for_hedges_as_support_structures) .(accessed February 24,2022)

<sup>23</sup>Trudgill, Peter. *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*. London: Penguin, 1983. (p.87)

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.p.88

socially different, this difference can be seen in the way they use language, women are expected to communicate with a more correct and prestigious language.

#### **1.3.4. Use of Adjectives:**

As stated before, Women use *empty* adjectives such as adorable, charming and cute, most of the time these adjectives are used to express admiration and approval. Women are interested in naming colors more than men do. In other words, women have larger color vocabularies, words like: lavender, beige and aquamarine. However, men found this discrimination in naming colors insignificant and irrelevant to the real world.<sup>25</sup> According to an online study, “men were more likely to use names like “awesome blue,” “goblin green” and “lightish red” while women were more likely to use names like "pale sage," "dusty teal," and "deep periwinkle.”<sup>26</sup> Women have a special lexicon; they use a lot of adjectives to express their thoughts, feelings and even colors.

#### **1.3.5. Use of Swear Words:**

According to the aforementioned claim, Robin Lakoff believes that Women are expected to talk in an appropriate way. They use a soft language due to socialization; the society expects them to adhere to the femininity norms. In other words, being a woman is linked with Speaking in a proper way. In contrast, *swearing* is directly related to *men*. Otto Jespersen claimed that men use swears and slang words more than women do.<sup>27</sup> Women are inclined toward using *refined* words; they do not support gross expressions. The way a woman talks is associated with her reputation in society, and they avoid using rough language in order not to be considered as *unladylike*.

### **1.4. Gender Differences at Linguistic Level:**

As we stated before, language reflects the social differences; subsequently, gender differences influence the language use. Such disparities can be found at different linguistic levels. There are phonological differences between the speech of men and women. According to Peter Trudgill, vowels used by women are peripheral.<sup>28</sup> Women use a *wider phonological space* than men. One of the examples is presented in his book *Introduction of Linguistics*.

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<sup>25</sup>Lakoff, Robin. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper and Row.1975 Op. cit .(p.9)

<sup>26</sup> CreativePro network , “How Men and Women Name Colors” (Make Rankin ,2012) . Accessed on February 26<sup>th</sup>2022.

<sup>27</sup> Jespersen, Otto. *Language :Nature ,Development and Origin* . G. Allen & Unwin, ltd, 1922.(p.247)

<sup>28</sup> Trudgill, Petter. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*.1972 .op.cit. (p78)

According to him, after taking American Indian language from the north-eastern USA as an example:

In other cases the differences may be quite large, overtly noted, and perhaps even actively taught to young children. In Gros Ventre, for example, an American Indian language from the north-eastern USA, palatalized dental stops in men's speech correspond to palatalized velar stops in the speech of women - men: /djatsa/; women: /kjatsa/ 'bread'.<sup>29</sup>

In fact, the example above shows that men and women pronounce language differently. In other words, there are numerous small pronunciation differences between men and women's speech; moreover, Dong Jinyu asserts that women's pronunciation is more correct.<sup>30</sup> Many researchers have found that the English used by women is closed to the British pronunciation standards. Women often speak in a high pitch voice. According to Nancy Henley, males and females have different intonation patterns.<sup>31</sup> Women have different and contrastive tones. These variations in intonation are associated with women's insecurity and instability. By way of explanation, the phonological differences in female speech suggest women's docility while falling intonation pattern in men's speech demonstrates *power*.

There are differences between female and male vocabulary. Women are more expressive in using language. On the one hand, men tend to be more directive. In the same vein, Jespersen writes:

“the vocabulary of a woman as a rule is much less extensive than that of a man Women move preferably in the central field of language, avoiding everything that is out of the way or bizarre, while men will often either coin new words or expressions or take up old-fashioned ones,”.<sup>32</sup>

According to him, women are linguistically less innovative than men. While men try to find new words to enrich his writings, women keep the same old pattern with simple words. Women use many adjectives such as “*beautiful*”, “*adorable*”, and “*heavenly*” to express and describe their feelings, that is to say that women's choice of words and use of adjectives show their sensitive nature. As said by Lakoff, Women incline towards the use of a special lexicon, they express themselves using words such as “*very*” “*so*” and “*beautiful*”. Nevertheless, men

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid .p .78

<sup>30</sup> Jinyu, Dong. (2014). Study on gender differences in language under the sociolinguistics. Canadian Social Science. 10(3), 92-96. doi: 10.3968/4602. Accessed on February 28<sup>th</sup>2022.

<sup>31</sup> Henley, Nancy. *Body Politics ;power ,Sex and Nonverbal Communication*. Simon & Schuster Paperback in English, May1986. (p76.)

<sup>32</sup> Jespersen, Otto. *Language, Its Nature, Development and Origin*. 1922,London: George Allen & Unwin. (Repr., New York: W. W. Norton, 1964) op cit (p248)

on the other side can use some adjectives and intensifiers less frequently compared to women. In addition to their use of adjectives, women use adverbs more than men do. In a study by Faye Crosby and Linda Nyquist, it is seen that women use intensive adverbs more than males during dual conversations.<sup>33</sup> Women tend to use adverbs like “vastly”, “deeply” and “pretty”. Jespersen has found that women use *so* more than men do. For example: “your dress is so beautiful” and “you are so lucky”. The extensive use of so-called intensifiers shows how women use different language styles in conversations to express their feelings.

At the level of syntax, many scholars have found significant gender differences in syntactic development. According to Shek Kam Tse and others, girls produce longer utterances than boys; they outperformed males in some sentences types and the syntactic complicity.<sup>34</sup> Female’s language skills are more advanced and more complex than the male’s language skills. Females use long sentences as a sign of hesitation while males produce shorter sentences as a sign of confidence. Girls surpass boys in requests. Women tend to save their faces by using politer forms because they do not want to be considered impolite, and they have a significant gender effect in declarative sentences with prepositional syntagm as subject or object. Furthermore, girls outperform boys in declarative sentences with a simple modifier<sup>35</sup>; the simplest form of modifier would be an *adjective* or an *adverb*. As cited in the book syntax: a linguistic introduction to the sentence structure by Brown Keith and Jim Miller:

Traditionally items like adverbs are called ‘modifiers’; traditional grammars indeed often refer to ‘modifying adverbs... a modifier is a constituent that restricts the possible range of reference of some other constituent. In the sentence the woman wept in the bathroom, the adverbial constituent in the bathroom modifies the ‘nuclear’ sentence the woman wept by specifying the particular place in which the action described by the nucleus took place.<sup>36</sup>

As previously mentioned, Women use adjectives and adverbs more than men to modify verbs and nouns For instance, a delicious meal here “*a*” is an article that modifies the word “*meal*”, and the word “*delicious*” is an adjective of the word meal so both “*a*” and “*delicious*” are adjectives that modify the noun “*meal*”.

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<sup>33</sup> Crosby, Faye and Linda, Nyquist. The Female Register: An Empirical Study of Lakoff’s Hypothesis. Language in Society, vol. 6, no. 3, 1997, pp. 313-322. Cambridge University Press. Accessed on March 5.2022.

<sup>34</sup> Tse, Shek kam., et Al . Sex Differences in Syntactic Development: Evidence from Cantonese-speaking preschoolers in Hong Kong. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, vol. 26, NO.6, pp. 509-517. doi: 10.1080/01650250143000463 . Accessed on March 5.2022.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid p.513

<sup>36</sup>Brown, keith and James V. Miller , *Syntax a linguistic introduction to sentence structure*1980, Hutchinson. (p71-p72.)

Women better communicate non-verbally than men do. According to Harald G. Wallbot, females communicate their emotions in a finer way than males.<sup>37</sup> Studies indicate that women express fear and sadness through facial expressions. On the other hand, men communicate rage and anger non-verbally. To rephrase it, gender plays a mandatory role in nonverbal communication; in addition, women show more expressive and intense facial expressions than men do.

As stated in the research of Don Zimmerman and Candace West on the interruptions men and women make in conversation. Men infringe women's right to finish a turn, whereas women have to wait until men finish their turn.<sup>38</sup> In mixed conversation, men tend to interrupt women while women are expected to be silent. To put it another way; women are not expected to violate men's speech, and they have to wait until they finish because they are more patient. Dale Spender in her book *Men Made Language* mentioned that she attended a conference where women were complaining about men's control in conversation. She stated that "...the women did not get many opportunities to speak, that when they did speak they were frequently interrupted (by men)".<sup>39</sup> In mixed conversations, women's talk is considered as an opportunity for men to judge and interrupt them which does not happen to men when they speak. Men consider the topics discussed by women less important

In social interaction, women and men choose different topics due to their distinct interests. As previously mentioned, men tend to talk about politics sports and economy while women have more interest in discussing family affairs and issues. As claimed by Deborah Cameron in her book *The Myth of Mars and Venus*:

The dominance of men in powerful positions is a historical legacy of the old doctrine of 'separate spheres', which effectively excluded women from most areas of public life. That exclusion had a linguistic dimension...For respectable Victorians, the idea of making political speeches, giving lectures or preaching sermons was not merely incongruous ('like a dog walking on its hind legs', as Dr Johnson had said of women preaching a century earlier), it was scandalous.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Wallbot, Harald G. "Big girls don't frown, big boys don't cry: Gender Differences of Professional Actors in Communicating Emotion Via Facial Expression". *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*, Vol.12, no. 2, 1988, pp. 98–106. doi:10.1007/BF00986928. Accessed on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2022.

<sup>38</sup> Zimmerman, Dean H. and Candace, West. "Sex Roles, Interruptions and Silences in Conversation". 1975. cited in <https://web.stanford.edu/~eckert/PDF/zimmermanwest1975.pdf>. Accessed on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2022.

<sup>39</sup> Dale, Spender. *Man Made Language*. Routledge & Kegan Paul in London, Boston, 1980. (p87)

<sup>40</sup> Deborah, Cameron. *The Myth of Mars and Venus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, USA, 2007. op.cit.(p125,126)



To put it in different words, men's talk is associated with the outside world, and they discuss politics and all the economics activities; meanwhile, women's talk is associated with home. They discuss informal subjects in informal occasions.

## **1.5. Conclusion**

Language and gender is an interdisciplinary field of research, many studies in this field asserted that men's and women's speech styles are distinct in conversation. This theoretical chapter attempted to mark the paramount differences between males and females in using language. We have commenced with introducing the relationship between gender and language and how gender influences the language used by both males and females. Moreover, we discussed language disparities according to Robin s Lakoff's theory. The latter points out that women's speech is distinct from men's speech in a number of ways; women use more tag questions, hedges, empty adjectives and intensifiers; whereas, men use more swear words and less correct variety when communicating. Lastly, we talked about gender differences at linguistic level (pronunciation, intention, vocabulary, syntax and pragmatic.) and how women's choice of words and attitudes vary from that of men's.

## **Chapter Two: Language and gender in *Anne of Green Gables***

## 2.1 Introduction:

In this chapter, we will deal with language differences regarding human gender in the novel of *Anne of Green Gables*. The study is based on Robin Lakoff theory which suggests that women's speech differ from men's speech. The selected literary text will be examined to see whether Lakoff's claims are illustrated and portrayed in the story that is written from a female perspective. Lucy Maud Montgomery uses a poetic and descriptive language to recount the story of an orphan girl Anne Shirley. The mood and tone were calm and positive in most of the story due to Anne's perspective. She uses several English words that are not used a lot these days, but they were more commonly spoken in the 1900s such as: "jolly", "scarlet" and "cross". She described the settings and characters of the story perfectly, and she put many details that the reader will be able to imagine and picture the scenes easily. She also uses many literary elements to portray how people used to live in that period of time. In addition, she shows how women values were respected and cherished more than men's values, and how girls were expected to behave in that era of time.

To begin, we will start with an overview of the story, and then we will address the literary elements used by the female author. Lastly, we will talk about males and female's differences in using language in which we will discuss and analyze some Lakoff's assumptions such as: hedges, tag questions, adjectives and adverbs in order to answer the questions provided in the research.

## 2.2 An Overview of *Anne of Green Gables*

*Anne of Green Gables* is a classic children's novel written by a Canadian author Montgomery Lucy Maud. It was published in 1908<sup>41</sup> and quickly rose to the top of the bestseller list. It has been adapted as films, television series, musicals and plays. It recounts the story of a red-headed orphan girl named *Anne Shirley* who is sent by mistake to Mathew and Marilla Cuthbert, unmarried siblings who intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm called *Green Gables* in the fictional town of Avonlea in *Prince Edward Island, Canada*. The novel tells the adventures of Anne; a cheerful girl who changed the joyless life of the Cuthberts. *Anne of Green Gables* became a classic of children's literature with multiple sequels.

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<sup>41</sup> Lowne, Cathy. "Anne of Green Gables". Encyclopedia Britannica, 12 Mar. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Anne-of-Green-Gables>. Accessed 6 June 2022.

Lucy Maud is Canadian novelist and a short story writer. She was born in 1874, in Prince Edward Island, Canada. She is best known of her series of books *Anne of Green Gables*.<sup>42</sup> In fact, Montgomery's writing is based on her real life. In her journal she wrote: "Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy. By mistake a girl is sent them."<sup>43</sup> According to her writings in her journal, Montgomery and her husband were trying to adopt a boy but they ended up with a girl. In her novel *Anne of Green Gables*, Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert also wanted to adopt a boy to help them in the farm, but a girl was sent to them by mistake. Montgomery writing of her classic novel was based on some aspects of her real life; she weaved her personal experience into her work. As mentioned in an article:

The parallels do not stop there; from the Green Gables house, based on the house of her cousins - the MacNeill family, to the character of Gilbert Blythe who was inspired by her first love (a local farm boy who died tragically), long before her marriage to the Rev. Ewan MacDonald, to the stillborn birth of her second son, to two imaginary friends she had as a child who lived in a fairy room behind the bookcase of her grandparents sitting room, the similarities to be found throughout all eight Anne novels are endless.<sup>44</sup>

Lucy Maud Montgomery uses an expressive language to demonstrate Anne's and Marilla's emotions and sentiments. As readers, we can easily notice Marilla's deep love to Anne and Anne's gratitude for having the Cuthbert family by her side. The way she recounts the story gives the reader a greater understanding of the characters behaviors and actions.

### **2.3 Literary Devices in *Anne of Green Gables***

The novel *Anne of Green Gables* has been recognized as one of Montgomery's greatest work of literature. After it was published in 1907, the literary career of Lucy Maud Montgomery has been launched. E. Holly Pike described Montgomery's work as a cake that surprises his bakers and consumers, she stated in this regard:

Yet Anne of green gables remains unique in its conceptualization and composition, its ability to please a market and yet transcend time. Drawing on both Montgomery's professionalism and her love for the character, the novel is like the liniment cake. It

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<sup>42</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Lucy Maud Montgomery". Encyclopedia Britannica, 20 Apr. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lucy-Maud-Montgomery>. Accessed 6 June 2022.

<sup>43</sup> The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery: Volume 5: 1935-1942 (1985) Mary Rubio, and Elizabeth Waterston( Eds), Oxford university press , p330

<sup>44</sup> Adriana Pacheco, L.M.Montgomery and Anne: A Parallel Life, <https://www.anneofgreengables.com/blog-posts/l-m-montgomery-and-anne-a-parallel-life> , visited on 11 May 2022

surprised its baker and consumers, producing unexpected results and revealing a network of kindred spirits all over the globe.<sup>45</sup>

As previously mentioned, the language used by Montgomery in recounting the story is expressive and somehow peculiar. She allows the reader to perceive the meaning through picturing the story. In the same vein Elizabeth R. Epperly described Montgomery's "colorful" language as:

Anne of green gables is filled with passionate and playful pictures rendered in colorful language. Passages invite rereading over the years; many readers discover that each new reading offers increased understanding about the levels of metaphor and meaning. Almost every colorful picture or scene is about relationships, which all, in one way or another, respond to the creative intentions of the heroine.<sup>46</sup>

Montgomery employed many literature elements in her story; she used Metaphors to color the meaning behind the lines. For example, in "My life is a perfect graveyard of buried hopes." (AGG p. 49), Anne connotes the darkness of death by using the words "graveyard" and "buried", which means that she is expressing her profound sadness and despairing feelings. Another metaphor: "Listen to the trees talking in their sleep". (AGG p. 30) when Anne was heading home with Mr. Cuthbert; she heard the sound of the trees moving in the night and she believed that they talk in their sleep. In this passage, Anne's use of personification<sup>47</sup> shows her wide imagination and describe her deep relation with nature.

Metaphors and personifications are not the only literary devices used in her novel; Anne alludes to some works of poets, like the poem of Alfred Tennyson, she floats down the river pretending to be the corpse of Elaine<sup>48</sup>:

"Of course you must be Elaine, Anne," said Diana. " I could never have the courage to float down there."

" Nor I," said Ruby Gillis with a shiver. " I don't mind floating down when there's two or three of us in the flat and we can sit up. It's fun then. But to lie down and pretend I was dead — I just couldn't. I'd die really of fright." (AGG p. 307)

Montgomery employs allusions in her writing to provide the story with further meaning. She referred to the work of Virgil; an ancient roman poet ""Well," said Jane with a sigh, "I feel as

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<sup>45</sup>Blackford, Holly. *100 Years Of Anne With An E The Centennial Study Of Anne Of Green Gables*. Canada: University of Calgary Press, 2009. p38.

<sup>46</sup>Ledwell, Jane, and Jean Mitchell, *Anne around the World: L.M. Montgomery and Her Classic*. Montreal, Canada: McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP, 2013. p.36.

<sup>47</sup>Personification is a type of metaphor in which a non-human is given the characteristics of a human being.

<sup>48</sup>Doré, Gustave . *The story of Elaine, the lily maid of Astolat from the Arthurian legends*. London: E, Moxon 1879 (p.70)

if I'd lived many moons since the morning. I ought to be home studying my Virgil” (AGG pp. 390-391).

Montgomery uses a figurative language to create pictures in the mind of the reader through her choice of words. In literature, it is called imagery. She gave her story a realistic feeling; she describes the nature with a colorful imagery. For example:

Not another word did she say until they had left the village and were driving down a steep little hill, the road part of which had been cut so deeply into the soft soil that the banks, fringed with blooming wild cherry- trees and slim white birches, were several feet above their heads. (AGG p. 19)

In the passage above, we can notice how the author describes the trees with a beautiful and detailed language. Her description of a pond reads:

Below them was a pond, looking almost like a river so long and winding was it. A bridge spanned it midway and from there to its lower end, where an amber- hued belt of sand-hills shut it in from the dark blue gulf beyond, the water was a glory of many shifting hues — the most spiritual shadings of crocus and rose and ethereal green, with other elusive tintings for which no name has ever been found. (AGG P.27)

Besides her detailed description of nature, Montgomery gives the reader a perfect picture of how the characters express their emotions through their body reactions. To illustrate:

“Anne " came there," but not exactly as Mrs. Rachel expected. With one bound she crossed the kitchen floor and stood before Mrs. Rachel, her face scarlet with anger, her lips quivering, and her whole slender form trembling from head to foot.” (AGG P.91)

*Anne of Green Gables* is a children’s fiction book that marks its place in classic literature. Montgomery’s choice of words gives the reader the opportunity to imagine and picture every character and place in the story. Metaphors, personification, allusions, imagery and many other literary elements were used to describe the settings of the story in a beautiful and detailed language. The latter helped the novel to pave its way into the world of literature.

## **2.4 The Representation of Gendered language in *Anne of Green Gables***

As we stated in the first chapter, Lakoff claimed that women use a distinct style of speech. Differently said, women have peculiar conversational patterns; men tend to be assertive in their claims; whereas, women use language to express their feelings and emotions because of their social place in society. In most cultures, men are regarded as more powerful

than women. In conversation, women are expected to talk less and they are interrupted most of the time by men. Lakoff in her book *Talking power*, stated that:

There are mixtures of micro and macro. For instance, women in most cultures use language differently from men, who, typically, hold political, social, and economic power. Therefore, women's ways of using language are disparaged as illogical (since men define logic according to their own practices). Therefore, it makes sense to deny women power, since they would not use it well. <sup>49</sup>

According to Lakoff, women speak differently due to their position in society; they are interrupted and ignored in ordinary conversation. On the other hand, men gain political, social and economic power from culture and society they live in.

Robin Lakoff claimed that there are ten gender differences in speech, In this regard; we will provide a linguistic analysis of some excerpts from the literary work *Anne of Green Gables*. The analysis will be based on Lakoff's assumptions that we have mentioned before in the first chapter. We will focus on how female and male characters use different speech styles from a female perspective.

### **2.4.1 Use of Tag Questions**

It is widely believed that men and women use questions differently in speech. Women are more likely to ask questions, and they use tag questions as mentioned by Robin Lakoff in order to maintain unity, indicate uncertainty and express their emotions. George Yule stated that tag questions are more likely used by women to express their opinions. "They are used more often by women when expressing opinions. These features of women's speech all seem to be ways of inviting agreement with an idea rather than asserting it. Men tend to use more assertive forms and 'strong' language [...]"<sup>50</sup>

According to George Yule, women use tag questions to avoid commitment, and they seek for the addressee confirmation. To put it differently, women's use of tag questions indicates uncertainty when expressing their opinions, whereas men tend to be more assertive in expressing their ideas. As stated by Robin Lakoff, women use tag question in conversational situations more than men, she defined it as an intermediate between a statement and a question. "A tag, in its usage as well as its syntactic shape (in English) is midway between an outright statement and a yes-no question: it is less assertive than the

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<sup>49</sup>Lakoff, Robin. *Talking Power* 1990. Ibid p.22

<sup>50</sup> Yule, George. *The study of language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press - 3rd ed,2006. p224

former, but more confident than the latter.”<sup>51</sup> To rephrase it, tag questions are linguistic forms, in which a declarative statement is followed by a question, while a statement assumes that the addressee will believe and agree with the speaker, tag questions allow the addressee to disagree with the speaker’s points of view; in other words, the addressee is not forced to provide the speaker with the expected response

We are going to begin with the use of tag questions in the novel by the principal character in the story *Anne Shirley*. After reading the novel we can assume that the female character Anne uses a lot of tag questions in her speech, and these tags are used to serve several functions.

Oh, I’m very glad you’ve come, even if it would have been nice to sleep in a wild cherry tree, we’ve got to drive a long piece, haven’t we! ... Mrs,spencer said it was wicked, it’s so easy to be wicked without knowing it ,isn’t it ! ... I used to lie awake at nights and imagine things like that, because I didn’t have time in the day. I guess that’s why I’m so thin –I’m dreadful thin, ain’t I!.(AGG p.17-18)

The example mentioned above shows us that the female character Anne Shirley uses the tag question in her statement during conversation in order to build a strong relationship with Mr. Cuthbert who was silent and calm in most of the trip. She tries to create sort of closeness and friendship while seeking for agreement and acceptance since she is refused by most of the society members because of her appearance, which makes her different from the other children. On the contrary, Mr. Cuthbert, the male character, responded to her questions with direct and short statements. While the female character is talkative, Mr. Cuthbert is just listening to her stories with no intention to answer. Another example of Anne using tag questions in her statement to seek for confirmation: "I apologized pretty well, didn't I? » she said proudly as they went down the lane.” (AGG p.105) In this passage, Anne uses tag question to seek for confirmation from Mrs. Cuthbert, she was afraid that the Cuthbert family will abandon her if she does not apologize to Mrs. Rachel. The female character’s use of tag questions shows perfectly her lack of confidence and uncertainty, Anne uses tag questions continuously with Mrs. Cuthbert: “My mother's name was Bertha Shirley. Aren't Walter and Bertha lovely names? I'm so glad my parents had nice names. It would be a real disgrace to have a father named — well, say Jedediah, wouldn't it?" (AGG p.55) In this example, Anne Shirley uses tag questions to seek confirmation from Mrs. Cuthbert because she really wanted to stay with the Cuthbert’s family; therefore, she was trying to impress Mrs. Cuthbert and gain

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<sup>51</sup>Lakoff, Robin. *Language and Women’s Place*. . New York: Harper and Row, 1975. *Op.cit* , (p15.16)



her love and sympathy. Most of the time, Anne Shirley uses tag questions to express her opinions, thoughts and uncertainty. For instance: Well, I'll do my best," promised Anne, burying her face in Manila's lap. " Gracious heavenly Father — that's the way the ministers say it in church, so I suppose it's all right in a private prayer, isn't it?"(AGG p.73) The interpretation of the example cited above implies that Anne uses tag question to express uncertainty, she was uncertain about how to pray correctly.

We cannot deny the fact that the novel *Anne of Green Gables* serves perfectly as evidence to Robin's Lakoff study. However, Marilla Cuthbert, another female character in the story, did not use tag questions in her statements during conversation. It might be due to the differences in character of both Marilla and Anne; Marilla is a middle-aged woman who does not usually express her emotions; in other words, she is a self-restrained woman. On the other hand, Anne is guided by her imagination; she is a little orphan who seeks acceptance from everyone.

#### **2.4.2 Use of Hedges:**

The use of language in conversational styles differs regarding human gender. Women are characterized by the use of hedges more than men do; this claim is supported by Lakoff's theory: "women use hedges of all kind more than men."<sup>52</sup> According to Lakoff, hedges in linguistics are "words whose meaning implicitly implies fuzziness – words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy."<sup>53</sup> Hedges are words or phrases used in a sentence to express uncertainty and mitigate the force of a statement. In other words, hedging is a linguistic technique that is used to soften the force of a claim by making it less assertive and more polite during conversation, for instance: "sort of", "kind of", "usually", and "sometimes".

In the novel, *Anne of Green Gables* , all the female characters are portrayed to use hedges when speaking. The next passages are simple examples of how women use hedges of all sorts when expressing their opinions and thoughts. We took a conversation between the principal female character and the male character to illustrate the use of hedges by females to express their tentativeness.

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<sup>52</sup>Lakoff, Robin. *Talking Power :The Politics of Language* . op cit, p.204

<sup>53</sup>Lakoff, G. (1973). Hedges: "a study in meaning criteria and the logic of fuzzy concepts". *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 2(4), 458-508.

"I suppose you are Mr. Matthew Cuthbert of Green Gables? " she said in a peculiarly clear, sweet voice. «I'm very glad to see you. I was beginning to be afraid you weren't coming for me and I was imagining all the things that might have happened to prevent you." (AGG p.16-17)

As we can notice, Anne Shirley, the female character, uses hedges a lot to make her personal statements less direct, in the above example, she used the verb *suppose* and the modal verb *might* in order to *hedge* her personal statement and demonstrate politeness. Other examples of how Anne uses hedges as a conversational strategy to make her statements sound less forceful and polite:

Oh, I'm so sorry," said Anne, tears welling into her eyes. \*\* I never thought you'd mind. The roses and buttercups were so sweet and pretty I thought they'd look lovely on my hat. Lots of the little girls had artificial flowers on their hats. I'm afraid I'm going to be a dreadful trial to you. Maybe you'd better send me back to the asylum. That would be terrible; I don't think I could endure it; most likely I would go into consumption; I'm so thin as it is. you see. But that would be better than being a trial to you."(AGG p.139)

But I want to have a real good jolly time this summer, for maybe it's the last summer I'll be a little girl. Mrs. Lynde says that if I keep stretching out next year as I've done this I'll have to put on longer skirts. (AGG p.345)

The two passages above support Lakoff's claim about the use of hedges by females. Anne uses hedges to show her insecurity, in the first passage she uses the verb *think* and *maybe*, because she felt insecure and she was afraid that Mrs. Cuthbert will send her back to the asylum. In the second passage, she uses the hedge *maybe* to reflect her insecurity and uncertainty at the same time, she felt unsecured because it may be her last summer as a little girl, and uncertain because she was not sure if she will be taller or not next year.

Besides the fact that women are more likely to hedge their statements, male characters in the novel use hedges such as: "well", "maybe", "seems", and "might".

«Well, you'd better question the girl," said the station-master carelessly. » I dare say she'll be able to explain — she's got a tongue of her own, that's certain. Maybe they were out of boys of the brand you wanted."(AGG p.30)

" Oh, I'm so glad. I know you and I are going to get along together fine. It's such a relief to talk when one wants to and not be told that children should be seen and not heard. I've had that said to me a million times if I have once. And people laugh at me because I use big words. But if you have big ideas you have to use big words to express them, haven't you? "

" Well now, that seems reasonable," said Matthew.(AGG p.37)

Manila's astonishment could not have been greater if Matthew had expressed a predilection for standing on his head.

" Well now, no, I suppose not — not exactly," stammered Matthew, uncomfortably driven into a corner for his precise meaning. " I suppose — we could hardly be expected to keep her."

" I should say not. What good would she be to us?"

" We might be some good to her," said Matthew suddenly and unexpectedly.(AGG p.41)

In these passages, male characters use hedges in order to express their opinions and thoughts, contrarily to women, men hedge their statements to express their certainty and enhance their position during conversation.

### **2.4.3 Use of Special Lexicon:**

Women have a special lexicon; they use *empty* adjectives in their speech. As defined by Lakoff they are “adjectives that seem devoid of all but a vague positive emotive sense.”<sup>54</sup> Women have the tendency to use what is considered as *gender neutral adjectives* such as “divine”, “lovely”, and “gorgeous” to express their feelings and admiration. This feminine adjectival form of words is usually associated with women speech in the sense that men will ruin their reputation, power and place in society if they use them. The novel *Anne of Green Gables* contain multiple instances portrayed by the novelist Lucy Maud in the use of *empty* adjectives, the following passage shows how women use a special lexicon during conversation in order to express their points of view and to show their admiration towards specific things.

" Why, a bride, of course — a bride all in white with a lovely misty veil. I've never seen one, but I can imagine what she would look like. I don't ever expect to be a bride myself. I'm so homely nobody will ever want to marry me — unless it might be a foreign missionary.(AGG P.19)

In the statement above, the female character imagines herself in a bride dress, she uses the adjective *lovely* to describe the veil of the white dress, the use of the empty adjective lovely shows Anne's admiration for being a bride, and it reflects her emotions and imagination. She enjoys picturing herself in beautiful clothes, she believes that wearing beautiful and

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<sup>54</sup> Lakoff, Robin. *Language and Women's Place*. New York: Harper and Row, 1975. *op cit* p 47

fashionable clothes will make her look gorgeous and appreciated by her family and friends. Another example of Anne's imagination using the adjectives *gorgeous* and *luxurious* to describe her imaginary room:

I never saw any mahogany, but it does sound so luxurious. This is a couch all heaped with gorgeous silken cushions, pink and blue and crimson and gold, and I am reclining gracefully on it. I can see my reflection in that splendid big mirror hanging on the wall. I am tall and regal, clad in a gown of trailing white lace, with a pearl cross on my breast and pearls in my hair. My hair is of midnight darkness and my skin is a clear ivory pallor. (AGG p.86).

As we can notice, the passage above confirms that women have a special lexicon in naming colors like "crimson" and "ivory pallor». Unlike men, Women make precise discriminations in naming colors. Anne imagines herself with a hair of midnight darkness and a clear ivory pallor skin, she uses a special lexicon in naming colors to express her desires and to picture herself in a beautiful way as she always dreamed of. The following passage shows how the female character uses both "*lovely*" and "*pale blue*" to describe a picture that was given to her as a gift:

She's going to give me a picture to put up in my room; it's a perfectly beautiful picture, she says — a lovely lady in a pale blue silk dress. A sewing-machine agent gave it to her. I wish I had something to give Diana.(AGG p.123)

The passage above shows that the female character uses adverbs to express her feeling and opinions, which is perceived as a typical female speech characteristic ,she added the adverb *perfectly* to the adjective *beautiful* to show that she was impressed by the beauty of the picture and to express her happiness about the gift offered by her best friend .

It is widely spread, that women are more likely to use words such as "beautiful", "pretty" and "cute" in their speech .On the other hand, men are more likely to be assertive and direct in their talk. In the novel "*Anne of Green Gables*", a male character uses an adjective to save his face. To illustrate the use of adjectives by males in the story:

" Oh, Mr. Cuthbert," she whispered, " that place we came through — that white place — what was it?"

" Well now, you must mean the Avenue," said Matthew after a few moments' profound reflection. " It is a kind of pretty place."(AGG p.26)

In the conversation above, the male character; Mr. Cuthbert, uses the adjective *pretty* to describe the Avenue, besides the use of adjectives, he uses the hedges “well” and “kind of” in order to preserve the addressee’s face and to create unity and solidarity. Another passage from the story shows how a male character uses the adjective “fond” as an indication of *sarcasm* by the speaker: “ " Anne Shirley, since you seem to be so fond of the boys' company we shall indulge your taste for it this afternoon," he said sarcastically”. (AGG p.160) From the provided examples, we can deduce that men use adjectives to preserve the addressee’s face and to create unity with the hearer; however, these findings cannot be final since there are few passages of male characters, the author concentrated more on the females’ dialogues, and even the answers of the male characters were direct and short.

#### **2.4.4 The Use of Curse Words**

The novel *Anne of Green Gables* is devoid of any swear words or taboo language, the female author expressed the language used by characters in a polite form. As previously mentioned, the female character uses many hedges to express politeness towards the hearer. The next passage shows how Anne hedges her statement to give reasons and express her politeness: “perhaps she’ll think that tried to poison her...But the liniment isn't poisonous. It's meant to be taken internally....Won't you tell Mrs. Allan so, Marilla?” (AGG p.23) In this example, Anne is trying to get Marilla to tell Allan her intention of making the cake; she hedged her statement to show that she cares. The absence of swear words can be related to the fact that the novel is written by a female author and as we mentioned before, According to Robin Lakoff, women are expected to talk in more polite forms, their speech is devoid of any swear words.

#### **2.5 Conclusion:**

In this chapter, we have dealt with the language used in the classic novel *Anne of Green Gables* in order to answer the research questions. We started with an overview of the selected work and how the author recounted the story in such an expressive way based on some aspects of her real life. Moreover, we discussed the language used by the writer that allows the reader to get a better understanding of the story and how she employed some literary devices in her work to describe the details of the characters and the nature surrounding them. Last but not least, we moved to the representation of gender in the language used in the story, we applied Lakoff’s theory of gender to analyze the chosen passages and conversations from the

literary work; we dealt with the use of tag questions, hedges, adjectives , adverbs and swear words by both male and female characters.

Montgomery uses conversational strategies such as: use of tag questions, hedges, adjectives and adverbs with both male and female characters, According to the findings of the analysis, women use tag questions as sign of uncertainty to seek for agreement and confirmation from the hearer, in some passages, they use it to build a relationship with the second participant of the conversation. The female characters use hedges in order to express their feelings and opinions when they feel insecure or uncertain about something. The analysis shows that female characters use adjectives and adverbs more than men do to express their admiration, feelings and imagination. Besides that, Women make precise discrimination in naming colors which serves Lakoff's theory of gender. On the other hand, the male characters in the story did not use tag questions in their speech, their use of adjectives was less than that of women, According to the analysis; men use adjectives with women in order to save the addressee's face and to continue the conversation with them. This means, they use them as relationship-building strategies. The male characters in the story use some hedges to express their opinions and thoughts. Unlike women; men use them to show their certainty about things and to enhance their position during the conversation. The novel "Anne of Green Gables" is devoid of any swear words or taboo language.

## **Chapter Three: Language and Gender in “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”**

### **3.1 Introduction :**

This chapter aims to deal with gender differences in language use between male and female characters in the short story *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*. Robin Lakoff's theory of gender will be applied to see whether his assumptions are portrayed in the story which is written from a male perspective. To begin with, we will start with an overview of the story. Then, we will discuss the importance of the short story in the world of literature. Last but not least, we will discuss males and female's differences in using language in which we will analyze some Lakoff's assumptions such as: hedges, tag questions, adjectives, adverbs and swear words in order to answer the questions provided in the research.

### **3.2 An Overview of “*The Snows of Kilimanjaro*”:**

The Snows of Kilimanjaro is a short story written by the American author Ernest Hemingway, it was first published in 1936, in Esquire magazine.<sup>55</sup> “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” recounts the story of Harry a writer who has gone on safari to Africa where he was penetrated by a thorn. The thorn causes him an infection that started to spread quickly and paved his way into slow death. His sickness gives him time to think deeply about his life, work and relationships with people closest to him. The story takes on a regretful tone, after the protagonist realized that he has little time left to live, he entered in conflict with himself and he could not accept the fact that he is dying slowly; however, in the last passage Harry accepted reality and the story takes on a calm tone.

### **3.3 The Importance of “*The Snows of Kilimanjaro*” in The World of Literature:**

“The Snows of Kilimanjaro” is considered as one of the finest stories of Ernest Hemingway in the world of literature. Hemingway used a simple language in telling the story, “Hemingway’s prose style was probably the most widely imitated of any in the 20th century. He wished to strip his own use of language of inessentials, ridding it of all traces of verbosity,

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<sup>55</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "The Snows of Kilimanjaro". Encyclopedia Britannica, 10 Dec. 2015, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Snows-of-Kilimanjaro>. Accessed 3 June 2022.



embellishment, and sentimentality.”<sup>56</sup> Hemingway used short and simple sentences that devoid of all emotive language, he was objective and direct in his statements.

The work of Ernest Hemingway was part of the modernism movement in literature, Modernism is “... a break with the past and the concurrent search for new forms of expression. Modernism fostered a period of experimentation in the arts from the late 19th to the mid-20th century, particularly in the years following World War I.”<sup>57</sup> It is characterized by the use of metaphors and imagery to create an expressive language. Ernest Hemingway as a modernist author symbolized metaphorically the subject of death by reflecting his own personal experience and opinion about death through the use of metaphors.

Ernest Hemingway is considered as one of the greatest modern writers in that time, his style of writing is simple but inherent. Maria Amelia Quelhas Moreira in her analysis of the story stated that:

He mastered the "single effect", everything in his stories contributed to a single mood. He believed that the main problem in writing is setting down what you truly feel. To get this effect of absolute reality, he records the bare actions and thoughts of his characters like when Harry says, in "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", that he is aware that those birds of prey waiting around the camp are the first harbingers of his death: "Don't be silly. I'm dying now. Ask those bastards".<sup>58</sup>

Ernest Hemingway uses a natural style that contributes to a better understanding of the story, he makes things simple and direct, and he created a new way of writing dialogues which impacted the world of literature. In the same vein, Anthony Burgess stated:

The Hemingway tune was a new and original contribution to world literature. It is in the ears of all young people who set out to write. And the Hemingway code of courage, the Hemingway hero and his stoic holding on against odds, have exerted an influence beyond literature.<sup>59</sup>

### **3.4 Representation of Gendered language in “ *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*”:**

As we mentioned in the first chapter, Robin Lakoff states many presumptions about men's and women's language, such as the use of tag questions, hedges, empty adjectives,

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<sup>56</sup> Young, Philip. "Ernest Hemingway". Encyclopedia Britannica, 17 Jul. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ernest-Hemingway>. Accessed 3 June 2022.

<sup>57</sup> Kuiper, Kathleen. "Modernism". Encyclopedia Britannica, 14 Dec. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/art/Modernism-art>. Accessed 4 June 2022.

<sup>58</sup> Maria Amelia Quelhas Moreira . HEMINGWAY'S "THE SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO", 1997. P.53 <https://periodicos.utfpr.edu.br/rbpd>. Accessed on 4 June 2022.

<sup>59</sup> Burgess, Anthony. *Ernest Hemingway and His World*. New York: Macmillan Pub Co, 1978. P.116

intensifiers and swear words. Lakoff states that men and women speak different languages. According to her men's speech differs from women's speech due to women's subordinate role in the society.<sup>60</sup> As we previously discussed in the first chapter, women's style of speech is a result of the social insecurity, they use different language to signal their roles.

We will provide a linguistic analysis of how men and women use language differently in the selected work. We will focus mainly on conversations between both male and female characters from Ernst Hemingway's "The Snows of Kilimanjaro". Our work will be based on Robin Lakoff's theory on the linguistic assumptions on women's and men's language and the analysis will be done on excerpts from dialogues in Ernest Hemingway's "The Snows Of Kilimanjaro".

### 3.4.1 Use of Hedges:

As we mentioned in the first chapter, Lakoff states that women use more hedges than men. According to Nikula Tarja in his book *Hedging and Discourse: Approaches to the Analysis of a Pragmatic Phenomenon in Academic Text* and based on Robin Lakoff's observation in his article, the term "hedges" is not only used to refer to expressions that modify the category of nouns. There are verbs which are considered as performative hedges such as I think, I suppose, and I guess. In other words some verbs convey hedged performatives.<sup>61</sup> In the same vein, he states: "In addition to the idea of hedged performatives, the concept was also widened in another way when hedges were taken to be modifiers of the speaker's commitment to the truth-value of a whole proposition, not just the category membership of a part of it."<sup>62</sup> To rephrase it, hedging is not only about modifying nouns and verbs, by hedging a statement we avoid making a forceful assertion.

Hedges are usually associated with women's speech and they are considered as tools to lessen the force of a statement and to show the speakers' uncertainty about a certain topic. We took some examples from the short story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" to illustrate how women use hedges as conversational strategies to express their personal opinions. "She said. 'It's that I've gotten so nervous not being able to do anything. I think we might make it as

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<sup>60</sup> Lakoff, Robin. *Language and Women's Place*. New York, Harper and Row, 1975. Op cit P.17

<sup>61</sup> Nikula, Tarja. *Hedging and Discourse: Approaches to the Analysis of a Pragmatic Phenomenon in Academic Texts*, edited by Raija Markkanen and Hartmut Schröder, Berlin, New York: De Gruyter, 2010. p.4  
<https://books.google.dz/books?id=srsxDOTAUgQC&lpg=PA19&hl=fr&pg=PA4#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

Accessed on 4 June 2022.

<sup>62</sup>Ibid

easy as we can until the plane comes.”(SK p.2) In this example, the female character uses both *think* and *might* to express her opinion and uncertainty when waiting for the arrival of the plane. She was nervous and not sure that the plane will come. Other examples from the story show how Harry’s wife hedges her statements to express uncertainty ““we don’t quarrel. I never want to quarrel. Let’s not quarrel any more. No matter how nervous we get. Maybe they will be back with another truck. Maybe the plane will come.””(SK p.2) and ““Maybe the truck will come” (SK p.3) In these two passages, the use of the hedge *maybe* shows the uncertainty of Harry’s wife, she tries to make her husband comfortable by telling him that the plane may come even though she is not certain or even knows that the plane will not come.

Male characters in the story use some hedges, one of the male character uses hedge *you know* to express his personal point of view such in ““You shoot marvellously, you know ””(SK p.11) In this example the male character hedges his statement with the verb *you know* to express his personal view on how his wife shoot and to save his face and her face. The male character uses words such as *would*, *probably*, and *suppose* to hedge his statements for a specific purpose.

I suppose what I did was to forget to put iodine on it when I first scratched it. Then I didn’t pay any attention to it because I never infect. Then, later, when it got bad, it was probably using that weak carbolic solution when the other antiseptics ran out that paralysed the minute blood vessels and started the gangrene.’ He looked at her. ‘What else?’(SK p.4)

In the above passage, contrary to the female character, Harry uses hedges such as *suppose*, *probably* and *would* to enhance his position and to take control of the conversation by making his wife feel guilty and sorry for what she said before.

### **3.4.2 Use of Tag Questions:**

According to the aforementioned claims in the first chapter, women use more tag questions than men do. According to Janet Holmes, tag question is a syntactic device which may express uncertainty or positive politeness; they may also soften a directive or criticism and be used as confrontational and coercive devices.<sup>63</sup> Suzanne Romaine in her book *Language and Society* states that:

Some of the early research claimed that women used more tag questions because they were characteristic of the greater hesitancy of women, who were afraid to assert things

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<sup>63</sup> Holmes, Janet. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. London, Longman, 1992.( pp288 -289)

without qualification. ... This too was seen as an indication of women's tentativeness and lack of confidence in putting forward their views.<sup>64</sup>

Women use tag questions more frequently to convey and express uncertainty, hesitance and lack of confidence.

In the Hemingway's short story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", the female character is portrayed to use some tag questions in her statements: "'You don't have to destroy me. Do you? I'm only a middle- aged woman who loves you and wants to do what you want to do. I've been destroyed two or three times already. You wouldn't want to destroy me again, would you?'" (SK p.11) In this passage Harry's wife uses tag questions because she was afraid to assert things. She was uncertain and hesitant about what Harry believes. Another example from the story shows perfectly how the female character use tag question as an indication of tentativeness "Darhng, you don't know how marvellous it is to see you feeling better. I couldn't stand it when you felt that way. You won't talk to me like that again, will you? Promise me?" (SK p.11) In this passage, the use of tag question indicates the female character's uncertainty and tentativeness, she was uncertain that her husband will not talk to her the same way as he did. On the other hand the male character Harry did not use any of the tag questions which serve Robin Lakoff's theory. The absence of tag questions in the male character speech can be related to the fact that the short story is written by a male author.

### 3.4.3 Use of Special Lexicon:

As previously mentioned in the first chapter, women tend to use more adjectives and intensifiers than men do. According to Alan Partington:

Intensification is a direct indication of the speaker's to use and exploit the expression of hyperbole. In other words s/he tells the listener that what is been said is sincerely touched for. The importance of intensification in the communicative process is that it is a vehicle for impressing, praising, persuading, insulting and generally influencing the listener's reception of the message.<sup>65</sup>

Intensifiers are adverbs that add positive or negative connotation to other words or expressions. To put it in different words, "intensifiers are adverbs or adverbial phrases that strengthen the meaning of other expressions and show emphasis. Words that we commonly

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<sup>64</sup> Romaine, Suzanne. *Language and Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. p.100

<sup>65</sup> Partington, Alan. *Corpus Evidence of Language Change : The Case of The Intensifier. Text and Technology*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1993. P.178

use as intensifiers include absolutely, completely, extremely, highly, rather, really, so, too, totally, utterly, very and at all”<sup>66</sup>. Jennifer Coates in her book *Women, Men and Language* states that women differ from men “in their extensive use of certain adjectives, such as *pretty* and *nice*.”<sup>67</sup> Adjectives are words added to nouns in which they may denote positive or negative meanings to the expressions.

In “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” Both male and female characters use adjectives and intensifiers to express their thoughts. “You know it doesn’t bother me,” she said. ‘It’s that I’ve gotten so nervous not being able to do anything. I think we might make it as easy as we can until the plane comes.’ (SK p.2) In this example the female character uses the intensifier *so* with the adjective *nervous* to describe her state at that moment.

In a dialogue between Harry and his wife, they both use *so many* in their speech ““You give a damn about so many things that I don’t.”(SK p. 3) and ““Not so many, Harry.”” (SK p.3) In this conversation between the two, the male character uses the intensifier *so* to influence his wife’s perception of the message; it was sort of an insult by telling her that he does not like the things she likes. He intensified and sharpened the meaning of the sentence using *so*.

The female character uses some empty adjectives to describe and show her love to her husband ““Don’t drink that,” she said. ‘Darling, please don’t drink that. We have to do everything we can.’” (SK p.4) In this passage, she called her husband darling to express her love towards him and to show that she cares about him. The male character in the story uses adjectives and adverbs to describe what he feels.

‘The marvellous thing is that it’s painless,’ he said. ‘That’s how you know when it starts.’

‘Is it really?’

‘Absolutely. I’m awfully sorry about the odour though. That must bother you.’(SK p.1)

In the above conversation, the male character uses the adjective *marvellous* to describe his illness and to start a conversation with his wife. His use of the adverb *absolutely* is to confirm what he already said and the adverb *awfully* to emphasize his apology. As we can notice, the presence of adjectives in the short story “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” is slight. Both the male

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<sup>66</sup> Cambridge Dictionary, cited in <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/fr/grammaire/grammaire-britannique/intensifiers-very-at-all>. Accessed on June 3, 2022

<sup>67</sup> Coates, Jennifer. *Women, men, and language*. London and New York: Longman, 1986. P.18

and female characters use some empty adjectives which may be associated with the fact that the story is written by a male author or for the reason that the story is short.

### 3.4.4 Use of Swear Words:

As stated in the first chapter and according to the linguist Robin Lakoff, women do not use swear words, they talk in a polite form and avoid cursing. On the other hand, curse words are related to men's speech. As stated in *Men Talk*, "Swearing and taboo language have historically been used by men in the company of other men as a sign of their toughness and of their manhood".<sup>68</sup> In accordance with what Jennifer Coates stated, men tend to use swear words more than women do. They are expected to look tough and strong; consequently, their toughness is reflected in their masculine speech patterns.

In the story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", the male character uses many swear words to express his anger and sarcasm.

'I don't give a damn about the truck.'

'I do.'

'You give a damn about so many things that I don't.'(SK p.3)

In the conversation above, Harry, the protagonist, uses language taboo "I don't give a damn", and "you give a damn" to express his anger. His wife was nervous and stressed because of what happened, she started asking him questions and to stop bother him; he used swear expression *I don't give a damn* to convey the message that he is irritated. In another conversation, the male character uses the word *bastard* to express annoyance. "That bastard crosses there every night," the man said. "Every night for two weeks." (SK p.12). In this example, Harry uses the curse word *bastard* to describe someone who makes noise at night while crossing. Another passage from the story where the male character expresses sarcasm and toughness. " 'you bitch,' he said. 'You rich bitch. That's poetry. I'm full of poetry now. Rot and poetry. Rotten poetry.' ". (SK p.7) In this example, Harry tried to humiliate his wife through the use of the swear word "bitch" and to show that he is tough. The female character in the story did not use swear words or taboo language, the latter supports Robin Lakoff's presumption about the use of curse words and more polite forms.

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<sup>68</sup> Coates, Jennifer. *Men Talk*. London: Blackwell Pub, 2003. P.46

### **3.5 Conclusion:**

This chapter is about the analysis of language used in the short story of Ernest Hemingway “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”. We began with an overview of the story. Then we discussed the importance of the chosen work in the world of literature; Moreover, we analyzed some selected examples from the story based on Robin Lakoff’s theory on gender where we dealt with the use of hedges, tag questions, adjectives, intensifiers and swear words.

In this short story, the female character uses words such think, might and maybe to hedge their statements and express uncertainty; on the contrary, the male character uses hedges to demonstrate his certainty and to enhance his position during conversation; furthermore, the female uses tag questions to express hesitance, and lack of confidence ; In contrast, The male character did not use any of the tag questions in his speech; moreover, both male and female characters use adjectives and intensifiers to describe and express their personal opinions. Last but not least, swear words were only used by the male character to show his toughness, criticism and anger most of the time.

# **General Conclusion**



Language serves as a means to express thoughts and emotions, it is considered as the basis of human communication. Each language is different from the other and each language is expressed differently. Over time, society has recognized significant changes which are reflected in language use. Actually, women use distinct speech patterns than men do, this difference in language use has been the interest of many scholars for many years. Gender and language as a prominent field of study focused on many aspects of language in terms of gender and, additionally, the relation between language and gender is not only reflected in women's and men's speech but also in their perspectives.

Sociolinguistics, as a field of study, is concerned with the effect of language on controlling social roles. In return, the way language is used in literary works reflects and affects the society's pattern of behaviors. Books, novels and short stories are seen as the linguistic umbrella that covers all the aspects of society, in other words, the cultural background of people and society's expectations are characterized and symbolized in the expressive language used by writers. Gender is a social construct that influences language change. It is widely believed that women's style of speech differs from that of men. In literature, such differences are illustrated in the way authors and characters define their social roles through their distinct use of language. Gender control literary text; consequently, it shapes the reader's understanding and expectations of society.

This study attempted to analyze and determine gender differences in using language in two selected works: "*Anne of Green Gables*" by Lucy Maud Montgomery and "*The Snows of Kilimanjaro*" by Ernest Hemingway in order to answer the following research questions of how male and female characters use language differently and how male and female authors present women and men in their works regarding language use.

In order to answer the research questions, a theoretical background about language and gender was provided as a means for a better understanding of the study. Based on Robin Lakoff's theory and the finding of some scholars, we analyzed dialogues from the chosen stories *Anne of Green Gables* and "*The Snows of Kilimanjaro*" to determine the linguistic presumptions employed by male and female characters and gender differences in using language.

The present study highlighted some key findings, the results demonstrated that the female character in the novel *Anne of Green Gables* uses hedges and tag questions to develop an emotional link with the other person in conversation, express uncertainty and seek for

confirmation; furthermore, she employs empty adjectives, adjectives for colors and adverbs to express her emotions and opinions; however, the novel is devoid of swear words in both male and female conversations. The latter can be related to the fact that the novel is written by a female author. Male characters on the other hand, did not use tag questions in their speech, they used few adjectives to pursue and develop the conversation with female characters. The male characters in the story use many hedges to express their opinions and thoughts. Unlike women; men use them to show their certainty about things and to enhance their position during the conversation. In general, the findings suggest that the novel *Anne of Green Gables* serves as evidence to Lakoff's claims, the speech style of women is somehow distinct from that of men. However, these findings cannot be said altogether conclusive since the author concentrated on the female principal character speech with some switches to other females and male characters conversations.

In the short story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", women's language was found to be tentative, the female character hedged her statements to express uncertainty and hesitance; moreover, her use of tag questions emphasis her lack of confidence and tentativeness. Both male and female characters used some adjectives and intensifiers to express their emotions and describe their states; however, Adjectives and adverbs were used few times in the story, this probably due to the reason that it is written by a male author; besides, Ernest Hemingway is well known of his simple and direct style of writing. Contrary to the female character, the male character did not use any of the tag questions; he used hedges many times to enhance his position in the conversation and swear words to show his toughness, criticism and anger.

The results of the study found clear support for Robin Lakoff's theory, the female character in *Anne of Green Gables* uses more tag questions, hedges, empty adjectives and adverbs than men do. The absence of swear words in a novel that is written from a female perspective supports Robin Lakoff's presumption about the use of curse words and taboo language; furthermore, the female character in "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" uses more hedges and tag questions, while the male character uses more curse words. From a male perspective, both male and female characters use adjectives and adverbs few times, the latter may be considered as evidence to Robin Lakoff's presumption about the extensive use of empty adjectives and intensifiers by women.

The findings of this study have to be seen in light of some limitations. We focused mainly on gender differences between male and female characters in the use of hedges, tag questions,

adjectives, intensifiers and swear words. Future investigations are necessary to validate the kinds of conclusions that can be drawn from this study. Future research could continue to explore Gender differences in language use by choosing data in form of oral text such as radio , television programs or series that can study all features of men's and women' language.

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## Abstract in English

This dissertation attempted to study gender differences in using language in two selected works: *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery and "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" by Ernest Hemingway in order to answer the following research questions of how male and female characters use language differently and how male and female authors present women and men in their works regarding language use. We opted for the descriptive qualitative research in which data were classified based on Robin Lakoff's presumptions such as hedges, tag questions, empty adjectives, intensifiers, and swear words. We explained the context of the selected data which are in the form of words and statements, and then we analyzed them according to Robin Lakoff's theory of gender. Based on the analysis, women's speech differs from men's speech. The results of the study found clear support for Robin Lakoff's theory which claims that female characters use more tag questions, hedges, empty adjectives and intensifiers, whereas male characters tend to use more swear words.

Keywords: *Anne of Green Gables*, gender differences, language use, Robin Lakoff theory, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro".

## Abstract in French

Cette recherche vise à étudier les différences entre les sexes dans l'utilisation de la langue dans deux œuvres littéraires : *Anne: La Maison Aux Pignons Verts* de Lucy Maud Montgomery et " Les Neiges du Kilimandjaro " d'Ernest Hemingway pour répondre aux questions de recherche sur la façon dont les personnages masculins et féminins diffèrent dans l'utilisation de la langue. Et comment les écrivains et les écrivaines présentent les femmes et les hommes dans leur travail concernant l'usage de la langue. Nous avons utilisé une recherche qualitative et descriptive où nous avons classé les données selon les hypothèses de Robin Lakoff telles que les auxiliaires de reprise, les modalités, les intensificateurs, les adjectifs et les gros mots. Nous avons expliqué le contexte des données sélectionnées, puis nous les avons analysées selon la théorie de Robin Lakoff. Selon l'analyse, les femmes diffèrent des hommes dans le discours, Les résultats de l'étude ont trouvé un soutien clair à la théorie de Robin Lakoff.

Les Mots-clés : *Anne: La Maison Aux Pignons Verts*, *Les Neiges du Kilimandjaro*, l'utilisation de la langue, les différences entre les sexes, la théorie de Robin Lakoff.

## Abstract in Arabic:

يهدف هذا البحث الى دراسة الاختلافات بين الجنسين في استخدام اللغة في عمليين ادبيين مختارين "ان الجملونات الخضراء" للكاتبة لوسي مود مونتجومري و "تلوج كليمنجارو" للكاتب أرنست هيمنجواي للإجابة على اسئلة البحث حول كيف تختلف شخصيات الذكور و شخصيات الاناث في استخدام اللغة و كيف يقدم الكاتب و الكاتبة المرأة و الرجل في اعمالهم فيما يخص استخدام اللغة. استخدمنا البحث النوعي و الوصفي حيث صنفتنا البيانات تبعا لفرضيات روبين لاكوف كأسئلة الاشارة ، التحوطات ، المكثفات ، الصفات و الالفاظ النابية. قمنا بشرح سياق البيانات المختارة و التي كانت على شكل كلمات و جمل ثم قمنا بتحليلها وفقا لنظرية روبين لاكوف . و طبقا للتحليل تختلف المرأة عن الرجل في الكلام حيث اوجدت النتائج دعما واضحا لنظرية روبين لاكوف التي تنص على ان الشخصيات الاناث تستخدم اسئلة الاشارة ، التحوطات ، المكثفات و الصفات اكثر بينما الشخصيات الذكور تميل لاستخدام الالفاظ النابية.

الكلمات الاساسية "ان الجملونات الخضراء" ، استخدام اللغة ، الاختلافات بين الجنسين ، "تلوج كليمنجارو" ، نظرية روبين لاكوف



