

# Intensifier Used By Female Characters In The Sisterhood Of The Traveling Pants Movie

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## Intensifier Used By Female Characters In The Sisterhood Of The Traveling Pants Movie

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**Abstract.** The title of this study is Intensifier Used by Female Characters In The Sisterhood of The Traveling Pants Movie. It aims to identify and explain one of the women's language features: intensifier. The data was taken from the movie and its movie script. This research applied two theories, the first one proposed by Sardabi and Afghari, which is used to identify the utterances delivered by the characters. Whereas, the second theory is the theory of context of situation by Halliday. This research uses documentation to collect data, documentation obtained through observation, and note-taking technique. Then, classifying the functions of intensifiers used by the female characters based on the theory and analyze the context of the situation. In analyzing data, this research was analyzed qualitatively in a descriptive way. The result shows intensifier "so" is the most used intensifier in this movie. It has the ITE (increase the effect) function or basic intensifier. However, there is one function that does not found in this movie. It is negative-positive intensifier, this is occur because it relates to women's tendency to use polite language and refrain from swearing.

**Keywords:** function, intensifier, women's language.

**Abstrak.** Judul dari penelitian ini adalah Intensifier yang Digunakan oleh Karakter Perempuan dalam Film Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menjelaskan salah satu fitur bahasa wanita: intensifier. Data diambil dari film dan naskah filmnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan dua teori, yang pertama adalah teori yang dikemukakan oleh Sardabi dan Afghari, yang digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi ujaran-ujaran yang disampaikan oleh para karakter. Sedangkan, teori yang kedua adalah teori konteks situasi oleh Halliday. Penelitian ini menggunakan dokumentasi untuk mengumpulkan data, dokumentasi diperoleh melalui observasi, dan teknik catat. Kemudian, mengklasifikasikan fungsi-fungsi intensional yang digunakan oleh para tokoh perempuan berdasarkan teori dan menganalisis konteks situasi. Dalam menganalisis data, penelitian ini dianalisis secara kualitatif dengan cara deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan intensifier "so" merupakan intensifier yang paling banyak digunakan dalam film ini. Intensifier ini memiliki fungsi ITE (meningkatkan efek) atau intensifier dasar. Namun, ada satu fungsi yang tidak ditemukan dalam film ini. Intensifier tersebut adalah intensifier negatif-positif, hal ini terjadi karena berkaitan dengan kecenderungan perempuan untuk menggunakan bahasa yang sopan dan menahan diri untuk tidak mengumpat.

**Kata kunci:** fungsi, penguat, bahasa perempuan.

## INTRODUCTION

As women's language differs from men, the study of women's linguistic characteristics becomes an important topic. It is not surprising if men's and women's speech has been identified numerous times but besides that fact, intensifiers are one of the features that still have uncertain and inconsistent results. Several studies prove that there are no significant differences between

males and females in using an intensifier. Therefore, the differences and debates that exist make more research into male and female differences especially in intensifiers is required to provide more reliable results. In this research, the researcher focuses on intensifiers, <sup>1</sup> one of the language features claimed by Lakoff in her theory. According to Lakoff (1975), the feature intensifier is used to emphasize or strengthen the meanings of the following words, and it is more frequently used in women's than man's language. Lakoff argues that intensifier "so" is more frequent in women than in men's language. Quirk (1972) stated that <sup>16</sup> intensifiers have in common a heightening or lowering effect on some unit in the sentence. Not just <sup>1</sup> for increasing the meaning of a word, an intensifier is also can be used to reduce and suggest the meaning of a word (Sardabi and Afghari, 2015). The way intensifiers effect a word is interesting to explore. This is what makes the researcher more interested in analyzing intensifiers.

## <sup>5</sup> RESEARCH METHOD

The data source of this research was <sup>5</sup> taken from movie The Sisterhood Of the Traveling Pants and its movie script. This movie was released in 2005, adopted from a young adult novel by Ann Brashares which published in 2001. It is about the adventures of four teenagers, they are Bridget, Tibby, Lena, and Carmen. They spend their summer holiday in different places and find many problems there. However, they are bound together by their love and a pair of magical pants that miraculously fit all of them despite their enormously different body types. <sup>5</sup> This movie was chosen as the data source because it showed the conversation containing the women's language and was related to this research. The research will be limited to the speech uttered by the characters in the movie that consists of intensifiers.

This research uses documentation as the method of collecting data, documentation obtained through observation and note taking technique. Afterwards, the collected data were analyzed qualitatively in a descriptive way. In presenting data, the informal methods used to present descriptively in the form of words to give more explanation and understanding. To make the explanation easy to understand, the reseacher used screenshots taken from the movie.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The characters utterances analyzed in this research were taken from the utterances of women characters and based on the conversation that happen in the movie, there were several data of intensifier that was analyzed below:

### 1. Increasing the effect (ITE)

Intensifier words have different functions. The first function is to increase the intensity effect (ITE). This function is often and easily found in conversations because it is a basic intensifier. Under some circumstances, the characters (especially in informal situation) often double up their intensifiers to strengthen the intensifying effect. The ITE words are very, so, too, etc.

#### Data 1

Lena: "Dear Tibby, I think we may have been *very,very* wrong about the pants."

Data 1 shows us the monologue when Lena wrote a letter to Tibby. It takes place in one of a cafe in Greece. The utterances happens at 00:27:45 – 00:27:47. The situation in the monologue is happen when Lena explaining how unlucky she is when she wears their friendship pants, even though she hoped the jeans would bring some luck in her life but it turned out not exactly like she want. That is why Lena said they were utterly wrong about the pants. She uses intensifier with ITE function by saying "I think we may have been *very,very* wrong about the pants".



(ITE 1)

The basic intensifier "very" can be used with many word. In this utterance intensifier "very" is increased the intensity of the word "wrong". It shows how emotional Lena's words were; on the other hand, it showed she meant her words. She wanted Tibby to pay attention to what she said about the pants. She even emphasized the word "very" twice to indicated how

wrong they are and strong emotion in her statement. This is example of an interesting pattern of intensification, it is allowing repetition to increase the effect. The utterance was delivered through spoken language.

#### Data 2

<sup>4</sup> Bridget: "Tibby, those look *so* great on you. Why can't you just admit it?"

Tibby: "Because I'm wallowing in self-pity"



(ITE 2)

Data 2 is a dialogue between two female characters, they are Bridget and Tibby. The character Tibby in this movie is someone with bad-tempered, disdainful and rebellious. She always wanted to look tough. Meanwhile, Bridget is bold and a girl who is confident in herself. The conversation above happens at 00:06:10 – 00:06:14 in a clothing store where they try on a pair of jeans one by one. When Tibby tries on the pants, the pants give her a nice body shape. Bridget compliments Tibby by saying that she fits the pants perfectly but Tibby always denies it. Because the pants make Tibby look feminine like a girl, which she doesn't want to look like. She couldn't take the compliments from the Bridget and mocks herself that she wallows in self-pity.

Bridget uses intensifier "so" with ITE function in order to compliment Tibby. The intensifier "so" increase the word "great". She wants Tibby to believe in her words and show how good those pants were for Tibby because she truly about what she is saying. This aligns with the statement about making a strong assertion to automatically make the hearer feel like the speaker way.

## 2. Decreasing the effect (DTE)

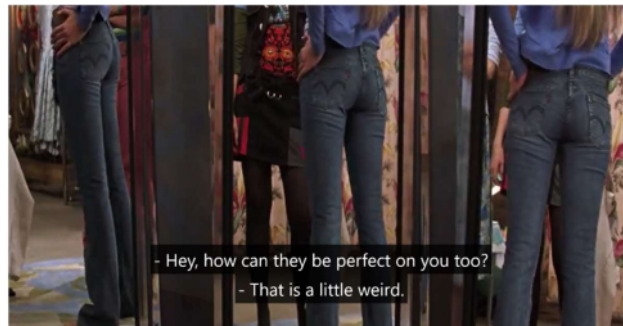
Intensifiers can also weaken the intensity of a word. This function is called decreasing the effect or DTE. <sup>1</sup> Some words which have decreased the effect of intensity are quite, a bit, pretty, etc.

### Data 3

<sup>4</sup> Lena: "Hey, how can they be perfect on you too?"

Carmen: "That is a *little* weird."

Data 3 shows us a dialogue between Lena and Carmen. It occurs at 00:06:40 – 00:06:44. Still in the clothing store, but now it is bridget's turn to try on. Although at first, Bridget refused the request from her friends because she was 3 inches taller than Lena and there was no way the pants would fit her, it turned out otherwise. Those pants magically look perfect even for her. It makes Carmen feels a little weird. She uses intensifier with DTE function, that is "little". The intensifier "little" decrease the effect of word "weird" which causes the scale of the weird meaning here to be less weird.



(DTE 1)

## 3. <sup>1</sup> Suggesting the effect of being intense (STE)

The third function is suggesting the effect (STE), this kind of intensifier usually appears as adverb suffix -ly.

### Data 4

Tibby: "and what if nothing exciting happens?"

Lena: "It will. It has to!"

Tibby: "No, I *really* doubt it."

Data above happens between Tibby and Lena at gym where their mother met. Tibby, Lena, Carmen, and Bridget, four of them made a rule to write a letter about the most interesting thing while wearing the jeans but then Tibby interrupted by saying what if nothing exciting happens. The dialogue happens at 00:09:54 – 00:09:57. Tibby uses intensifier “really” with STE function in her statement because he wanted to show such an intense effect that she was sure nothing interesting would happen. Even though his friends convinced her that there must be something interesting, she still doubted it.



(STE 1)

She was sure because she was the only one who stay at home and worked in a walmart while everyone spend their summer in out of town. STE function has a characteristic, usually appearing as an adverb suffix –ly.

#### 4. Being <sup>1</sup>negative-positive intensifier (NPI)

In this research, NPI is not found. Thus it is supports <sup>1</sup>Lakoff's theory of politeness as a feature of women language, since most NPI intensive words do not qualify as politeness terms such as *damn*, *badly*, and *fucking*. Swearing is perceived as being male-dominated. It is related to the tendency of women to use polite language and refrain from swearing. Swearing for women in society is considered as a violation of social norms and sign of bad manners, resulting in women swearing being consideed unacceptable. In *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* movie, most of the characters are young teenagers who are still innocent, and in their language, they rarely use harsh words because they pay attention to how they speak.

## CONCLUSIONS

<sup>20</sup> This research is aimed to find out and explain the usage of intensifiers in a comedy-drama movie as a reflection of reality. This research analyzed intensifier as one of <sup>2</sup> the types of women's language features. The function of the intensifier and the context of the situation are analyzed in order to give a clear understanding about intensifier. Based on the analysis in the previous chapters, there are two points of conclusion that can be drawn. The first thing is it was found 37 utterances of intensifier used by female characters in The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants movie. Lakoff's theory stating that intensifier "so" is used more frequently by women was proven in this study. Second, in terms of the function not all the functions of intensifiers are found in The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants movie. From the data in the previous chapter, the most popular function is ITE (increasing the effect) or basic intensifier. This intensifier increase the degree of a verb by emphasizes the word's emotional feelings. DTE and STE function is also found in characters' utterances. However, NPI does not found in this movie. The result of NPI confirms <sup>1</sup> one of the women's language features stated by Lakoff; politeness. Even the character Tibby, who is described as a rude girl, does not use this type of intensifier function. The usage of intensifier are mostly to get the addressee's attention.

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