



TAG QUESTIONS: OLIVIA POPE'S WOMEN'S LANGUAGE DOMINANCE IN "SCANDAL" TV SHOW, SEASON 5

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Abstrak

Penelitian yang berjudul Tag Question: Dominasi Bahasa Wanita Olivia Pope di Acara TV "Skandal", Musim 5, meneliti fitur bahasa yang paling banyak digunakan oleh wanita. Penelitian tersebut berusaha untuk mengidentifikasi tag question sebagai salah satu elemen linguistik khusus gender yang digunakan oleh Olivia Pope. Penelitian ini berfokus pada gagasan Lakoff (1975) tentang karakteristik linguistik perempuan. Teknik formal dan informal digunakan untuk menyampaikan analisis yang dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif berdasarkan teori Lakoff (1975) tentang bahasa wanita. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan metode dokumentasi. Penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa tokoh utama wanita menggunakan satu jenis yang mendominasi dari 10 kategori sifat bahasa wanita. Karena tokoh utama wanita dalam serial TV season 5 ini adalah tipikal wanita mandiri yang cenderung mengubah pernyataan menjadi pertanyaan untuk mengurangi kekuatan informasi, hasil menunjukkan bahwa tag question menjadi jenis fitur bahasa wanita yang dominan diucapkan di serial TV season 5 ini.

Kata kunci: fitur bahasa wanita, serial tv, tag question

Abstract

This research, titled Tag Questions: Olivia Pope's Linguistic Dominance in "Scandal" TV Show, Season 5, examined language features used mostly by women. The research sought to identify the tag question as one of the gender-specific linguistic elements utilized by Olivia Pope. This research focuses on Lakoff's (1975) idea of the linguistic characteristics of women. The formal and informal techniques are used to convey the analysis, which was conducted using qualitative methods based on Lakoff's (1975) theory about women's language. The data was gathered using the documentation method. The research revealed that the female main character employed one dominant kind of one of the 10 categories of women's language traits. Because the female main character in this TV series season 5 was a typical independent woman who tended to turn a statement into a question to reduce the force of the statement, the results demonstrate that tag questions became the dominant type of women's language feature uttered in this TV series season 5.

Keywords: women's language features, tv series, tag question

PENDAHULUAN

Humans are linguistic social beings who use language to interact with others. Communication in society affects how men and women express themselves and see others. This discrepancy sparks an intriguing conversation that many scholars pursue. In addition, sociolinguistics addresses issues like language and gender, according to Holmes (2008:157). Linguists have been researching the variations between genders since the 1970s when feminism first came into being. Many scholars have attempted to pinpoint the characteristics of women's language. In contrast to the ways that syntax, semantics, morphology, and

phonology approach language, sociolinguistics studies language as an object of research (Coulmas, 2013). Numerous sub-disciplines fall under the umbrella of sociolinguistics. Studying linguistic diversity, linguistic attitudes, pragmatics, discourse analysis, multilingualism, creolization, language and gender, and other topics may be included. In sociolinguistics, language, and gender inequalities are now quite fascinating and significant.

Men and women communicate differently in every society, according to several sociolinguists. There is a significant difference in how men and women utilize various languages. Men used more slang and harsh terms than women, for instance, when both male and female students were assigned to discuss a given subject. The forms that men and women utilize are not entirely different. They use various dosages or repetition rates of the same forms. Men tend to employ more vernacular forms than women do, while women prefer to use more conventional forms. There are several linguistic traits unique to women's speech, such as hesitancy, rising intonation, tag questions, hedges, and intensifiers used to convey degrees of certainty or uncertainty regarding a proposition. males and women emphasize various speech functions, and they do not communicate in precisely the same manner in each group (Holmes, 2001: 150–151). Women are also more linguistically polite than males.

It is often said that there are unfavorable stereotypes about women in various civilizations. Many individuals have the stereotype that women speak more or too much. According to certain research conducted in lab settings, classroom settings, and chat programs on television, women really communicate less than men do in mixed-sex dialogues because men and women use language differently. Women's language is a highly fascinating and significant issue to address since it is far more complicated than just the language that women use. The reason I chose this issue is because both men's and women's language phenomena occur often in daily life. One of the thoughts may be taken from a film or television program. The scene and language in a movie are one of the mediums used to convey moral and social ideals to society. A movie may depict people's lives since many films are depictions of reality. *Scandal* Season 5 was chosen for analysis in this research because it has a female lead. The most complicated black female protagonist in television history, Olivia Pope is recognized as a post-racial figure. Even though the program seldom discusses race, her well-publicized affair is one example. Pope has taken on the role of a spokesperson for educated, middle-class, and upper-middle-class black women. Olivia Pope is a striking outlier among female TV characters who are "emotionally strong, professionally powerful, and personally complicated" among women of all races. As a result, it has a substantial portion of female linguistic characteristics.

Tag question is one of the linguistic components that Lakoff highlighted in her theory and the focus of this investigation. According to Lakoff (1975), the usage of the feature tag inquiry is an attempt to elicit an affirmative or negative response from the listener. A tag is a remark that is between an affirmative statement and a yes-or-no inquiry, according to Lakoff (1975, p. 15). The speaker may pose a tag question if they are presenting a claim but are unsure about its veracity. Lakoff asserts There is a significant variation in women's intonation patterns that is connected to this unique application of a syntactic norm. According to Lakoff, only women utilize a distinctive sentence intonation pattern that has the structure of a declarative response to a question and is used as such, but also has the rising inflection of a yes-or-no inquiry and is particularly cautious. Although the speaker may be the sole one with the necessary knowledge, the impression is that of requesting confirmation.

Investigating how tag questions impact a phrase is interesting. The tag question analysis researcher is drawn to this while doing so. Since one of the movie's primary players, Olivia Carolyn Pope, is a black woman who formerly served as the White House communications director, the TV series *Scandal* was chosen to collect data on the use of tag

questions by notable female characters. Later, she resigned her job and started her consulting business, Olivia Pope & Associates. The best fixer in Washington, DC, is Olivia Pope. Her earliest claim to fame was helping an underdog presidential contender, and she has maintained it by fixing problems in the background that seem to be happening almost as soon as they do. She deals with both individuals and issues. They resort to her on their darkest day and at their lowest point. While attempting to conceal the fact that she is one of the key figures at the centre of the controversy, Olivia tackles the most pressing topics of the day. Her illicit relationship with the US President is the best illustration of this. It makes sense to look at Lakoff's theory on women's language in this way.

Olivia Pope and Fitz Grant, the President of the United States, are now openly courting and celebrating their love, and Olivia is taking on more of the First Lady's typical responsibilities at the White House. This plot is told throughout the course of the fifth season's 21 episodes. She is still in charge of Olivia Pope & Associates. She suffers an abortion in secret midway through the season and chooses to leave Fitz The President and the White House because she feels too restricted in her new life. The second half of the season is dominated by Olivia's return to her former life as she adjusts to the ramifications of her split from Fitz. Kerry Washington plays the key role in the American political thriller television series *Scandal*.

Shonda Rhimes was the show's creator, and it ran on ABC for seven seasons and 124 episodes between April 5, 2012, and April 19, 2018. The protagonists of the Washington, D.C.-based story are the employees of Olivia Pope & Associates (OPA), the White House staff, and the local political scene. Tony Goldwyn also plays Fitzgerald Grant III, the President of the United States (later a past President) and Olivia's primary love interest, in addition to Kerry Washington. The American Film Institute selected the television programme of the year. It received the Peabody Award for Excellence in Television as well as the Image Award for Outstanding Drama Series. In addition to being nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series, a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Drama Series, and a SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Drama Series, Washington has won the Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series. Another factor is the prevalence of real-world situations and everyday interactions, which makes it straightforward to identify questions in statements and other spoken words.

METODE

In this research study, the documentation approach is utilized to gather data. This method is one of data collection that looks for information from different documents, which may be photographs, text, or scripts. This study's data collection approach was facilitated by the use of a note-taking technique that included reading and noting each phrase from Season 5 of the TV Show's subtitle. The process of gathering data includes the following steps: (1) downloading season 5 with 21 episodes; (2) seeing and listening to the discussion in the film; (3) taking notes and screenshots of each utterance that uses language exclusive to women; and (4) reading and listing the data utterances before beginning to analyze it.

The gathered data were qualitatively and descriptively analyzed. Creswell (2014) defines a qualitative technique as one that depends heavily on text and visuals. Azwar (2002) defined descriptive analysis as the systematic study of data to delivering factual findings that are simple to grasp. The following procedures were taken to process the data:

- Selecting the information that shows the tag question is present.
- Descriptively analyzing the context of the circumstance of the tag question posed by Olivia Pope, one of the key female characters, in light of Lakoff's theory.

- Focus on identifying the purposes of Lakoff's theory as they relate to the primary female character Olivia Pope.

Two methods for presenting results from data analysis were suggested by Sudaryanto (1993). Methods come in two flavors: informal and formal. He said that whereas the formal technique makes use of signs and symbols, the informal method makes use of vocal remarks. The researcher employs an informal manner for presenting the data analysis. The informal ways of verbally presenting descriptively are utilized to provide additional clarification and comprehension. The researcher utilised stills from the film as the data to make the explanation simple to grasp.

HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

This section includes an explanation of the findings and a discussion of the study. Olivia Pope, the lead female character in the fifth season of *Scandal*, established it as one of the primary characteristics of women's language. This section also provided numerous justifications for and an explanation of the tag question made by the lead female character Olivia Pope in season five of the television drama *Scandal*. A tag question is a part of a phrase that asks the person hearing it to either affirm or refute the allegation. According to Lakoff (1975, p. 15), a tag is a statement that falls between an affirmative statement and a yes-or-no question. When the speaker is making a claim but isn't sure whether it's true, they may ask a tag question. If a lady asks, "Did you?," "Aren't we?," "Isn't it?" or "Don't you?" you may find this out. The inclusion of this question tag may also undermine a statement by giving the impression that the speaker is uncertain of what they are saying. There were several data of tag question that was analyzed below:

[3-1]

Olivia: "Abby, he didn't call, because we don't have anything to talk about. Why would we? That's over."



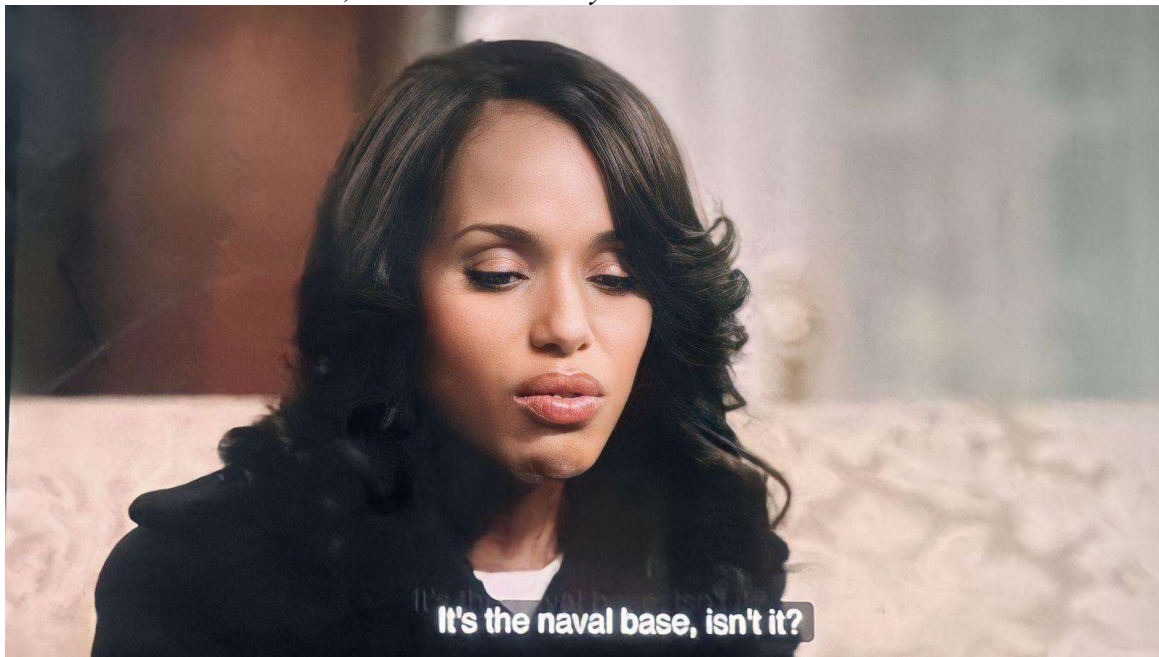
Context: Abby is directing it towards Olivia this time. In both situations, the person who interrupted feels deceived by the person who interrupted. Olivia tells Abby a lie forty-eight hours prior, saying, "He didn't call, but the 'that' (Olivia and Fitz) isn't over." The exact opposite. Abby is there to see it for herself. The same reason Fitz withheld information from Cyrus is the same reason Olivia lied to Abby: both Fitz and Olivia value their relationship too highly to engage in talk about it. Fitz and Cyrus discussed it, and Olivia and Abby are prepared to do the same—possibly in a more heated manner.

Analysis: Data [3 - 1] displays the dialogue between Olivia and Abby. It happens in one of the ballroom party's rooms. In episode 1, the utterance is heard between 00:37:03 and 00:37:01. When Abby asks Olivia if Fitz is contacting her or not, the drama in the monologue takes place as Olivia tries to keep the truth from her closest friend. Because we have nothing to discuss, he didn't call, she says, using the tag question with the TQ function. How could we? That's finished. Numerous terms can be used with the fundamental tag question "Why would we" The tag question "why would we?" in this speech falls somewhere between an affirmative statement and a yes-or-no query. It is more certain than the latter but less assertive than the former. As a result, it can be applied in some contexts, such as those that

fall somewhere between those of a yes-or-no inquiry and a statement, or those that fall somewhere in between.

[3-2]

Olivia: *"It's the naval base, isn't it? You want your naval base."*



Context: The queen and prince ask Olivia to join them in the talk after the princess dies in a terrible car accident in order to stop the dissemination of photographs of her corpse. Although she is successful, they are unable to locate any paparazzi. So why is that, then? He is a hacker-assassin who remotely sped up the princess's automobile and wrecked it, not a photographer. Before we return to the main action, let's briefly review the remainder of this story: The princess fell in love with her bodyguard after learning that she and the prince had never truly spent time together. This offers the prince a justification for murdering Princess Cyber, but naturally it turns out that he was a good man (after all, he married a commoner) and that his Evil Queen-like mother was the one who learned of the pregnancy and plotted the murder in order to maintain the bloodline's purity. Blah, blah, she has to renounce the throne when they return to Genovia, and Fitz loses his naval base.

The dialogue above demonstrates the meaning of the word "isn't it?" as a type of woman's language known as a tag question. In Olivia's expression, she repeated Fitz's claim that the copy was real to persuade herself, which meant asking the same question repeatedly despite the speaker appearing to have two options.

Analysis: Data [3 - 2] displays the monologue in which Olivia discusses her plans for her investigations with Fitz. In episode 1, the statement is made between 00:16:39 and 00:16:35. After a brief but tense discussion, Olivia concluded that Fitz's collaboration plans with the royal family were the reason he couldn't support Olivia in her efforts to reveal the truth about the tragedy that had occurred. When Olivia revealed her investigative plan to Fitz, Fitz strongly disagreed with Olivia's plan. Instead of asking "Isn't it?" in response to this statement, odds are she already has an agenda that favors a positive response and merely wants the recipient to confirm it. She still wants an answer from him, just like she would with a yes-or-no question, but she thinks she knows enough to foresee it as she would with a definitive statement. Therefore, one may consider a tag question to be a declarative statement without the presumption that the addressee is to believe the statement; one has an option, just like with a question. A tag provides the addressee flexibility rather than

pressuring him to share the speaker's opinions. There are situations in which a tag is legitimate, in fact, the only legitimate sentence form.

[3-3]

Olivia: “*What exactly am I giving up on here, Fitz? There has to be something, right?*”



Context: The field of discourse above was about Olivia's emotions towards Fitz. At the start, Mellie (The first wife of the President) and Fitz are sitting down for their big, exclusive interview, the one in which they deny the Olivia Pope rumors and pretend everything's all just fine in the big house, just as Olivia is confirming to the press that she is, in fact, the president's mistress.

Analysis: Data [3 - 3] reveals this. In general, this episode appeared: Mellie is in agony but attempting to turn it into professional growth. Abby is stressed. Quinn, Huck, and Jake are split between having fun and working at OPA. Liv and Fitz are stuck between giving up and giving in. In episode 3, the statement is made between 00:15:04 and 00:15:01. There has to be something, right?, she says, using the tag question with the TQ function. Although there are undoubtedly more ways to read a line like this, one explanation is that the speaker has a specific response in mind, such as "yes" or "no," but is hesitant to declare it outright. Though we lack concrete statistical proof, it is the author's view that women are far more likely than males to employ this type of tag inquiry. What makes this true, if it is true? These sentence patterns offer a way for the speaker to avoid committing and potentially offending the addressee. The issue with this is that the speaker could also come across as not being completely confident in himself, as needing the addressee's approval, or even as having no opinions of his own.

Of course, this final critique is frequently directed towards women. One wonders how much of it is influenced by language that has been forced upon women since they were little. Associated with this unique application of a syntactic norm is a significant distinction in women's intonational patterns. There is an odd phrase intonation pattern that, as far as we can tell, is only employed by women in English. It takes the form of a declarative response to a question and is used as such, but it also has the rising inflection of a yes-or-no inquiry and is particularly cautious. Although the speaker may be the sole person with the necessary information, the impression is that of requesting confirmation.

[3-4]

Olivia: "*The Committee has the tape, doesn't it? My Kidnapping.*"



Context: Olivia discovers via that surveillance that they had the CIA recording of her abduction. Talks with David Rosen and all the affair-related news have been insane. He says that in order to impeach Fitz, they must demonstrate that he saw the footage. If they can, he has committed a "impeachable offence." Liv cautions Fitz, and they come to the conclusion that Cyrus is the only other person who is aware that Fitz watched the recording and that the actual purpose of the little conflict in West Angola was to bring Olivia back.

Analysis: Data [3 – 4] shows us the dialogue when Olivia speaks with David Rosen. It takes place in the white house office. The utterance happens at 00:16:01 – 00:15:58 In episode 5. The previous utterance can be classified as a tag question. According to Lakoff's (1975), asking questions is a prominent example of women's hesitancy and insecurity. The word "doesn't it?" at the end of the utterance shows Olivia's hesitancy about the previous utterance. She wants to confirm that her statement is right. Questions can be used to get some information so she used "doesn't it?" in her last sentence. Olivia hoped that David Rosen could help her by justifying what she said. The use of tag questions here indicates Olivia's insecurity and hesitancy. Olivia used a tag question to express uncertainty when she was willing to get information from David Rosen.

KESIMPULAN

This research looked into tag questions as a kind of feminine linguistic trait. It seeks to ascertain and make clear how tag questions are applied as a portrayal of real life in scandal-drama TV programs. The scenario's context and the tag question's purpose are both looked at to provide a clear understanding of tag questions. From the analysis in the previous chapters, two conclusions may be drawn. The tag question was first found to have been used four times by Olivia Pope, one of the major female characters in the Scandal TV series. This research supported Lakoff's theory that more often than men, women use the tag question "isn't it?" Second, not all tag question features are accessible in the Scandal TV series. The most typical function, according to the data in the preceding chapter, is a yes-or-no answer or a straightforward tag question. By highlighting the verb's emotional state, this tag question raises the verb's degree. This study has a lot of problems. It is proposed that future research look closely at tag questions in other sources of data, such as social media. Future research that incorporates more current data sources will be more interesting since the usage of tag questions is expected to improve and grow.

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