

## **GENDER BIAS OF COMPLIMENT RESPONSES IN INSTAGRAM**

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### **Abstrak**

Tanggapan pujian adalah sebuah tindakan yang diberikan. Perempuan dan laki-laki mempunyai cara yang berbeda dalam menanggapi pujian. Biasanya laki-laki memiliki tanggapan pujian yang lebih singkat daripada perempuan. Tujuan dari penelitian ini untuk menganalisis dengan cara apa laki-laki dan perempuan menanggapi pujian dengan cara yang berbeda. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori dari Holmes (1995) tentang tanggapan pujian, Coates (2005) dan Lakoff (2004) tentang karakteristik Bahasa perempuan dan laki-laki, dan Eckert (2003) and Weatherall (2002) tentang alasan mengapa laki-laki dan perempuan berkomunikasi dengan cara yang berbeda. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisa data. Data di penelitian ini diambil dari media sosial bernama Instagram, yang terdapat seksikomen. Pada seksikomen, ada sebuah pujian dan tanggapan pujian. Poin utama dari hasil dalam penelitian ini adalah laki-laki dan perempuan menanggapi pujian dengan cara yang berbeda berdasarkan karakteristiknya. Karakteristik tersebut adalah empty adjective vs neutral adjective, no sense of humor vs sense of humor, hedges, super polite form vs non polite form, hypercorrect grammar vs incorrect grammar, aggravated directives vs mitigated directives.

**Kata Kunci:** pujian, tanggapan pujian, gender, Instagram

### **Abstract**

Compliment response is an act of responding a given compliment. Women and men have different way when responding to the compliment. Men usually have a shorter compliment response than women. The aim of this research is to find in what way do males and females respond to the compliment differently. This study uses the theory from Holmes (1995) about compliment response, Coates (2005) and Lakoff (2004) about the characteristics of men and women language, and Eckert (2003) and Weatherall (2002) about the reason why men and women speak differently. This study uses qualitative method to analyze the data. The data of this study were taken from a social media called Instagram which has comment section. In the comment section, there is a compliment and compliment response. There is one point of result in this study. That is male and female speaker are different in responding to the compliment based on their characteristics. Those characteristics are empty adjective vs neutral adjective, no sense of humor vs sense of humor, hedges, super polite form vs non polite form, hypercorrect grammar vs incorrect grammar, aggravated directives vs mitigated directives.

**Keyword:** compliment, compliment response, gender, instagram.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Everyone is communicating with each other. This event based on everyone's experiences which occurred in daily life. The people communicate to each other. They do it at home, school or working places to talk to their family, friends or co-workers. Communication is not only talking to each other, but it can be done by gesture or writing. The people do it to express their thought or idea. Besides, Communication has an important role in a relationship. The people can not build their relationship without communication. There are several purposes that they want to achieve when they do it. Some people do it to make their relationship more intimate. The purpose to

have an intimate relationship can be done by complimenting others.

Compliment usually happened to everyone. It is for someone who admires a good work, appearance, the things that they have, and something that they do well. There are many ways of expressing the compliment. Some people express it directly when they are communicating with their friends or family, they just do it when seeing their friends doing something well or something different with their appearance, but some people express it indirectly through social media. Social media is a media to communicate that is used by many people. It is a common thing to find people who use social media to give a compliment and respond the

compliment. These activities do not only to compliment someone or giving the response, but also to make a relationship more intimate. In this case, someone who gives and responds the compliment has different ways to express it. The people compliment someone differently based on the good things that someone has or done. There are many factors that influence the way of giving the compliment and responding the compliment. Usually, when someone gives and responds the compliment in a non-intimate relationship he will act differently. Also, in responding the compliment from the older person will influence the response. The other factor is gender. Holmes (1990) states that women are more positive in giving the compliment than man. It means that women pay attention more in giving the compliment. They think that a compliment is a positive act. Holmes (1990) stated that men do not give and receive compliment frequently.

There are several researches that relates to this research. Those researches concerned on compliment responses. The first, ah, excuse me... I like your shirt: an Examination of Compliment Responses Across Gender by Australians by Davis (2007) focused on compliment responses across gender within Australia. In his study, he wanted to know the types of compliment and compliment responses based on the gender and how are males think about the flirtatious compliment. He found that all of the Australian use acceptance tokens when they are responding the compliment that is not intimate. Moreover, most of men think that the compliments are not 'innocence' or 'flirtatious'. There are some similarities between Briallen's and this study. In his research, the type of compliment responses as Davis' research analyzed. The differences between this study and Davis' study are this study subject is compliment responses between the users of Instagram and it does not refer to flirtatious compliment. In this study, the compliment response are not used to seduce others; in contrast, Morales analyzed learners in Parañaque Science High School. In addition, Davis' data have been taken from daily conversation, while the writer of this study has chosen social media (Instagram) for the data source;. The second, In The Southeast Asian Journal of English Language Studies – Vol 18(1): 47 – 60 Compliment Responses across Gender in Philippine Context had analyzed about the learner's compliment responses strategies and types of compliments they employed. In the findings, he firstly found out that the male and female participants chose to use the pattern that is usually used and the patterns are: accept, reject, and evade pattern. Both groups show that almost all of female and male chose accept than reject. In addition, two explicit types of compliment responses strategies were chosen by almost of female and male participants: the appreciation token and return a compliment. In the other hand, informative comment mostly used by male participants as the implicit compliment response; but on the other hand, shift credit is the most widely used by a female participant as the implicit compliment responses. The differences between Morales' and this study are this study analyzes compliment responses on Instagram which is the users come from different country, while this journal shows the

analysis in a school and the participants are only Filipino. The third, gender-based differences in compliments and respective responses between teachers and students at ILP Kediri by Pratiwi (2013), the study focused on the compliment and compliment responses performed by teachers and students who are learners of English as a foreign language at ILP Kediri. In her thesis, she wanted to know how do compliments performed by female teachers differ from those performed by male ones and how do compliment responses performed by female students differ from those performed by male ones. For the findings, Pratiwi found that the female and male teachers of ILP Kediri compliments have no impact on the way of their student responding their compliment. It means that the gender is not always influenced the way of the student response. The difference between this study and Pratiwi's studies is that the writer analyzes the compliment responses in social media (Instagram) and the result may different because there is no different status between someone who give compliment and the one who respond it, while Pratiwi analyzes compliment responses in an ILP Kediri between the teacher and the student which have different status.

This study proposed three research questions. There two research questions that will be explained. Those research questions are 1) what are the types of males and females compliment response? 2) In what way does male and female respond to the compliment differently? This study uses several theories to support the analysis.

A compliment is an act which a person expresses the admiration towards something that someone else has. Holmes (1995) states that compliment is the positive polite speech acts that are used to express the feelings of adore that the speaker gives to the interlocutor. There are two kinds of compliment in the conversation above. The first is a direct compliment and indirect compliment. A direct compliment is addressed to someone directly without any specific or certain knowledge. In contrast, indirect compliment needs more knowledge of certain thing which is related to the conversation. Moreover, Holmes (1990) states that women compliment each other more often than men. In other words, women are involved in complimenting other more often than men. Men and women are different on several aspects when giving a compliment or responding the compliment. They have a different topic that they like to compliment. According to Holmes (1995) women compliment on appearance more often than men and men usually compliment to other men in their possession as men think about appearance compliment is an embarrassment. The reason of giving a compliment is to show the good impression to the addressee. There are several functions of giving a compliment. The functions are to express the feeling of proud or impressed towards addressee's behavior or appearance and other things that can be praised.

There are four types of compliment:

*1. Appearance compliment*

*I like your outfit Beth. I think I could wear that.*

*2. Ability/performance compliment*

*Wow you played well today Davy*

3. Possessions compliment

*Is that your flash red sports car?*

4. Personality/friendliness

*I'm very lucky to have such a good friend.*

Compliment response is an act where one person gives a compliment and the other persons respond the compliment. It requires the one who give a compliment to do a compliment response. Compliment response is similar to the meaning of compliment, both of them are positive polite speech. Holmes (1995) states people response a compliment is one of linguistic politeness. This means compliment and compliment response are linguistic politeness. The previous compliment theory explained the way of men and women giving the compliment and who the most give a compliment or involved in compliment. In this case, the compliment response theory gives the explanation of the differences between men and women in responding the compliment. According to Holmes (1990) in her study women and men do not really have the difference when they respond the compliment. Both men and women tend to accept the compliment rather than reject the compliment.

According to Holmes (1995) in her book titled *Women, men, and Politeness* there are three main types of compliment responses and divided into several subtypes.

### 2.2.1 Accept

1. Appreciation/agreement token: The acceptance of compliment that is given *e.g. thanks yes*
2. Agreeing utterance: the agreement of compliment that is given and response with the same or related thing of compliments. *e.g. I think it's lovely too*
3. Downgrading utterance: the downgrade statement of compliment that is given *e.g. it's not bad as is it*
4. Return compliment: the return compliment is given to someone who is complimented *e.g. you're looking good too*

### 2.2.2 Reject

1. Disagreeing utterance: the compliment disagreement, the addressee thinks that it is not necessary to compliment. *e.g. I'm afraid I don't like it much*
2. Question accuracy: the question about the truth of the compliment whether the speaker really mean it or not. *e.g. is beautiful the right word?*
3. Challenge sincerity: in this case the addressee giving the challenge statement *e.g. you don't really mean that*

### 2.2.3 Deflect/Evade

1. Shift Credit: the addressee response the compliment by giving the explanation about something that is praised. *e.g. my mother knitted it*
2. Informative comment: the addressee response the compliment by giving history explanation of something that is praised. *e.g. I bought it at that Vibrant Knits place*

3. Ignore: the addressee ignore the compliment by switch the topic *e.g. it's time we were leaving isn't it?*
4. Legitimate evasion: *context needed to illustrate*
5. Request reassurance: the addressee asking the truth about something that is praised. *e.g. do you really think so*

Women and men have a different way of communicating. Women have their own speech style or certain things that they like to talk about. This also occurs for men. According to Coates (2004), Women and men have different communicative competence. Communicative competence refers to the way of someone pay a compliment and apologise. Women and men differences of communicative competence prove that they have different speech style or a different way in conversation. Hedges are used by women more often than men. The example of hedges such as *I think, you know, sort of and perhaps* which are used to express the speaker's certainty and uncertainty in conversation or something that is discussed. In Holmes study, she used *you know* hedges to observe the confidence and certainty. Women use hedges more often to show the certainty or confident. Meanwhile, men use *you know* to show uncertainty or unconfident. Holmes sensitive analysis demonstrate shows that hedges are multifunctional. Moreover, she mentioned the reason why male use fewer hedges than female. Male use hedges less than women because they usually avoiding the sensitive topic and they also don't really like to have a personal conversation. In the sensitive topic, hedges are really useful because it can be used to avoid the topic that they don't want to discuss. Commands or directives are an act of one person gives an instruction to another person. Usually, this action does by someone who needs a help or he/she needs someone else to do it. In doing commands and directives, men and women have a different way. Coates (2004) states a directive is a speech act where the speaker tries to ask something to do to someone else. Men tend to choose aggravated directives or explicit directives and women tend to choose mitigated directives or implicit directives. In other words, most of the men will ask someone to do something directly while women will ask someone with indirect way.

Men and women language are the specific way of men and women when using language. They are not only different in their looks or behavior, but they also using different language. Lakoff (2004) states there are ten ways of women in communicating. Those ten things are the opposite of men speech. First, Women tend to use an empty adjective such as *divine, charming, and cute*. This is one of women language which is often used by the female speaker. Male speaker tends to use another adjective which not include on this type of empty adjective. Other than that, the empty adjective has a definition which has specific meaning and it is used to express speaker's appreciation or admiration of something. This empty adjective is largely used by women. For example; women usually say "you are adorable" when a man usually say "you are great". Second, Women usually use hedges in various ways. It

can be said that women have a different way of intention and using hedges. For example; when the speaker is uncertain about something, they will use “well, you know, kinda, and so forth”. Other than that, there are several intentions of the speaker when they use hedges. The first when the speaker wants to make a polite statement without making someone else offended, for example; if someone wants to say “John is sorta tall” means that he is neither tall nor short. This kind of hedges helps the speaker to soften or mitigate the statement to avoid the interlocutor being offended. Third, Women are known as a well behaves, person. It is the opposite of men behave. This happens since their young age. As a girl, talking rough is not their characteristic. Meanwhile, a boy talking roughly is just a common thing. For example; boys usually say “singin” or “goin”. They drop the “g” letter. This is one of example that the boys did more grammatical error in a statement. This situation can distinguish how men and women make a sentence. Women usually do care about the grammar when they communicate. In the other hand, men usually do not really pay attention to their grammar. Fourth, Being polite is a thing that really attached to women. It means that women usually polite when to communicate to others. Women are being polite and they also use superpolite forms often than men. The super polite form is related to the previous characteristic of women language. Hypercorrect grammar is also one of the superpolite forms. The super polite form also refers to be positive and nice. Women are more positive than men. Women are more positive and they know what the thing that they can say to other people, while men usually say what they think directly. This means women usually having a positive conversation or they can response someone’s statement positively, while men usually do not really think that way. Men usually say what they are thinking whether it is a good thing or bad thing. The other thing that women do to be polite is to be particularly careful to say “please” and “thank you” and to uphold the other social convention. Fifth, Women do not tell jokes and they do not have a sense of humor. They do not really understand the jokes. On the other hand, men tell jokes more and they are enjoying to tell jokes to each other.

## **METHOD**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. This study uses this method to analyze the data from Instagram and it describes and explains in detail. The data are natural data and the data based on words, not in numbers. The data are taking by capturing the compliment responses in Instagram. This study concerns about the way of men and women responds to the compliment differently and in what ways they differ in responding the compliment. This study provides the theory below which relates to this study: According to Creswell (2007), qualitative research is suitable for this study which begins with the assumption that men and women have their own way to respond the compliment and it is related to the human as a cause of certain phenomena. Moreover, this study used a social media to

get the data. Data were taken in a natural setting which comes from the user of Instagram. The final of this study will include the description of each compliment response.

The object of this study are compliment responses from Instagram (social media). The data are only compliment response from English speaker. There are two types of compliment responses. Those are accepted, reject, and deflect/evade. The first response type is accepted (agreement token, agreeing utterance, downgrading utterance, and return compliment) refers to the acceptance of the compliment. The second response is to reject (disagreeing utterance, question accuracy, and challenge sincerity) refers to the rejection of the compliment. The third response is to deflect/evade (shift credit, informative comment, ignore, legitimate evasion, request reassurance) refers to the changes of the topic of something that is being praised.

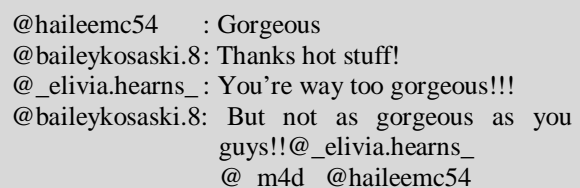
This study uses data analysis technique on three steps based on Miles, Huberman and Saldana. Those three steps are; 1) Data condensation: the data which already prepared will be reduced to make it more clear and specific. The data reduced adjust the research question. 2) Display of data: The taken data will be classified as in the data condensation example. Then, the classified data as in the data condensation were displayed. 3) Drawing conclusion and verification: The first research question only focused on the types of compliment and compliment responses from male and female. In this research question, Holmes (1995) theory was used to answer it. This theory provided the type of compliment and compliment response.

## **RESULTS**

### **4.1.2.1 Empty Adjective vs Neutral Adjective**

In this section, there will be the some examples of male and female conversation which contains of empty adjective and neutral adjective. Male and female conversation will be displayed to make a comparison between male and female characteristics.

#### **Female Compliment Response**



@haileemc54 : Gorgeous  
@baileykosaski.8: Thanks hot stuff!  
@\_elivia.hearns\_ : You’re way too gorgeous!!!  
@baileykosaski.8: But not as gorgeous as you guys!!@\_elivia.hearns\_  
@\_m4d\_@haileemc54

The compliment above is an appearance compliment type from a female. Then, @baileykosaski.8 responds the compliment by saying “thanks” and giving the compliment back to her friend. First, the compliment response above shows that she thank her friend in a friendly and polite way. Second, she uses an empty adjective “gorgeous” when giving the compliment back to her friend. This empty adjective is not only used by @baileykosaski.8 but also used by her friend when giving the compliment. Therefore this action refers to

super polite form. Those two ways of responding the compliment is frequently used by women.

### Male Compliment Response

@breannadyson : u look tan  
@nick\_finke : thanks we look great

The compliment above is an appearance compliment type from a female. “u look tan” in the conversation above refers to @nick\_finke appearance where white people like to have tan skin. Then, he responds to the compliment by saying “thanks we look great”. This statement is really different from the previous female compliment and compliment response. The compliment response from female compliment and compliment response before shows that the female speaker responds to the compliment well. In contrast, @nick\_finke only say thanks and he said that “we” (he and his friend) is great. He agrees with @breannadyson that he looks good as she mentions before about “look tan”, but the way he responds to the compliment is quite short. This statement can be a polite response if he makes it longer or giving a friendly response as on the female speaker before. Moreover, @nick\_finkedo not use any empty adjective as in the female compliment and compliment response before. He prefers using “great” instead of using the empty adjective which has a similar meaning of “great”.

#### 4.1.2.2 No Sense of Humor vs Sense of Humor

In this section, there will be some examples of male and female conversation which contains of no sense of humor and sense of humor. Male and female conversations will be displayed to make a comparison between male and female characteristics.

### Male Compliment Response

@idfk.bre : Tbh// Your cool and smart as hell  
@antv1999 : Thanks im not that smart though  
@idfk.bre : Yes you are omg you finish your work in like 5 minutes  
@antv1999 : Its just to easy  
@idfk.bre : No its not!!!  
@antv1999 : For me  
@idfk.bre : And that proves my point!  
You’re smart as hell

The compliment above is an appearance compliment type. The conversation above shows how @antv1999 as a male speaker responds to the compliment from a female. First, he tries to reject the compliment by saying that he is not as smart as @idfk.bre mentioned when she gives him a compliment. Then, he tries to make a joke about the compliment that is given. It can be seen from the second and third response. The second response he says that he is not smart because the work is just too easy for him. Then, in third response, he says “for me” which refers to the

previous response. It means that he thinks that not everyone can do their work easily as he was. This kind of statement refers to a joke. On the other hand, women do not tell jokes. It shows on the way @idfk.bre responds to @antv1999 statement. The last statement from @idfk.bre “and that proves my point! You’re smart as hell” shows that she does not really understand about what @antv1999 said. It was supposed to be a joke, but she responds to it seriously. She insists that @antv1999 is a smart person even though @antv1999 responds to it with a joke.

### Male Compliment Response

@beerad7403 : hhahaha nice #  
@anthonylives : lol

The compliment above is an appearance compliment type. @beerad7403 (male) gives a compliment to @anthonylives selfie picture. @anthonylives responds to the compliment with deflect to the other topic. It can be seen in the picture above, the compliment from @beerad7403 is not really serious because he uses “hhahaha” which is known as a laughing term. In this case, both of them are not serious to their statement or in other words, they make it as a joke. The compliment nice with laughing followed with respond “lol” which stands for laugh out loud. This term used by the people who want to show that they are laughing over something that they think really funny. Therefore, @anthonylives response refers to a joke. This is different with a female speaker. They tend to respond to the compliment positively without jokes, but in this conversation @anthonylives make it as a joke. It is different with male compliment response before where the female speaker gives a compliment do not get the point of the joke that @antv1999 gives to her. In this conversation both of them know that actually, they do not serious about what he says. This kind of situation influences by their gender because both of them are male.

### Male Compliment Response

@rain.sarmiento : YOU ARE GORGEOUS  
@ha.ppiness : OMG THANK YOU !!  
@verzilvering : lili, you are absolutely one hundred % pure beautifulness, if that even is a word  
@ha.ppiness : aww cecilei can’t thank you enough!! Ily and i think it’s beauty haha

The compliment above is an appearance compliment. There are two persons who give @ha.ppiness compliment based on the conversation above. They are @rain.sarmiento and @verzilvering and both of them are female. The first person @rain.sarmiento said that @ha.ppiness is gorgeous and @ha.ppiness responds to her compliment by saying OMG or oh my god thank you. She appreciates her compliment by responding it positively. The second person

@verzilvering gives a compliment that @ha.ppiness is very beautiful. The function has some variation depends on what the intention of the speaker. In this case, @ha.ppiness responds to her compliment by saying something politely and also she uses hedge in the end of her statement. “i think” here is a hedge which means that she has the same opinion with @verzilvering and she has a lack of confident that she is beautiful as @verzilvering said. Therefore, the function of hedge in this conversation is to show that @ha.ppiness also sure about the statement that she is beautiful.

#### Female Compliment Response

@luxe : goals  
@nostalgic : pretty sure that's you

The compliment above is a possession compliment which refers to the Instagram feed that @nostalgic have. @luxe thinks that @nostalgic have a good picture, so her feed looks good. Then, the compliment response is deflecting with a disagreeing utterance. @nostalgic do not think the same way as @luxe. From the compliment response, @luxe use hedges on her compliment response. She says “pretty sure” to show her certainty about her opinion. She is sure that @luxe have a good feed, not her.

#### 4.1.2.4 Super Polite Forms vs Non Polite Form

In this section, there will be the some examples of male and female conversation which contains of super polite and non polite form. Male and female conversation will be displayed to make a comparison between male and female characteristics.

#### Female Compliment Response

@izzymurphizy : I can't believe you're a senior  
@skyeler\_rose06 : Dani you look gorgeous!!  
daannii13\_ : bye @erin05\_ I know time flies!!  
@izzymurphizy and thank you so much Skye  
@skyeler\_rose06

The compliment response above shows how @daannii13\_ responds to the compliment. The compliment that is given is an appearance compliment type. Then, she gives a nice compliment response by saying thank you so much. In this case, it can be seen that this kind of compliment response is friendly or she does it as a politeness in responding the compliment. @daannii13\_ try to be nice to her friend. It can be seen the compliment response to @skyeler\_06, she use her name to make it less direct. “thank you so much Skye” is less direct than thank you so much. The other thing that indicates women language is using intensive “so” to indicate that they really like and this is related to the compliment which means she really appreciates it.

#### Male Compliment Response

@drankitaghag : omg someone is looking fit n happening  
@dr.reyy : ohhhh my my some ones lookin hot  
@dhiraj\_2109 : @drankitaghag ha ha thanks... U complimented ..thats so unusual  
@djiraj\_2109 : @dr.reyythank you!! Lot

The compliment above is an appearance compliment. There are two compliments from different persons. @dhiraj\_2109 responds to the compliment with laughing word “ha ha”. It means he does not take it in a serious way. Moreover, he says what is on his mind even though it may sound rude to someone who already gives him a compliment. It can be seen from his statement “U complimented ..thats so unusual” which looks rude. @drankitaghag could be misunderstood and get offended. It is really different from the previous compliment response in when a woman tries to be positive and polite when responding the compliment by saying thank you in a less direct way. The female speaker say thank you followed by the name who give her a compliment. The compliment response from @dhiraj\_2109 is different when he says thank you without mention his friend's name as female speaker does.

#### 4.1.2.5 Hyper Correct Grammar vs Incorrect Grammar

In this section, there will be some examples of male and female conversation which contains of hyper correct grammar and incorrect grammar. Male and female conversation will be displayed to make a comparison between male and female characteristics.

#### Female Compliment Response

@daniele\_dm\_photo : Fantastic lens. good choice  
@elitsamrinkova : Thanks :) I did my research and watched quite a bit of videos, and it really seemed like this will be an appropriate choice for an overall good quality pictures - portrait, landscape etc. Do you

The compliment above is a possession compliment. @daniele\_dm\_photo gives a compliment to @elitsamrinkova new lens. @elitsamrinkova responds to the compliment nicely. She gives much information related to her new lens. There are two characteristics of women language when @elitsamrinkova responding the compliment. The first, women tend to be super polite in conversation rather than men. In this conversation, she responds to the compliment positively with a question about what she should do with her new lens. She can build a good conversation from a compliment that is given to her. Second is hypercorrect grammar where women make a good statement or sentence and

pronunciation. In this case, the conversation is a written form and @elitsamrinkova use a good word and the grammar of this sentence mostly correct.

### Male Compliment Response

@melaniestorm : thank youuu I love you too  
 @melaniestorm : rate- bms obviously  
 @carterhnilica : Thnx Melanie how u doin?

The compliment above is an appearance compliment type. First, @melaniestorm (female) responds to the caption of @carterhnilica picture. In that picture, @melaniestorm is standing next to @carterhnilica and the caption is about birthday greetings to @melaniestorm. Therefore, @melaniestorm saying thank you to him. Then, she gives a compliment “bms” which stands for breaks my scale. Here, breaks my scale means he is a great person. It can be two things; she thinks that he is really nice because of the birthday caption or he is a handsome men. @carterhnilica responds to the compliment by saying thank you. After that, he said “how u doin” which is actually what are you doing? In this case, @carterhnilica responds to the compliment without notice that there is a grammatical error on his statement. It shows that he does not really pay attention to English grammar, so he says “how u doin” instead of “what are you doing?”

### Female Compliment Response

@hannahgrover07 : tbbi miss u so much and your really pretty and we should hang out soon again  
 @alexis.skinner : Thank you! I miss you too! And yes let’s hangout asap

The compliment above is an appearance compliment type from a female. @hannahgrover gives a compliment refers to appearance and she talks about something else which is not related to the compliment. @alexis.skinner says thank you and responds to the invitation to go out. The conversation above shows how @alexis.skinner responds to the compliment well. The response above shows no grammatical error as male compliment response 4.8 have a grammatical error when responding the compliment. This response shows that she pay attention more to English grammar. Therefore, there is no grammatical error when she responds to the compliment. She only uses an acronym which is “asap” which stands for as soon as possible.

### Female Compliment Response

@pandacafe12 : Gorgeous miss ya  
 @natalia\_szczep : thank you miss you too

The compliment above is an appearance compliment type. @pandacafe12 gives a compliment to

@natalia\_szczep and saying that she misses her. Then, @natalia\_szczep responds the compliment by accepting and saying thank you to her friend. This compliment response shows different thing from the compliment response from female before. In this compliment response, @natalia\_szczep as a female speaker does not make a good sentence or good grammar on her sentence. “miss you too” is not a good sentence, because it does not have a subject. It supposed to be “I miss you too”. In this case, @natalia\_szczep do not really pay attention to the grammar like the other two female speakers do when responding the compliment. In another word, @natalia\_szczep has a grammatical error on her sentence which is not included in hypercorrect grammar criteria.

### 4.1.2.6 Aggravated Directives vs Mitigated Directives

In this section, there will be some examples of male and female conversation which contains of aggravated and mitigated directives. Male and female conversation will be displayed to make a comparison between male and female characteristics.

### Male Compliment Response

@daliakhalid111 : handsome  
 @husamchaco : Model  
 @taha7777 : @daliakhalid111 thank you  
 @taha7777 : @husamchacho tell me about it

The compliment above is an appearance compliment. There are two persons who give @taha7777 compliment. The first person is @daliakhalid (female) and @taha7777 responds to it by saying thank you which means that he appreciates @daliakhalid111 compliment. The second person is @husamchacho (male) and @taha7777 responds to it by saying “tell me about it”. He does not accept or reject the compliment from @husamchacho, but he tries to deflect the compliment to the other topic. He says “tell me” to make sure why @husamchacho said that he is a model. Moreover, this statement is an aggravated directive. It is an aggravated directive because @taha7777 wants @husamchacho gives an explanation why he says “model” directly.

### Female Compliment Response

@manzano.j\_ : You’re so cute  
 @shalyn\_marie14 : Awh thanks I miss you lets hangout soon  
 @manzano.j\_ : I miss you too shayshay lets hangout during winter break

The compliment above is an appearance compliment. The compliment is from female and the response is from a female. According to the compliment, @shalyn\_marie14 as the one who post a picture accepts the compliment by saying thanks. Moreover, she makes the conversation goes well by saying that she missed @manzano.j\_. This conversation shows that @shalyn\_marie14 ask @manzano.j\_ to go out by saying

“lets hangout soon”. This statement refers to mitigated directives. In this conversation, the directives used by the female speaker and she uses mitigated directives. In contrast, male speaker on the previous conversation uses aggravated directives. The difference between male and female speaker is in the way they do directives. Female speaker uses mitigated directives to soften directives. The word “lets” includes the speaker and the addressee to do a certain action. Therefore, this directive softer than aggravated directive which is used by male speaker.

## **DISCUSSION**

The results which discussed male compliment response type found that male has a different pattern of responding to the compliment compared to a female speaker. The male speaker has different ways when responding to the compliment even though the compliment response type is the same with a female speaker. The male speaker usually responds to the compliment shorter than the female speaker. They do not try to make a conversation longer. Female or male who gives the compliment do not really affect the way male speaker response the compliment. There is only one male speaker who responds to the compliment differently when a female gives a compliment. This kind of situation happened because the male speaker wants to tease the female speaker. This study agreed with Holmes who said that men did not give a compliment to other as often as women (1995). It means that the way of male speaker responds to the compliment shorter than female speaker shows that they are not really involved in compliment.

In giving the compliment from sub chapter 4.1.1, female and male speaker who give the compliment are different. Female speaker mostly compliments about appearance and male speaker mostly compliment about possession. Four of female speakers who give an appearance compliment are accepted by the male speaker and one of them is rejected. In this case, male speaker rejects by giving another opinion about his appearance. He tries to say that he is better than what female speaker said. One of a male speaker who gives an appearance compliment is accepted with agreeing utterance with a male speaker. The way of male speaker response an appearance compliment is not supported by the theory from Holmes who said that women compliment on appearance more often than men and men usually compliment to other men in their possession as men think about appearance compliment is an embarrassment (1995). This study found that men can be good in responding appearance compliment. Male speakers sometimes accepted appearance compliment with jokes and they seems to enjoy with the compliment that is given to them.

Female speaker mostly accepted the compliment with appreciation token and return a compliment. In contrast, the male speaker did not return compliment as many as female speaker. Female speaker tends to be positive and friendly in responding the compliment whether from a male or female speaker. This study agreed with Holmes women compliment each other more often than men (1995). This theory supported this

study that found female speaker compliment more often than a male speaker. It is related to the way female speaker accepted the compliment with return compliment. This means female speaker give compliment more often rather than a male speaker who rarely return a compliment.

Moreover, the difference between the male and female speaker in responding to the compliment can be found in subchapter 4.1.1, all of the female speaker give appearance compliment, one male speaker give appearance compliment and one male speaker gives ability compliment. Female speaker gives more compliment on appearance is suitable to the theory from Holmes who said women compliment on appearance more often than men and men.

There are some differences in responding to the compliment between male and female speaker. The difference is the language characteristic that male and female speaker use. There are several men and women languages.

The first, empty adjective. The empty adjective is an adjective which has a specific meaning to shows the speaker's admiration toward something. In this case, two male speakers did not use that kind of empty adjective, they prefer to use a neutral adjective. Female speaker tends to use an empty adjective instead of a neutral adjective. Male speaker uses the word “great” and female speaker uses the word “gorgeous” to express their admiration to someone. Lakoff said that speaker tends to use another adjective which not include on this type of empty adjective. Other than that, the empty adjective has a definition which has specific meaning and it is used to express speaker's appreciation or admiration of something. This empty adjective is largely used by women (Lakoff, 2004). The empty adjective largely used by women and it is also found in this study where female speaker use an empty adjective and male speaker use a neutral adjective.

The second, no sense of humor. There are two male speakers who give compliment and respond to the compliment with jokes. Both of them understand that they are making jokes. In contrast, one female speaker gives compliment to a male speaker and the male speakers respond to with jokes, but the female speaker did not really understand that the male speaker is making jokes. This is supported by Lakoff Women do not tell jokes and they do not have a sense of humor (2004). The female speaker in the results shows that she did not understand or have a sense of humor like a male speaker.

The third, hedges. Hedges is the linguistic form such which shows certainty or uncertainty of the speaker. This study found female speaker use hedges when responding to the compliment. The hedges that female speaker uses in the result is “I think” which one of the hedges. The intention of this female speaker is to show that she is not really sure about his statement as Lakoff said Women usually use hedges in various ways. It can be said that women have a different way of intention and using hedges (2004).

The fourth, superpolite form. Women are supposed to speak more politely than men. Women are



the experts at euphemism, more positively, women are the repositories of fact and know the right things to say to other people, while men carelessly blurt out whatever they are thinking. Men usually say what they are thinking whether it is a good thing or bad thing. (Lakoff, 2004). This theory supports this study as well. This study found that female speaker uses super polite forms in responding to the compliment. They use some words which less direct and more polite while the male speaker is not as polite as female speaker. The first male speakers just say what they think although his opinion is not supposed to be said and the second male speaker is asking his friend to do something in a direct way.

The fifth, hypercorrect grammar. There are three female speakers that are discussed in the results. Two of them make a sentence with the correct grammar and one of them makes a sentence with incorrect grammar. Also, there is a male speaker who makes a sentence with incorrect grammar. This is not supported by Lakoff who said that Women usually do care about the grammar when they communicate. On the other hand, men usually do not really pay attention to their grammar (2004). Female also did a mistake in making a sentence such as grammatical error as male speaker did.

The sixth, commands and directives. Two female speakers choose mitigated directives or implicit directives. Those two female speakers want to ask their friend to do something in a less direct way. On the other hand, two male speakers choose aggravated directives or explicit directives. It is different from the female speaker, male speaker ask their friend to do something in a direct way. This is supported by Coates directive is a speech act where the speaker tries to ask something to do to someone else. Men tend to choose aggravated directives or explicit directives and women tend to choose mitigated directives or implicit directives (2004).

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### Conclusion

Based on the chapter four result and discussion, the point of conclusion will be shown below:

Male compliment response consists of several types of compliment responses. The compliment is from the male and female speaker. Male speaker mostly accepts the compliment with appreciation token and agreeing utterance, deflect with an informative comment. Then, followed by deflect with ignore and shift credit, accept with return compliment, and reject with a disagreeing utterance. Then, female compliment response consists of several types of compliment response. The compliment from two male speakers and fifteen female speakers. Female speaker mostly accept the compliment with appreciation token and return compliment. Then, followed by deflect with ignore, informative comment, and shift credit, accept with agreeing utterance, and reject with a disagreeing utterance. Male and female speakers give compliment based on the picture. Male and female speakers respond to the compliment differently depends on the topic or compliment.

The way men and women are responding to the compliment based on six characteristics. The first, empty adjective with two female speakers use an empty adjective and two male speakers use a neutral adjective. The second, no sense of humor with two male speakers understand that they are making jokes while one female speaker did not understand that her friend (male) is making a joke. The third hedges with one female speaker use hedges "I think" as uncertainty. The fourth, super polite from with two male speakers do not use any of super polite form and two of female speakers use a super polite form as softening and less direct. The fifth, hypercorrect grammar with one male speaker do error on his grammar, two female speakers make a good sentence with the correct grammar, and one female speaker makes a sentence with incorrect grammar. The sixth, commands and directives with two male speakers choose aggravated directives and two female speakers use mitigated directives.

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