

Euphemism Uttered by The March Sisters in *Little Women* (2019) Film

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the euphemism uttered by March Sisters in *Little Women* (2019) film, focusing on what types of euphemisms and what the functions of euphemisms appear in the film with a sociolinguistic approach using Burrige (2012) theory. The researcher then displays the findings qualitatively. The result of this research shows that, the March Sisters; Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth used thirty six euphemisms including eight different types of euphemism out of fifteen; metaphor, underestimate, hyperbole, ellipsis, circumlocution, affixation, rhyming, and external borrowing. Meanwhile, for the functions, March Sisters used all six functions of euphemism; protective, underhand, uplifting, provocative, cohesive, and ludic. Jo is the most user of metaphor because she frequently used a non-literal sentences. Jo mostly used euphemisms to protect the listener's feeling as she is an empathetic person. Amy, as the most spoiled one, is the most underestimated user. She used it to avoid some existing fact, which is to protect herself from feeling embarrassed. Beth used metaphor and hyperbole, but for the function, she used it all as a protective euphemism to protect the listener's feelings because all of her euphemism words are related to death, she died in the film because of scarlet fever. Meg is the least euphemism user. She only uses hyperbole twice and circumlocution once but all of them are used as a protection to her self-esteem because she is easy to be provoked. In conclusion, the March Sisters used euphemisms differently based on their personality.

Key words: Sociolinguistics, Euphemism, Film.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas tentang eufemisme yang digunakan oleh March bersaudari di film Little Women (2019), berfokus pada apa saja tipe dan fungsi dari eufemisme yang terdapat di dalam film dengan pendekatan sosiolinguistik dan menggunakan teori dari Burrige (2012). Peneliti lalu menampilkan penelitiannya secara kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa March bersaudari; Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth menggunakan tiga puluh enam eufemisme termasuk delapan tipe eufemisme dari lima belas; metafora, underestimate, hiperbola, elipsis, circumlocution, afiksasi, rhyming, dan external borrowing. Sedangkan untuk fungsinya, March bersaudari menggunakan keenam fungsi euphemism; perlindungan, kecurangan, penyemangat, provokasi, kepaduan, dan menggelikan. Jo adalah pengguna metafora terbanyak karena ia sering menggunakan

kalimat tidak langsung. Jo juga lebih sering menggunakan eufemisme untuk menjaga perasaan si pendengar karena ia adalah orang yang mudah berempati. Amy, sebagai seseorang yang paling manja, ia adalah pengguna underestimate terbanyak. Ia menggunakannya untuk menghindari beberapa fakta, yang bertujuan untuk melindungi dirinya dari perasaan malu. Beth menggunakan metafora dan hiperbola, tapi untuk fungsi eufemisme, ia menggunakan semuanya sebagai bentuk perlindungan kepada para pendengar untuk melindungi perasaan mereka karena semua ujaran eufemismenya berhubungan dengan kematian, ia meninggal di film karena demam berdarah. Meg adalah yang paling sedikit menggunakan eufemisme. Ia menggunakan hiperbola dua kali dan circumlocution sekali, tapi semuanya berfungsi untuk melindungi harga dirinya, ia adalah orang yang mudah untuk diprovokasi. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa, penggunaan eufemisme dari March bersaudari berbeda-beda dan berdasarkan sifat masing-masing.

Kata Kunci: *Sosiolinguistik, Eufemisme, Film.*

A. INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role in human communication, and it is essential for maintaining communication. Differences in language and meaning between speakers and listeners are important for effective communication. Understanding meaning differences is difficult, as it can lead to communication failure if the speaker's words do not convey the same meaning as the listener's.

Another problem with communication is the selection of vocabulary among people, and sometimes, social life affects an individual's vocabulary. The term sociolinguistics refers to a social problem and language that is related to the social or the environment. Language has a lot of varieties among social life. Varieties of language can not only be found between two different countries. Even in the same country, the varieties of language can be found, and sociolinguistics also learn about language varieties. According to Coupland (206), sociolinguistics is a term that refers to language in society or language in a social context; in other words, sociolinguistics is a study of language or language varieties.

Language variation refers to a specific dialect or linguistic manifestation of language. It is used to avoid mentioning something that should not be talking about. To replace them, it is better to use 'sweet talking' or in other word called euphemism, which is more comfortable to say and can help avoid anxiety, embarrassment, or shame.

Euphemism is important for peaceful social interaction. According to Allan and Burridge (29), euphemism is a 'good speech'. Cruse (57) added euphemism as an expression referring to people's hesitation to say a sentence in order to avoid offending the hearer. Referring to the explanations by experts, using euphemisms is important to study for daily conversation or even formal conversation because it can prevent misunderstanding in human communication. However, literary works like novels, short stories, and films have also explored this social phenomenon because those literary works contain dialogue between characters which means there is a chance euphemisms will appear.

Euphemism elements can be easily found in the film because it presents a complete understanding of a character who employs them. According to Hornby

(950), a film is a series of moving pictures with sounds that tell a story. These days, a wide variety of films can provide information for the study of euphemism traits. It is because euphemisms can be seen in the film not only in dialogue or utterances, but also in characters actions and expressions. In regards to this research, the film *Little Women* (2019) was chosen to examine euphemism by concentrating on March Sisters' utterances. This research is intended to motivate the next researchers to evaluate literary works using a sociolinguistics method especially euphemism. Hopefully, this research will be useful to the next researchers as a reference.

B. RELATED LITERATURE

1. Sociolinguistics

Language and society are inextricably linked. Language allows people to communicate clearly with one another, and according to Hudson, sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society (10). Another definition of sociolinguistics focuses on studying linguistic diversity or language variation (Coupland 4). It is simply said that sociolinguistics is closely related to this research because it deals with language and society, and almost everyone in the world speaks a different variation of language, which is why sociolinguistics may be used to comprehend the literal meaning on a different kind of language varieties.

2. Language Variety

Language varies for a variety of reasons. It could be because of age, gender, or a situational society. According to Hudson, a variety of languages is a collection of linguistic items with a similar distribution. He also adds that the relevant relation to society is by whom and when the items are used (24 - 25). Every individual has their own method of selecting the language variant that best fits their identity. People occasionally use words that are considered bad language and are therefore inappropriate to use when they are angry, disappointed, and frustrated. Whereas, to avoid embarrassment, anxiety, and guilt caused by bad language, people must use a language variation for example a polite language or can be called as euphemisms to make the conversation more comfortable.

3. Euphemisms

The term euphemism is derived from the Greek word *euphemismos* which means *eu* as 'good' and *pheme* as 'speech' (Allan and Burridge, 29). They also add the use of euphemism is to prevent the speaker, the listeners, or the people who heard their speech from losing face. Cruse defines euphemism as an expression referring to people's hesitation to say a sentence to avoid offending the hearer (57). Euphemism can be used to replace taboo words or offensive words, as explained by Fromkin and Rodman (473). The example of taboo is the word *died*. Instead of saying *died* directly, that sounds taboo, replacing them with *passed away* would be more polite. Same as the word *sex*, it is better to use '*make love*' as an alternative word for it. As a result, euphemism contributes to the overall politeness of

language communication. The changes between a bad word into a polite word make communication even better. Euphemism appears to fix the misunderstanding among people. Euphemism divides into several types and functions according to Burridge (2012), and all of them will be explain in the next section.

4. Types of Euphemism

The types of euphemism used in this research based on Burridges's idea (72-75). She divides the types of euphemism into three; analogy, distortion, and borrowing.

a. Analogy

According to Burridge (73), an analogy is a meaning transform from one context to another. She also divides analogy into three parts, such as metaphor, underestimate, and hyperbole (73-75). *Metaphor* is an implied expression with a non-literal meaning, but it is illustrated by comparing or equating an object to another (73). *Underestimate* is a part of litotes, which is a style of expressing words in a humble and polite manner; in fact, this style is an expression achieved to deny its fact (74). *Hyperbole* is an exaggerated expression used when the speaker goes above and beyond the mark. The mark itself can be described as an unrelated word uttered by the speaker that has over-meaning from the previous word (75).

b. Distortion

A distortion according to Burridge (75) is, a common euphemism technique used to conceal taboo subjects and modify offensive expressions in a various of ways. She divides distortion into ten, such as shortening, acronyms, ellipsis, circumlocution, phonological remodeling, affixation, blending, reduplication, alliteration, and slangs (75-77). *Shortening* is just like cutting the word into the short part of it (75). *Acronym* usually only took the first letter of the awful word and deleted the other words. It can be combined into a new word or standing as random letters refer to the bad word itself. The function of acronyms is to make the awful word not sound offended and sometimes to make it sound funny (75). *Ellipsis* is a term that is understood without even saying a word (76). *Circumlocution* is an excessive number of words to convey an idea rather than a shorter word (76). *Phonological remodeling* refers to the alteration of the pronouncing words. It is like when someone wants to say a word that makes them awkward or inappropriate, they will misspell the pronunciation of that word (77). *Affixation* is the term for adding a prefix, suffix, or infix to a word (77). *Blending* is when there are two different words that combine into one word and combine the meaning of those two words or produce a new meaning (77). *Reduplication* is the repetition of syllables or letters in a row (77). *Alliteration* is the repetition of sound or letter in a phrase. Similar to reduplication, alliteration is also a repetition sound or letter but it more often appears at the beginning of words (77). *Rhyming* is the changes of morpho-phonological words. The construction of rhyming is also by replacing common words with phrases of two or more words (77).

c. Borrowing

Euphemisms can be created in a variety of ways by substituting other terms (Burridge 77), and borrowing is one of the terms used to describe euphemisms. Borrowing can be classified into two types; internal borrowing and external borrowing. *Internal Borrowing* is a term that refers to sub-varieties of language, such as jargon and slang (77). *External Borrowing* is a term that refers to the act of borrowing words or morphemes from another language into one's own language to make it less negative (78).

5. Function of Euphemism

In order to create communication by using euphemism, people need to know what specific functions of euphemism they used. Without any specific reasons, the listener can fail to catch up the meaning of the euphemism's word. There are six types of euphemism's function described by Burridge, such as protective, underhand, uplifting, provocative, cohesive, and ludic (67).

a. The Protective Euphemism as a Shield and Avoid Forbidden

Euphemisms are classified as evasive language and expression. The speaker should be aware of how to speak about their utterance in various contexts in order to avoid offense, anxiety, embarrassment, or shame. This function establishes euphemism as verbal escape routes developed in response to taboo situations. This includes the unusual topics such as private parts, sex, anger, dishonesty, bodily functions, motion sickness, illness, death, dangerous animals, madness, fear, and God (67).

b. The Underhand Euphemism to Mystify and to Misrepresent

This euphemism's function is used to disguise and to deceive a topic that has a secrecy rather than to conceal it. Underhand euphemism is the term that the speaker used when it related to the knowledge of the speaker, the listener, or the third-party listener (68).

c. The Uplifting Euphemism to Talk and to Inflate

Uplifting Euphemism is related to jargon, the language peculiar to a trade, profession or some other group. It is also related to someone's dignity in saying something to make it sound more impressive rather than saying the literal words (69).

d. The Provocative Euphemism to Reveal and to Inspire

Provocative euphemisms entail a greater degree of complexity than direct and shield face politeness. Whereas, more general euphemisms that serve as a face-saving device are frequently more than just a way to conceal resentment. It is to express and inspire through their provocative nature (70).

e. The Cohesive Euphemism to Show Solidarity and to Help Define the Gang

Euphemism can function as an in-group trademark. Numerous examples of euphemistic nomenclature discussed in the preceding sections are used among individuals who share a common profession or recreational interest. Cohesive

euphemism serves an additional purpose of reaffirming and displaying group identity, especially when directed to strangers (70-71).

f. The Ludic Euphemism to Have Fun and to Entertain

Ludic euphemisms are an integral part of daily verbal play. Speakers' manipulation of language is remarkably inventive – they transform everyday sounds and letters, words and phrases into extraordinary expressions (71).

6. Film

As known, literary works consist of different genres. There are short story, novel, drama, and poetry. All of them are written texts, and it is clear that letters are utilized in literature. Despite the fact that drama is more closer to the performance action, but in every drama uses a script. According to Kooperman (v), a script is focusing on story, dialogue, formatting, chapters, plot, theme, momentum, and document itself. The explanation of the script shows that the script is similar to novel which has story, dialogue, chapters, and others. This makes a script is one of literary works.

As with drama, a film also uses script. According to Hornby (950), a film is a series of moving pictures with sounds that tell a story. It includes individual motion films, the cinematic medium as an art form, and the motion picture business. Film is showing humans feeling with action and utterances, and to affect the viewers. That is why a film is good to see the real emotions implied in the literary work because people not only can see the written explanation of a character's emotion, but they can see the action toward actresses and actors.

To conclude, a film is one of literary works that consist of moving pictures with sound and able to affect viewers emotions towards actresses and actors action and their utterances. The utterances of actresses and actors must consist of euphemism to make the dialogue even better because euphemism can make unspoken words into spoken words. That is why, the researcher decides to use a script from the *Little Women (2019)* film as the source of data.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

This research mostly used a literature review which was included as qualitative research. Creswell (32) asserted that qualitative research is a technique used to initiate the process of conducting literature research. This method demonstrates the expansion of meaning in society and the resolving of human problems. The researcher also summarized the way qualitative research worked where concentrating on description and interpretation may result in the creation of new concepts or theories. As previously stated, qualitative research is a method when the researcher analyzes the data to find a description of theories and this research used a qualitative method on finding euphemisms in the *Little Women (2019)* film focused on March Sisters utterances.

2. Data and Source of Data

The primary data of this research is a film entitled *Little Women* released in 2019 by Sony Pictures Releasing. The secondary data of this research is a script from *Little Women (2019)* film written by Greta Gerwig, utterances, actions, and expressions which focuses on March Sisters utterances which contain euphemisms.

3. Research Instrument

As stated by Bogdan and Biklen (4), the researcher is the primary instrument in conducting qualitative research. This statement makes the researcher of this research the center point of the research process.

4. Data Collection

The researcher employs the following procedures to collect the data. First, the researcher watched *Little Women (2019)* film as the main source of data. Second, the researcher searched for a script of the film and print them out. Third, the researcher underlines March Sisters' utterances that contain euphemisms and took a note of it. And then the last step is, the researcher categorized the data for types and the function of euphemism to complete the analysis.

5. Data Analysis

Following the data collection, the researcher analyzes the qualitative data using Miles and Huberman (10) procedures, there are three of them: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

a. Data Reduction

According to Miles and Huberman (10), data reduction is the process of identifying, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming data contained in written field notes or transcriptions. In this step, the researcher reduces the data, which is the script, from all utterances by all characters to only March Sisters utterances.

b. Data Display

According to Miles and Huberman (11), data display is the presentation of information in an organized, compressed format that enables conclusion drawing and action. In this step, the researcher took a note of reduced data and underlined the data which contain euphemisms focused on Burrige's theory.

c. Conclusion Drawing

The last step of data analysis is conclusion drawing. According to Miles and Huberman (11), conclusion drawing is the process of arriving at conclusion following data analysis. In this step, the researcher concludes the research by addressing the research question using a theory by Burrige (2012).

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher provides an answer to the research questions, 'What are the types of euphemisms uttered by March Sisters in *Little Women (2019)*

film?’ and ‘What are the functions of euphemism uttered by March Sisters in *Little Women* (2019) film?’. The researcher found several types of euphemism categorized by Burrige (73-75), but not all of those types exist. However, all the functions of euphemism categorized by Burrige (67) do exist. The researcher also explains the types and functions at once to make the readers easier understanding the analysis.

1. An Analysis of Types and Functions of Euphemism

In this analysis, the researcher found several types of euphemism categorized by Burrige, but not all of those types exist, however, all the functions of euphemism categorized by Burrige do exist. The researcher also explained the types and functions at once to make it easier for the readers. These are the analysis and explanations of the findings.

a. Analogy

An analogy is a meaning transformed from one context to another (Burrige 73). Burrige (73-75) divides analogy into three parts such as metaphor, underestimate, and hyperbole. These three parts of analogy have been found in the film and the analysis will be shown in the section bellow:

(1) Metaphor as a Protective Euphemism

According to Burrige, a metaphor is an implied expression with a non-literal meaning, but it is illustrated by comparing or equating an object to another (73). Meanwhile, protective is a verbal escape routes developed in response to taboo situations (67).

Data (26) This dialogue took place when Beth came to Mr. Laurence house to say thank you. He gave her a piano which was her dream. Before going to his house, she went to the Hummel’s house, Beth’s poor neighbor, to give them some foods and blankets. Their children are sick, and her coming was actually a mistake.

While he’s hugging her, he notices that she’s hot and flushed

Mr. Laurence : My child, you’re burning.

BETH : **The Hummel’s are very sick.**

01:19:23 – 01:19:25

This sentence is a metaphor of euphemism because Beth tried to soften her words by not directly mentioning the reason why she had a fever. She prefers to use a non-literal meaning so that her words do not sound accusatory and evil.

The euphemism used by Beth had a functions as a protective euphemism, as a shield and to avoid forbidden. Beth uses a protective euphemism to disguise her sentence not to sound accusing The Hummels of being the cause of her illness and to protect herself from sounding evil. This

euphemism is also useful for The Hummels so they do not feel sad because they were the cause of Beth's illness.

(2) Underestimate as an Underhand Euphemism

Underestimate is a part of litotes, which is a style of expressing words in a humble and polite manner; in fact, this style is an expression achieved to deny its fact (74). While an underhand euphemism is used to disguise and to deceive a topic that has a secrecy rather than to conceal it, it also related to the knowledge of the speaker, the listener, or the third-party listener (68).

Data (15) Amy went to Europe right after Meg's wedding. She stayed there for years. At first, she was very optimistic that she could become successful in Europe, but in the end, she felt like a failure comparing to Jo and wanted to stop training her talent.

Amy : (*Grim*) I'm a failure. Jo is in New York, being a writer, and I am a failure.

Laurie : That's quite a statement to make at twenty.

Amy : **Rome took all the vanity** out of me. And Paris made me realize I'd never be a genius. I'm giving up all my foolish artistic hopes.

01:03:47 – 01:03:54

That sentence refers to a refined form of Amy's words who tried not to sound so arrogant when Laurie compliments her that she looks wise and mature. Instead of saying "*I'm not arrogant anymore*" which refers to her bad character when she was young, Amy prefers to say the euphemism. This euphemism can also be categorized as an underestimated euphemism because Amy deliberately polite her words in front of Laurie.

In this case Amy uses euphemism as an underhand to disguise her arrogance by saying "**Rome took all the vanity.**" She disguised her real arrogance that was still inside of her. She did not want to look so happy after Laurie complimented her of being wise adult. Throughout her life, she was often called to as spoiled, shameless, and overly passionate in everything. She used to make her sisters embarrassed, she was also considered to be arrogant and conceited by her nature. Therefore, when someone says that now she is not as bad as before, she is quite happy, but she does not want to show her pleasure too much.

(3) Hyperbole as a Ludic and Uplifting Euphemism

Hyperbole is an exaggerated expression used when the speaker goes above and beyond the mark. The mark itself can be described as an unrelated word uttered by the speaker that has over-meaning from the

previous word (75). Whereas, Ludic euphemisms are an integral part of daily verbal play. Speakers' manipulation of language is remarkably inventive – they transform everyday sounds and letters, words and phrases into extraordinary expressions (71). Uplifting Euphemism is related to jargon, the language peculiar to a trade, profession or some other group. It is also related to someone's dignity in saying something to make it sound more impressive rather than saying the literal words (69).

Data (5) The dialogue is happened when Jo, Meg, and Laurie just got to March's house from a party. Meg accidentally sprained her leg at the party so she could not continue dancing, which is why Jo and Laurie carried Meg who could not walk back to the house.

The little girls, Amy and Beth come rushing down the stairs and attack the older girls

JO : Here, make room, /**Meg is a wounded soldier!**

Meg : /I sprained my ankle dancing!

00:16:47 – 00:16:51

The euphemism here is used by Jo to replace the sentence “*The careless Meg is sprained*”, she says this exaggeratedly or hyperbole. As it is well known, hyperbole is an act of exaggeration, and in this case hyperbole euphemism can be said to be an act of exaggeration of the original meaning and intended to soften the sentence.

Jo said this euphemism as a ludic euphemism because Jo said it with the intention of joking. She said the joke because she did not want everyone to worry about Meg's clumsiness. The use of euphemism here act as a tranquilizer by making it sound fun and entertain.

Data (10) The March sisters were gathered wearing a neat costumes. They are going to perform a theatrical performance on the attic of the house. Meg plays a role as an actress and an MC, and she opens the show.

Meg, Beth, Jo and Amy are all dressed as men, with hats and spectacles and pipes – Meg reading from the homemade newspaper in her lovely sonorous voice.

MEG (*finishing*) : A NEW PLAY, written by Miss Jo March, will appear at the **Barnville Theatre**, in the course of the next few weeks, which will surpass anything ever seen before on the American stage.

00:41:03 – 00:41:16

Meg said that their show would be held at the “**Barnville Theatre**,” a big stage, when in fact they were only doing it on the attic. This is a euphemism because Meg tries to avoid the fact that they are just home theater actresses who can only perform on their attic. This euphemism is also categorized as hyperbole euphemism because Meg makes it up by exaggerating the original sentence.

In this case, Meg uses uplifting euphemism because she is trying to make the reality or situation more impressive. The March sisters were gathering at the attic of the house to carry out a theatrical performance. Their poor condition only allowed them to perform on the attic, which was quite sad actually, but Meg tried to cover it all up by saying that they were going to perform at the Barnville Theatre. By saying this, Meg succeeded in making the situation more impressive and the listeners became even more excited because her words built an indirect pride, even though it was all just a fantasy.

b. Distortion

A distortion according to Burridge (75) is, a common euphemism technique used to conceal taboo subjects and modify offensive expressions in a various of ways. She divides distortion into ten, such as shortening, acronyms, ellipsis, circumlocution, phonological remodeling, affixation, blending, reduplication, alliteration, and slangs (75-77), but only ellipsis, circumlocution, affixation, and rhyming were found in the film.

(1) Ellipsis as a Protective Euphemism

Ellipsis is a term that is understood without even saying a word (76), while protective is a verbal escape routes developed in response to taboo situations (67).

Data (31) It was Meg's wedding day. Everyone is happy especially Meg who is now with Jo in the bedroom. Meg could not stop smiling because the day she had been waiting for had finally arrived, she finally married John Brooke, the person she loved.

Inside, Meg prepares for her wedding with Jo helping her, placing flowers in her sister's hair.

Meg : I can't believe today is my wedding day!
Jo : (sadly) **Ehem.**

01:31:29 – 01:31:30

The word in bold is a mumble that can be called an ellipsis The meaning of Jo's muttering was “*yes I also do not believe that today is your wedding*”. The sentence refers to an answer to Meg's previous statement, but

the difference is Jo says it sadly. This was because Jo did not want her sister to marry. She did not want Meg to go and ruin all her beautiful plans with Meg, Amy, and Beth. Jo wants them to be together forever. She is mumbling to cover up her sadness and preferred to mutter as a response to Meg's statement. Even though the meaning of those mutters had the same meaning as what Meg had said, what Jo felt was clearly different from Meg's.

This euphemism is included in protective euphemism because Jo tries to cover up her sadness and avoid situations where if she says that she does not agree with the marriage, it will make Meg sad and ruin her happy day.

(2) Circumlocution as a Protective Euphemism

Circumlocution is an excessive number of words to convey an idea rather than a shorter word (76). Meanwhile, protective is a verbal escape routes developed in response to taboo situations (67).

Data (19) The conversation above happened when Laurie came to apologize to Amy because last night he ruined the party. They talked about many things, and Amy decided to stop developing her painting talent. She desperates because she did not improve at all after years of studying art in Europe. Amy blames herself for being a woman, which she perceives as useless.

Laurie : And who always declares genius?

Amy : Well, men, I suppose.

Laurie : They're cutting down the competition.

AMY : **That's a very complicated argument to make me feel better**

01:04:30 – 01:04:33

When Amy said the words in bold, it was a form of euphemism that meant Amy was not amused by Laurie's words at all. Instead of saying "*I'm not entertained*" or "*you do not entertain me*", which seemed so mean to Laurie, Amy chose to say that euphemism, which is categorized as circumlocution. It is a circumlocution euphemism because Amy explains sentences that she can actually say in shorter sentences, in other words, she was extending her sentences. This was done by Amy to make her not look arrogant and mean in front of Laurie, who had tried to cheer her up.

In this case, Amy used a protective euphemism because she did not want Laurie to be offended, sad, or even embarrassed if she said that Laurie's statement did not cheer her up at all.

(3) Affixation as a Cohesive Euphemism

Affixation is the term for adding a prefix, suffix, or infix to a word (77), while Numerous examples of euphemistic nomenclature discussed in the preceding sections are used among individuals who share a common profession or recreational interest. Cohesive euphemism serves an additional purpose of reaffirming and displaying group identity, especially when directed to strangers (70-71).

Data (8) It is Christmas Day, and a warm atmosphere is going on in the March family house. Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth were already in the house. They can not buy or enjoy the delicious dishes that are usually served at Christmas, but luckily they still have each other. Many sentences of hope came from their mouths, and when Meg said something that sounded like their mother, Jo threw the pillow into Meg's face.

Jo throws a pillow at Meg, it hits her squarely in the face.

Amy : Don't Jo; it's so **boyish**.

00:26:51 – 00:26:54

The sentences in bold contain euphemisms. When Amy says “**boyish**”, she uses euphemisms to soften her sentences that refer to Jo's “*rude*”, “*naughty*”, or “*mean*” actions. The euphemism that Amy said is also included in the affixation euphemism type because she adds an affix sentence to the word “boy”. The adjective “boyish” is formed by adding the suffix “-ish” to the noun “boy,” and the meaning of this sentence is an attitude or action similar to a boy.

Amy is a person who always tries to look elegant, gentle, polite, and all the other things that are described as a good woman. Therefore, Amy considers that behavior other than being elegant, gentle, and polite is an attitude aimed at boys. That is why Amy thought that Jo's action of throwing Meg with a pillow was very impolite, rude, and exactly like a boy, which makes this euphemism categorized as a cohesive euphemism.

(4) Rhyming as an Underhand Euphemism

Rhyming is the changes of morpho-phonological words. The construction of rhyming is also by replacing common words with phrases of two or more words (77). Whereas, an underhand euphemism is used to disguise and to deceive a topic that has a secrecy rather than to conceal it, it also related to the knowledge of the speaker, the listener, or the third-party listener (68).

Data (9) That morning, Jo gave the script to Amy and told her to prepare a costume. She gave an important message to Amy

to practice more acting in fainting because she was very stiff in that, which is why the utterances above happened.

Amy : (*almost yelling*) /I can't help it! I never saw anyone faint and I don't choose to make myself all **black and blue**. If I can go down easily, I'll drop. If I can't, I shall fall into a chair and be graceful; I don't care if Hugo does come at me with a pistol.

00:27:46 – 00:27:58

When Amy says the word in bold, the sentence refers to the word “injured”, which Amy tried to smooth over because she did not want to sound so rude when she said that sentence. As for the type, it is included in the rhyming euphemism. Amy changed the common word from “injured” to “black and blue” to make it sound more friendly by using two similar syllables at the beginning of the words.

The utterances above is also categorized as an underhand euphemism because it serves to disguise taboo sentences such as illness, injury, and wounds for the listener or the speaker indirectly. Amy said the euphemism because she tried to disguise the sentence “injured” which for her is quite taboo even though it has the same meaning. She thinks that if she says a literal word or even gets injured, she will no longer be able to look elegant as a woman.

c. Borrowing

Euphemisms can be created in a variety of ways by substituting other terms (Burrige 77), and borrowing is one of the terms used to describe euphemisms. Borrowing can be classified into two types; internal borrowing and external borrowing, but in this research, only external borrowing were found.

(1) External Borrowing as a Provocative Euphemism

External Borrowing is a term that refers to the act of borrowing words or morphemes from another language into one's own language to make it less negative (78). Meanwhile, a provocative euphemism is to express and inspire through their provocative nature (70).

Data (7) When Christmas morning arrives, the March sisters gather in the living room to chat warmly. Beth, as a person who is always grateful, kind, and never demands anything, says that at least even though they are poor, they still have a father, mother and each other. She said that because her sisters were complaining about having no gifts for Christmas and their economic condition.. And the utterance below is the response toward Beth's word.

JO : What about your music, **Queen Bess**?

00:26:35 – 00:26:37

In that sentence, Jo uses the term “**Queen Bess**” which refers to a soft call to Beth. That sentence is a euphemism because Jo no longer calls her sister by name but instead uses a term borrowed from another country, namely “Bess”. “Bess” is a term from the English opera language refer to the musical note “B-flat” which is often denoted “Bb” or “Bess”. So, this euphemism is included in the type of external borrowing because Jo borrows the term from another country's language. Jo uses this term to say that Beth is someone who is good at playing the piano.

This euphemism also functions as a provocative euphemism because Jo tries to provoke Beth. Jo uses provocative euphemism to inspire Beth to chase her talent in playing the piano deeper so she can become “Queen Bess”.

E. CONCLUSION

There are two research problems in this research: the types of euphemism and the functions of euphemism uttered by March Sisters in *Little Women (2019)* film. These problems were analyzed based on Burrige's theory about types and functions of euphemism.

From this research, the researcher found that, in *Little Women (2019)* film, the four characters; Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth used thirty six euphemisms including eight different types of euphemism out of fifteen; metaphor, underestimate, hyperbole, ellipsis, circumlocution, affixation, rhyming, and external borrowing. For the function, March Sister used all six functions of euphemisms; protective, underhand, uplifting, provocative, cohesive, and ludic.

Jo used metaphors the most among the four others because she often uses non-literal sentences when speaking, it related to Jo personality which is easier to empathize with other people so she uses euphemisms mostly to protect the feelings of the listeners. Meanwhile, Amy is the user of the most underestimate euphemisms to avoid some existing facts. Amy is the spoiled one and always wants to look good in others perspective, so, in the film, she used euphemism the most to protect her self-esteem. For Beth, she mostly used metaphor euphemism and once used a hyperbole euphemism, but for the function, she used a protective euphemisms to protect the listener's feelings because all the meanings of the euphemisms that she used means death. Beth is a girl who has scarlet fever and dies at the end of the film. She does not want people to get sad just because of her sickness, that is why the usage of euphemism by Beth is to protect the listener's feelings. As for Meg, she is the least euphemism user among the four. She only uses hyperbole euphemism twice and circumlocution euphemism once but all of those euphemism is to protect her self-esteem because her ego can be easily provoked.

It can be concluded that the euphemisms are used in the film more as a refinement of words to protect the feelings of the listener or speaker. Jo and Beth more often use euphemisms to keep the listener's feelings from feeling angry, annoyed, offended, and sad. As for Meg and Amy, they often use euphemisms to protect themselves from embarrassment and maintain their respective self-esteem.

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