

# ANALYSIS OF SEMANTIC RELATION OF FEMINISM EXPRESSION IN FOUR FEMINIST PROPONENTS' SPEECHES

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**ABSTRACT:** This thesis is a research on semantic relation of feminism in some speeches. The aim of this research is to find out the semantic relation of feminism expression in the speeches. The analysis is based on the theory of semantic and semantic relation of George Yule (2007). This study uses descriptive qualitative approach, focusing on the idea of feminism. The study intends to analyse types of semantic relation which appear in the speeches. This thesis uses the speeches from Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as the data. The amount of this data is 43 feminism expressions, which is divided into two parts hyponymy and antonymy. The hyponymy part consists of 17 data. The antonymy part consists of 26 data. As a result, this study found out that the speeches are having a semantic relation to feminism expression.

*Keywords: Semantic fields, Hyponym, Synonym, Antonym, Feminism*

**ABSTRAK:** Penelitian ini adalah sebuah penelitian relasi semantik dari feminisme di dalam beberapa pidato. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan relasi semantik dari ekspresi feminisme di dalam pidato-pidato yang digunakan. Analisa penelitian ini berdasarkan teori semantik yang diperkenalkan oleh George Yule (2007). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, yang fokus pada feminisme. Penelitian ini fokus untuk meneliti relasi semantik yang muncul di dalam teks pidato. Penelitian ini menggunakan pidato-pidato dari Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, dan Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie sebagai data. Total data dari penelitian ini adalah 43 ekspresi feminisme, yang dibagi menjadi 2 bagian, hiponim dan antonim. Bagian hiponim terdiri dari 17 data. Bagian antonim terdiri dari 26 data. Hasil dari penelitian ini, penulis menemukan bahwa pada teks-teks pidato yang digunakan mempunyai relasi semantik terhadap ekspresi feminisme.

**Kata Kunci:** Semantik, Hiponim, Antonim, Feminisme

## 1.1 Introduction

### Background

Semantics is a study of meaning in language. According to George Yule (2010: 112), semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. It focuses on what the words conventionally means, rather than on what

an individual speaker might want them to mean on a particular occasion. This means that semantics is more focused on the objective meaning, not subjective meaning. It is interesting to know how people use any synonym, hyponym, and antonym to make people understand what they say. Since the transcript is a text, it is possible

to use lexical field analysis to analyse the data.

In this thesis the writer wants to adopt the semantics fields approach to analyse the language aspect of feminism speech. Specifically, this thesis focuses on the sentences and passages expressing the concept of feminism. Feminism is taken as the keywords because it is theme of the speeches that the writer takes.

According to English dictionary (online dictionary), feminism means “A social theory or political movement which argues that legal and social restrictions on women must be removed in order to bring about equality of both sexes in all aspects of public and private life.” Feminism in parts of the western world has gone through three waves. First, was oriented around the station of middle- or upper-class white women involved suffrage and political equality. Second, attempt to further combat social and cultural inequalities, not only the white women, the second wave brought in women of colour and women from other developing nations that were seeking for solidarity. The last is continuing to address the financial, social, and cultural inequalities, includes renewed campaigning for greater influence of women in politics and media.

The topic of semantic fields has been discussed by several students of English department. The writer found three works that discussed about semantic fields. First, the work from Andy Pradipta entitled *A Semantic Field Analysis of Adjectives and Nouns of Luxury Used in Automotive Product Advertisement* (2016). This work uses an advertisement from automotive product. It scopes the adjective and nouns of luxury to be analysed. Second, the work

from Fauzan Dzulfikar Rahman entitled *A Semantic Fields analysis of “Verbs of Survival” Found in Suzanne Collins’s The Hunger Game* (2014). This work uses a novel as the object of the study. The scope of this study is only the verbs that are related to survival. Last, the work from Vinessa Ravinda entitled *A Semantic Field Analysis of “Adjectives of Health” Used in Cosmetic Product Advertisement* (2014). This work uses the cosmetic advertisement product as the object of the study. The scope of the study is only adjectives that are related with health terms.

Based on the description above, the differences of the previous study with this study is the object of the study. This study takes speeches as the object, and feminism words as the topic to be researched.

The aim of this study is to find out what are the expression of feminism that appear in the speech and what are the aspects of feminism movement itself. By finding out that, the writer hopes that this study can be the reference for analysing speech.

### **Statement of Problem**

1. What types of semantic relation related to feminism movement are found in the four speeches by Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie?

### **Objective of the Study**

The objective of this study is to find out the types of semantic relation of feminism expression in the four speeches by Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie.

### **Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that this thesis can be used for whoever that is interested in the study of linguistics especially in analysing semantic field of words that are related to feminism movement. Also, the types that are related to the feminism movement's concepts.

### **Scope and Limitation**

This research will be done in the scope of semantic relation since the writer deals with text analysis. The limitation of this study is only the hyponymy and antonymy of expressions related to feminism movement. The writer concentrates the research on the sentences that are related to feminism movement only. For the research, the writer uses 4 speeches which were spoken by Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as the source of data.

## **1.2 Research Method**

### **Research Design**

The writer uses descriptive qualitative approach. According to Blaxter, et al (2006), qualitative research is a research method by collecting data from many sources in many forms, mostly non-numeric form. It tends to focus on exploring as much as possible the smallest numbers of examples which are seen as being interesting, and aims to achieve 'depth' than 'breadth' (Blaxter, Hughes, and Tight, 2006:63). To analyse this topic, the writer applies a qualitative research particularly descriptive qualitative to interpret the collected data that are taken from the speech that are spoken by Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama,

and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The data will be classified, arranged, and then interpreted.

### **Data Source**

The source of the data is speeches from Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Specifically, the data will be sentences that are associated with feminism movement.

### **Instrument**

The instrument of this study is the writer herself. Since the research design belongs to qualitative research that emphasizes to observe the transcription of the speeches by lexical relation. The writer as observer who has great sensitivity and personal skills that is necessary for analysing the data.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

The data collection of this study is obtained by the usage of appropriate research instrument that is documentary technique. The data of this study is words that associated to feminism movement. The writer reads, randomly selects, and numbering the data. The data coding is based on the speakers' last name and the number of subchapter in chapter 4. So the data codes are will be W1, C1, O1, and A1 for hyponym and W2, C2, O2, and A2 for antonym

### **Data Analysis Procedure**

The writer uses some steps to analyse the word of feminism found in the speeches. First, the writer interprets the meaning of the data. Then, the writer classified the data to hyponym or antonym. Last, the

writer looks for the fact in the sociological gender book.

### 1.3 Result and Discussion

The writer only takes Liberal feminism as the main topic. The definition of this feminism emphasises equal individual rights and liberties for women and men and downplaying sexual differences. They emphasize the similarities between men and women rather than the average differences between them, attribute most of the personality and character differences between the sexes to the social construction of gender, and tend to promote a single set of androgynous virtues for both women and men.

This chapter discusses the analysis of the data found by the writer. It is divided into three sub-chapters, hyponymy, synonymy, and antonymy. The writer found 17 data of hyponymy, and 26 data of antonymy.

#### Hyponymy

There are 17 data on hyponymy to the feminism concept.

##### 1. Data W11

*We want to end gender inequality-- and to do that we need everyone to be involved.*

The data says that the speaker, including other people by using “we”, wants gender inequality to end. In the following paragraph, the speaker said that “we want to try and galvanize as many men and boys as possible to be advocates for the changes.” By saying that, the speaker of the data want to end this inequality gender and gather everyone without exception. The speaker also tells

the truth of gender inequality by her experience in life. For example, she said that when she is at 15 year old, her girlfriends started dropping out of their sport team because they did not want to appear “muscly” (data 1: line 16-17). It seems like the speaker’s girlfriends do not want to look like a boys because, girls are no allowed to look like a boy. So that shows that there is still a gender inequality without we are realizing. So, this data as a whole utterance is showing that end inequality gender with everyone involving in this action is hyponymy with the concept of feminism.

##### 2. Data W12

*My school did not limit me because I was a girl.*

The data says that the speaker’s school did not limit her because she was a girl. The speaker may be lucky about the school that did not limit her, in the other areas of the world, still many schools limit their students, because they were girls. In Southern Africa, the length of time of formal and non-formal education shows a great different between boys and girls. While in Central and Western Africa, the amount of girls who attend primary school is only 51% compare to 59% boys attend primary school. This number is being dropped at the secondary school. Only one of five girls who are coming compared to one of four boys (Holmes, 2007: 7). It is clear that this data as a whole utterance is a hyponym of feminism.

### 3. Data W13

*Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive.*

The data says that both women and men should feel free to be sensitive. In this case, sensitive means aware of and able to understand other people and their feelings (Oxford Dictionary 8th Edition). It means that both men and women should feel free to be aware of other people feelings, because feeling sensitive does not show that you are weak. It shows that you have respect to each other. The speaker says that it is time that people all perceive gender on a spectrum not as two opposing sets of ideals. If men do not have to be aggressive to be accepted, women will not feel compelled to be submissive. So it is clear that this data is a hyponym of feminism.

### 4. Data W14

*It's about freedom.*

Freedom means the right to do or say what you want without anyone stopping you (Oxford Dictionary 8th Edition). The speaker said that, if we stop defining each other by what we are not and start defining ourselves by who we are, we can make a better condition for everyone's living. So everybody can be free from prejudice. It is not a freedom if there are still many people make stereotypes about women. Such as, women are not allowed to join in political because they are not too intelligent in giving some political views. Actually, there are many women politicians in the world, but many people still do not believe in women's ability as a politicians. Both men and women have permission to be

more vulnerable and reclaim those parts of themselves they abandoned and complete themselves. So it is very obvious that this data is a hyponym of feminism.

### 5. Data W15

*I am from Britain and think it is right that as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts.*

This sentence means that women have to be paid as their male counterparts, because according to the feminism definition that men and women are should be equal. Women should be involved on behalf in the policies and decision-making of country. Women also should be afforded the same respect as men. Young women who are social science and humanities students may see themselves as having the same opportunities as men. This may be because so farther experiences of public world have been largely within the areas of education sector where equality is well advanced. They expect to have autonomy, especially financially, and not to be controlled by fathers or husband (Holmes, 2007: 15). But, there still only few person do that things to women. This sentence is the example for equality in the economics aspects. So, this utterance and feminism is hyponym.

### 6. Data C11

*We share a common future, and we are here to find common ground so that we may help bring new dignity and respect to women and girls all over the world, and in so doing bring new strength and stability to families as well.*

In the speech, the speaker wants to bring new dignity and respect towards women and girls around the world, and also the stability for their families. The speakers said that she had met with many women in the world who helped their own family and nations. The act that can help to bring new dignity and respect to women and girls can be described by coming together regularly in the village to discuss nutrition, family planning, and baby care, talking about the comfort of their children felt to be cared for in safe and nurturing after their school centres, working to promote literacy and better health for children, and many more. It shows that women can bring a new dignity by doing something. Women do such things because it can open world's eyes that women can also bring children to a better future. Also it can make women expect to be paid the same as men for the same work. It shows that this data is a hyponym of feminism.

#### 7. Data C12

*There the discussion will focus on local -- and highly successful -- programs that give hard-working women access to credit so they can improve their own lives and the lives of their family.*

This data means that, if women are free from violence and prejudice, they will have a chance to work and earn as full and equal as partners in society. They can expect to be paid the same as men in the same work. Women who do engineering may not initially notice any difference between themselves. But, they discover that their male counterparts will be easier to find a

job. In most of South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa, women's economic participation rate is only around 30% compared to around 45% in high income countries (Holmes, 2007: 8). This means, that women are less paid than men. Meanwhile, they also have a family or they themselves which should be afforded to be living. So it is clear that this utterance is a hyponym of feminism.

#### 8. Data C13

*Those of us who have the opportunity to be here have the responsibility to speak for those who could not.*

The meaning of this utterance is, the speaker wants to invite the audience to speak up about the feminism issues. There are still many women which choose to be silent when they got sexually abused. The speaker's job is to invite the audience who come to the conference to speak up for women's liberty. They will speak up for women who are fighting for their children to get a better life; for women who work all night so that they can see their children during the day; for widows, and all women who are not valued in the society; for women who can't afford health care or child care. So they can get a better future life. It is very clear that this utterance is a hyponym of feminism.

#### 9. Data C14

*Every woman deserves the chance to realize her own God-given potential.*

This utterance means that every woman deserves to strengthen families and

societies by empowering them to take a greater control over their own destinies. In this case, women will never gain dignity until their human rights are respected and protected. So that, if there are still women who are forbidden to go to school, silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrested, abused, or tortured, it means that their chance to deserve their God-given potential does not really appear. It is clear that this utterance is a hyponym of feminism.

#### 10. Data C15

*Women must enjoy the rights to participate fully in the social and political lives of their countries, if we want freedom and democracy to thrive and endure.*

This utterance shows that women have to enjoy in joining of social and political lives of their country. Not only men that are allowed to join the social and political in the country, but also women, because women also have a great idea to make a better world for people. Freedom and democracy are things that women should fight for. They should fight for their freedom since the definition of feminism is nearly the same with that. It is very obvious that this utterance is the hyponym of feminism.

#### **Antonymy**

There are 26 data that are antonyms of feminism.

#### 1. Data W21

*I started questioning gender-based assumptions a long time ago, when at eight*

*I was confused at being called "bossy," because I wanted to direct the plays we would put on for our parents—but the boys were not.*

This passage is really the opposite of the feminism. Feminism should be equal between men and women. But this passage shows when the speaker got an experience being treated unfairly by her friends. When she wanted to direct the play, she was called “bossy” which is tend to negative meaning, because bossy means always telling people what to do (Oxford Dictionary 8th Edition). It means women are not allowed telling others what to do. While, her boy friends are not, because their friends think that it is normal for boys to direct the play. Men are portrayed as active protectors, while women passively shelter in their arms (Holmes, 2007: 53). So it is very clear that this passage is an antonym of feminism.

#### 2. Data W22

*Apparently I am among the ranks of women whose expression are seen as too strong, too aggressive, isolating, anti-men and, unattractive.*

This utterance shows that women who are feminist, their expression will be seen as too strong, too aggressive, isolating, anti-men, and unattractive. According to Oxford Dictionary 8th edition, strong has several meaning. One of definition that related to feminism is very powerful and difficult for people to fight against or defeat. While, aggressive meaning that related to feminism is acting with force and determination in order to succeed. Isolating

means that far away from any others. Those words mean that feminist's expressions are seen as unusual things in social life. When women do such things by herself, people will make such perspectives that women are not accepted to act like that. Women should feel free to express their feeling because they are human too, but society thinks that women should keep silent for that inequality acts. People will think that they are anti-men and unattractive. While, the actual things that feminist do is against the idea that women are subordinate of men. So, this utterance is really the antonym of feminism.

### 3. Data C21

*The great challenge of this conference is to give voice to women experiences go unnoticed, whose words goes unheard.*

This data shows that women's voice is needs to be heard. So that feminism appears. One of purposes of feminism is to make women's voices about sexual assault towards them, or sexual abusing towards them. There are many women who are fighting for get a better life. They work hard to create a livelihood for themselves and their family. They work hard to get social notice that women also have a right to raise their voice. This expression shows inequality in social notices. So this passage is clearly the feminism's antonym.

### 4. Data C22

*They are being denied the right to go to school, by their own fathers and brothers.*

This passage shows that many girls are denied go to school by her own father and brother. Whereas, they are also have rights to go to school to get a lesson to teach their future children. Women as likely as men, they also need a good education to get a respect from other and to be equal with men. Girls are afforded the knowledge too. Formal education in many cultures has been available only to previllage few until relatively recently (Holmes, 2007: 44). Although, there are still many differences of similar level of education, like the curriculum choices have profound implication for the later career options of women. "Many higher status and better-paid jobs required scientific knowledge. The lack of women in highly regarded and powerful social roles also means many girls see those roles as being for men, and do not aspire to them" (Holmes, 2007: 45). So this passage is really the antonym of feminism.

### 5. Data C23

*But we must recognize that women will never gain dignity until their human rights are respected and protected.*

This utterance means that the dignity of women will never be gained if women's human rights are never be respected and protected. Some of women's rights that usually harmed are cannot go to school, low salary on the same job as men, cannot speak up about sexual abusing, inequality treats among social life, and there are still many women's rights that are harmed by whoever. Women should gain their dignity so that their human rights can be respected



and protected. So this passage is clearly an antonym of feminism.

#### 6. Data C24

*No one should be forced to remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse, or torture.*

This utterance shows that no one should remain silent for fear of religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse, or torture. They have to speak up. Both men and women are have a right to speak up about religious or political persecution, arrest, abuse, or tortured, because it is a human violation when women or men are should remain silent. So this data is clearly an antonym of feminism.

#### 7. Data C25

*Even now in the late 20th century the rape of women continues to be used as an instrument of armed conflict.*

This data shows that women are raped and used as an instrument of armed conflict. This act is including in a sexual abusing toward women shows how worthless women are in the social. A women often lives her body as a burden, which must be dragged and prodded along and at the same time protected (Holmes, 2007: 105). The utterance means that women bodies are should be carried, but it will make their steps slower even easily to be persuaded, but still, it has to be protected. So, by using women as an instrument of armed conflict country will show that women cannot protect themselves. So, it is clear that this data is an antonym of feminism.

#### 8. Data C26

*And when women are excluded from the political process, they become even more vulnerable to abuse.*

This utterance tells when women are excluded from the political process, they are become even vulnerable to abuse. The politics of gender has remained central in teasing out connections between the individual and social structure (Holmes, 2007: 175). Women and children make up a large majority of the world's refugees (data C: line 97). So that when women are excluded from political process, there will be no one to protect women's rights. The aim to this action is to protect and raise the voice of women. It is very obvious that this data is the antonym of feminism.

#### 9. Data C27

*It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls.*

This passage shows how a baby in which born as girls are experienced inequality of social cultures. They cannot get their rights as human. They are denied food, drowned, and suffocated because they are women. It is not rights when women should be alive, but they got a violation which can make they are dead. They need food and also shelter to keep them fell safe. Perhaps if women had been eating the same quantity and quality of food as men, sex differences in stature and strength would be non-existent. There are different kinds of

strength such as lifting heavy weights, or having stamina to keep going under trying physical condition like the endurance of pain (Holmes, 2007: 28). So this passage is really feminism's antonym.

#### 10. Data C28

*... when women and girls are sold into the slavery of prostitution for human greed -- and the kind of reasons that are used to justify this practice should no longer be tolerated.*

This passage tells how women got a bad treats from some greedy people. They sell women into the slavery of prostitution for human greediness. In the colonization era, it is usual to make women as a slave, although not all colonization involved slavery or other unfree labour. While the exploitation of slave and other bonded labour allowed raw materials to be profitably produced and extracted in much of new world (Holmes, 2007: 154). This act should be stopped to make women feel safe and protected nowadays. If women are not feel safe and protected, it is not feminism. So this passage is really the antonym of feminism.

#### 11. Data C29

*... when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will.*

This passage shows how women are denied the right to plan their own family. The decision is not only can be taken by men, but also women. They need to be

involved in the family's meetings because they need to know how they family goes. Being force to have abortion or being sterilized against their will is also harmed their rights. In order for women to be recognized they need to be seen as something more than mothers, more than a semiotic hum. They must be seen as 'a woman, a subject with a life, sex and desires of her own' (Holmes, 2007: 37). So this passage and feminism is clearly antonym.

#### 12. Data C210

*As long as discrimination and inequities remain so commonplace everywhere in the world, as long as girls and women are valued less, fed less, fed last, overworked, underpaid, not schooled, subjected to violence, in and outside their homes -- the potential of the human family to create a peaceful, prosperous world will not be realized.*

This passage shows us how women are treated in discrimination and inequities everywhere in the world. By treating women as equal as men, we can make a peaceful and prosperous world. Women and men regards each other, there will no women's right which will be harmed. Women can speak up their opinion without thinking the social perspective about them. A world which is fulfilled with peaceful is what everyone wants, but when women are treated as above, the equality and peaceful in world would just be a dream for everyone. That this data is the antonym of feminism is clear.

13. Data O21

*I told them that they should disregard anyone who demeans or devalues them, and that they should make their voices heard in the world.*

This passage shows that women should be brave to fight unfair things. Demeans mean to do something that makes people have less respect for you. While devalues means to give a lower value to something, making it seem less important than it really is (Oxford Dictionary 8th Edition). That is why women should disregard people who demeans and devalues them. By doing that, they can hope to get more attention from world. So, their voices can be heard. So this passage is obviously feminism's antonym.

14. Data O22

*The disrespect of our ambitions and intellect.*

This passage shows that there are still many people do disrespect to women's ambitions and intellect. Whereas, women also worth to be treated fairly. They have a right to get a respect of their ambition and intellect from anybody. They are worth to not get shameful comments about their bodies. Their ambitions and intellects are worth to be appreciated. So this passage is clearly feminism's antonym.

15. Data O23

*It reminds us of stories we heard from our mothers and grandmothers about how, back in their day, the boss could say and do whatever he pleased to the women in*

*the office, and even though they worked so hard, jumped over every hurdle to prove themselves, it was never enough.*

This passage remains women about how their sisters, mothers, and grandmothers experience a sexual harassment from their boss. How their sisters, mothers, and grandmothers work so hard and jumped over every hurdle to prove that they have intellectuality. Not only to please the boss by doing everything that the boss want, but also pleased their boss by doing a great job for the company, generally, not personally. So this passage is very obvious the antonym of feminism.

16. Data A21

*I opened my bag, put my hand inside my bag, brought out my money that I had earned from doing my work, and I gave it to the man. ..., looked across Louis, and said "Thank you, sir!"*

The above passage shows that the waiter is doing a disrespect act. When the women give her money, but the waiter thanks the man, the waiter probably thinks that the money is from the man. Women are also worth to be respected. They are also human that need to be respected. For working class women, to be respected is very important to show how they present themselves to the world (Holmes, 2007: 40). So this act is very clear the antonym of feminism.

17. Data A22

*But the most of position of power and prestige are occupied by men.*

The utterance above shows that the most of position that have power and prestige are occupied by men. This passage also shows an inequality in work place. In this era, women are also have the rights to get that power and prestige among people. Women should gather around that they can get the power and prestige place. The idea that men are the standard to which women must be compared, rather than merely accepting women's inferior position (Holmes, 2007: 34-35), should be ended. Nowadays, it should be usual to women to lead or have the most power and prestige in social or work place. So this passage is very obvious the antonym of feminism.

#### 1.4 Conclusion

This chapter presents the conclusion of the analysis of feminism which shows the semantic relation in the speeches by Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The writer showed in the study that feminism still hard to be found in the real life. To analyse this meaning, the writer uses semantic relation type that is analysed in the study which is hyponym, synonym, and antonym. The finding of the study can be concluded as the follow.

First, there are 17 hyponyms found in the research which are related to feminism acts. Last, there are 26 antonyms found in the research which have an inverse meaning of feminism act.

This study shows that the speeches from Emma Watson, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie are having a semantic relation to feminism expression. It means that the

topic of their speeches have feminist content.

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