



WRITING STYLE COMPARISON BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS IN WRITING ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Amalia Salsabila ^{a*)}, Atti Herawati ^{a)}, Istiqlaliah Nurul Hidayati ^{a)}

a) Pakuan University, Bogor, Indonesia

Article Info

Article history
Submitted: December 15th 2020
Received: February, 3rd 2021

Keywords:

Writing style, male and female, lexical and grammatical features, argumentative essay

*Correspondence Address:

amaliasalsabil13@gmail.com

Abstract

Male and female students have different and similar writing styles. These differences and similarities make them have their own characteristics in writing. The differences that occur can be seen in terms of lexical and grammatical features. This research aimed to compare writing style between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. This research was conducted at English Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Educational Sciences, Pakuan University. There were four male and four female students from 4A in this research as the participants. To gain the research data, the researcher used three research instruments: documentation, questionnaire, and interview. Documentation instrument was used to analyze students' work. Questionnaire instrument was distributed two times for each student. Interview was conducted once for each student. According to the data analysis, it was found that there are two similarities and three differences between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. The similarities are the use of psychological processes and the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. The differences are the way to express the opinion, the use of words, and the use of certain possessive pronouns more frequently

INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of the subjects that must be learned by male and female university students. In this subject they must be familiar in writing different types of texts and essays. Every essay has different writing characteristics. One of the essays that must be written by male and female university students is argumentative essay. Some studies found that male and female students usually have a different way to write their argumentative essay.

Yuka (2014) stated the differences that occur are seen from the choice of words that male and female students use in conveying their arguments. They

choose different lexical features in writing their argumentative essay. Yuka (2014) added male and female students also have a different point of view in constructing their idea to explain their arguments.

According to Steiner (2014) many different approaches, among which the dominance and the difference approach are the best known. These two approaches described tendencies in male and female use of language. Zare-ee and Kuar (2012) said female learners were weaker in content and organization scores and tended to be less assertive and less argumentative.

The differences make them have their own characteristics in constructing their idea. Even though the topic is the same, they will explain their arguments in different ways. Therefore, male and female students have their own writing style in writing argumentative essay.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this research, qualitative approach and netnography method is used to get the data about writing style between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. This research was conducted at English Language Education Study Program of Faculty of Teacher Training and Educational Sciences, Pakuan University. The participants in this research are the students in the fourth semester of English Language Education Study Program. The researcher took 4A students as many as 25 who wrote argumentative essay in Essay Writing subject.

In collecting the data, the researcher used three instruments including documentation, questionnaires, and interview.

Documentation

The document used is the students' work. The researcher analyzed the lexical and grammatical features used by male and female students in writing argumentative essay by considering the characteristics of male and female writing style.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire used is close-ended question. The questionnaire was

distributed to the participants in order to find out the writing style comparison between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. The questionnaire consisted of seven statements related to the characteristic of male and female writing style.

Interview

A guided-interview is used to dig up more information about the writing style comparison between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. Moreover, it is used to validate the data collected from documentation and questionnaire. The information was recorded by using a recorder. To analyze the data, some steps were used in this research. The first Students' answers in the questionnaire were analyzed by using google form. Through google form the data was processed into percentages of how many participants who answer yes or no about the statements written in the questionnaire. The data then was changed into table or graphic and it is described by the researcher. Furthermore, the differences and the similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay were coded, transcribed and classified, so did the data from the interview. Moreover, to answer the research question and to draw the conclusion, the writer matched the theories with the findings of the research.

DISCUSSION

Data from Document

The students' work was used for analyzing aspects of writing argumentative essay based on lexical and grammatical features. The students' work is taken from four male and female students. The result of analyzing the argumentative essay is as follows:

The Argumentative Essay Written by Male Students

1) Lexical Features

From the four male students, three of them wrote their argument by changing personal opinions to the general opinion. Besides that, one of them convey his argument by using his own opinion. Three students did not use certain possessive pronoun more frequently in writing their argumentative essay. However, there was one student that used possessive

pronoun more frequently in writing his argumentative essay. Male students wrote their argument clearly enough. They did not write their argument with many words. One of the four students wrote his argumentative essay with different vocabulary.

2) Grammatical Features

In writing argumentative essay three male students clearly use Psychological Processes in expressing their opinion. They told their feeling to the readers about the topic on the argumentative essay they wrote. It can be seen from the argumentative essay that had written by male students. From all the male students, only one student who paid attention to the use of sentence structure. Therefore, all the male students did not pay attention to the structure of argumentative essay. They also did not pay attention to the use of punctuation and capitalization in writing their argumentative essay.

The Argumentative Essay Written by Female Students

1) Lexical Features

The researcher analyzed the data from four female students. Two of the students wrote their argument by changing their personal opinion to general opinion. In another side, two of them wrote their argument by using their own opinion. It can be seen from their opinion in argumentative essay. All the female students did not use certain personal pronouns more frequently but all of them used many words in writing their argumentative essay. They explained their argument in many words, but they lack of vocabulary. They used the same words to convey their argument.

2) Grammatical Features

In writing argumentative essay, they also used Psychological Processes on it. They gave their personal point of view and their feeling about the topic. It can be seen from the argumentative essay that they wrote. For the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization not all of them paid attention about this. Only one of them that pay attention to the use of sentence structure. She also gave attention to the structure of

argumentative essay. For the use of punctuation and capitalization, they must be more careful in determining which punctuation marks are used.

From the data that had been described, it can be concluded that both male and female students were changing their personal opinions to the general opinion. It means that they want to convey their argument from the point of view of many people. They put their personal opinions aside so that they appear to have the same opinion as most people. Male and female students did not use certain personal pronouns more frequently. They use subject more frequently in their argumentative essay. For male students, they did not use many words in writing argumentative essay. One of them used many kinds of words; he has a lot of vocabulary. For female students, all of them use many words in their argumentative essay. However, in writing, they repeat a lot of words. The male and female students also did not pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. Only one of them paid attention to the use of sentence structure, but for the use of punctuation and capitalization all of them ignore it.

Data from Questionnaire

The questionnaire was used to find out the writing style comparison between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. It was distributed to four male and female students. The questionnaire consists of six statements related to the characteristic of male and female writing style.

Questionnaire from Four Male Students

1) Lexical Features

Two of male students (50%) changed their personal opinions to the general opinion when write their argument. In another side, two other males (50%) write their own opinion in writing argumentative essay. In using certain personal pronouns (your, you, our) more frequently in their argumentative essay, three of male students (75%) answer no. Only one male student (25%) used certain personal pronouns (your, your, our) more frequently. In writing argumentative essay, all the male students (100%) write their essay in many

words.

2) Grammatical Features

Three of them (75%) also use Psychological Processes in convey their opinion. One of the students (25%) did not give his own feeling in writing argumentative essay. However, in making this essay, all the male students (100%) pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization.

Questionnaire from Four Female Students

1) Lexical Features

In writing argumentative essay, all the female students were changing their personal opinions to the general opinion. Their answer is (100%) yes. However, sometimes two of them also write their own opinions in explaining their argument. The answer for this statement is (50%) yes and (50%) no. In using personal pronouns (your, you, our) more frequently in writing argumentative essay, three of them answer yes. There are (75%) yes. Only one of them (25%) answer no. She did not use certain personal pronouns more frequently. In writing argumentative essay three of them (75%) use many words in explaining their opinion.

2) Grammatical Features

They also involve Psychological Processes in expressing their feeling about the topic or the argument. Beside that there is one female student (25%) that did not use many words and did not involve Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay. Furthermore, in paying attention for the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization all the female students (100%) answer yes.

Hence, the data of questionnaire showed writing style comparison between male and female students in writing argumentative essay can be found in terms of lexical features. There are four questions in terms of lexical features. It can be concluded that female students were changing their personal opinions to the general opinion in writing argumentative essay. This statement is related to the result of document analysis and also

the theory from Steiner (2014:10) who said another way of women to avoid the direct expression of their opinion or the isolation from the groups is the use of personal pronoun "we". For the male students they not express their own opinion in writing their argument based on analyzing the document and also the questionnaire. The theory that says female students use certain personal pronouns (your, you, our) more frequently in writing argumentative essay in this research cannot be proven.

The result that the researcher got from analyzing the document concludes that female students did not use it more frequently. However, the result from the questionnaire can be concluded that female students use certain personal pronouns (your, you, our) more frequently. In writing argumentative essay female students use many words in conveying their argument. The theory from Hadina (2014:43) is proved. From the data in document and questionnaire, it can be concluded that female students use many words in conveying their argument. Male students also use many words in writing argumentative essay. However, there is a difference between male and female students in using many words in writing argumentative essay. Female students write with many words because they do many repetitions. They lack of vocabulary. They have the same purpose of what they said but they use same words in conveying it. However, male students use many words in writing argumentative essay with different vocabulary. They use various vocabulary to convey their argument.

The result of questionnaire can be also found in terms of grammatical features. There are two questions in terms of grammatical features. It can be concluded that both male and female students use Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay. They express their feeling about the topic in writing argumentative essay. The theory from Yuka (2014:598) about females use words related to Psychological Processes is proved. This result is also related to the result from document analysis. Male and female students also gave their attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. In writing argumentative essay, they pay attention about how to construct the

sentence.

Data from Interview

There were five questions which were given to the respondents through the WhatsApp application. Those questions were classified into two indicators. The first indicator is Lexical features. For female lexical features, in the first question three of four female students changed their personal opinion to the general opinion. Only one of them that convey her own opinion. The second question, three of female students also use many words in writing argumentative essay. Only one of them did not use many words in writing it. In the third question, female students use many words in writing argumentative essay since they repeated many words. For the use of personal pronouns more frequently, all the female students did it. They use personal pronouns to convey their arguments. For male lexical features, in the first question three of male students changed their personal opinion to the general opinion, meanwhile one of them convey his own opinion. In the second question, all the male students use many words in writing argumentative essay. They wrote their arguments by using different vocabulary. In the third question, two male students use personal pronouns in writing argumentative essay, while two others male students did not use personal pronouns in writing argumentative essay. The second indicator is grammatical features. For the first question, female and male students use Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay. In the second question, female and male students also paid attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization.

Male and female students have different characteristics in writing. Steiner (2014:7) stated the differences that occur can be seen in terms of language, questions, hedging, the use of personal pronouns, and the use of expletives and coarse language. The difference of writing style between male and female students can be seen in argumentative essay. Despite the difference, there are also similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay in terms of lexical and grammatical feature in writing. There are some differences and similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay in term of lexical and grammatical features.

Lexical Features

From the data, male students changed their personal opinions to the general opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result. The data showed that 50% of male students answer yes for this statement. Then, it was also supported by the interview result. They use general opinion to strengthen their opinion. The next differences between male and female students in writing argumentative essay was the use of certain personal pronouns more frequently (your, you, our). 75% of male students are not use certain personal pronouns more frequently in conveying their opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result and it was also supported by the interview result. Another writing style differences between male and female students was the use of many words in writing argumentative essay. The result showed that male students, all of them 100% use many words in writing argumentative essay. Male students also use different vocabulary in conveying the arguments so that there are not many repetitions.

For the female students, the data showed that they convey the arguments in the point of view of other people's opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result. 100% of female students answer they changed their personal opinions to the general opinion. The next differences between male and female students in writing argumentative essay was the use of certain personal pronouns more frequently (your, you, our). 100% of female students used certain personal pronouns more frequently such as 'your, you, and ours'. It was proven by questionnaire result and it was also reinforced by the interview result. Another writing style differences between male and female students was the use of many words in writing argumentative essay. 75% of female students use many words in writing argumentative essay. Only one of them used a simple explanation in conveying her argument.

Grammatical Features

The first similarities found was the use of Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay. Male students 100% used Psychological Processes in expressing their opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result and it also supported by interview result as in excerpt #26 and excerpt #27. The second similarities found was paying attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. Male students 100% pay attention to the use of sentence structure. It was proved by questionnaire result. It was also supported by interview result. They

pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization so that their argumentative essay can be read clearly enough by the readers.

For female students the data showed that they also used Psychological Processes in expressing their opinion. 100% of female students answer yes for this statement. It was proven by questionnaire result and it also supported by interview result as in excerpt #11 and excerpt #12. The last differences found was paying attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. 100% of female students pay attention to the use of sentence structure. It was proved by questionnaire result and it was also supported by interview result. As male students, female students also pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization so that their argumentative essay can be read obviously by the readers.

Briefly, the result of this research showed that there were some differences and similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. The first difference was changing personal opinions to the general opinion. It was in line with Steiner (2014:10) who said that another way of woman to avoid the direct expression of their opinion or the isolation from the groups is the use of personal pronoun "we". Steiner (2014:10) as cited in Tannen (2010) also said, the fact that girls grow up in groups and identify with each other, so individually does not exist there. the second difference was writing an argument by expressing personal opinions (use more personal pronoun "I". It was supported by Stainer (2014:13), sociolinguistics claimed that male like to emphasize their importance, so they are not afraid of using the personal pronoun "I" where it is possible. The third difference was female tend to use personal pronoun. It was supported by Yuka (2014:598), female students also use certain personal pronouns more frequently (your, you, our), as well as the indefinite pronoun everyone. The fourth difference was using many words between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. It was in line with Steiner (2014:8), female usually used more words in convey or describe something. For male students it was in line with Steiner (2014:11), men have a richer vocabulary and uses language better that women. The first similarity was the use of Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay between male and female students. It was proved by Yuka (2014:598), females use words related to Psychological Processes more often than male students. The second

similarity was pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization in writing argumentative essay. It was related to the statement by Hasan (2011:13), who argued commonly males use compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences more than females do.

DATA ANALYSIS

Reflecting to the result of this research, there are differences and similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. The differences can be seen in term of lexical features and the similarities can be seen in term of grammatical features.

Based on the data result from the documentation, questionnaire and interview, male and female students have differences and similarities in writing argumentative essay. There are some differences and similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay in term of lexical and grammatical features.

Lexical Features

From the data, male students changed their personal opinions to the general opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result. The data showed that 50% of male students answer yes for this statement. Then, it was also supported by the interview result. They use general opinion to strengthen their opinion. The next differences between male and female students in writing argumentative essay was the use of certain personal pronouns more frequently (your, you, our). 75% of male students are not use certain personal pronouns more frequently in conveying their opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result and it was also supported by the interview result. Another writing style differences between male and female students was the use of many words in writing argumentative essay. The result showed that male students, all of them 100% use many words in writing argumentative essay. Male students also use different vocabulary in conveying the arguments so that there are not many repetitions.

For the female students, the data showed that they convey the arguments in the point of view of other people opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result. 100% of female students answer yes, they changed their personal opinions to the general opinion. The next differences between male and female students in

writing argumentative essay was the use of certain personal pronouns more frequently (your, you, our). 100% of female students used certain personal pronouns more frequently such as your, you, and ours. It was proven by questionnaire result and it was also reinforced by the interview result. Another writing style differences between male and female students was the use of many words in writing argumentative essay. 75% of female students use many words in writing argumentative essay. Only one of them used a simple explanation in conveying her argument.

Grammatical Features

The first similarities found was the use of Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay. Male students 100% used Psychological Processes in expressing their opinion. It was proven by questionnaire result and it also supported by interview result as in excerpt #26 and excerpt #27. The second similarities found was paying attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. Male students 100% pay attention to the use of sentence structure. It was proved by questionnaire result. It was also supported by interview result. They pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization so that their argumentative essay can be read clearly enough by the readers.

For female students the data showed that they also used Psychological Processes in expressing their opinion. 100% of female students answer yes for this statement. It was proven by questionnaire result and it also supported by interview result as in excerpt #11 and excerpt #12. The last differences found was paying attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. 100% of female students pay attention to the use of sentence structure. It was proved by questionnaire result and it was also supported by interview result. As male students, female students also pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization so that their argumentative essay can be read obviously by the readers.

Briefly, the result of this research showed that there were some differences and similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. The first difference was changing personal opinions to the general opinion.

It was in line with Steiner (2014:10), another way of woman to avoid the direct expression of their opinion or the isolation from the groups is the use of personal pronoun "we". Steiner (2014:10) as cited in Tannen (2010) also said, the fact that girls grow up in groups and identify with each other, so individually does not exist there. The second difference was writing an argument by expressing personal opinions (use more personal pronoun "I". It was supported by Steiner (2014:13), sociolinguistics claimed that male like to emphasize their importance, so they are not afraid of using the personal pronoun "I" where it is possible. The third difference was female tend to use personal pronoun. It was supported by Yuka (2014:598), female students also use certain personal pronouns more frequently (your, you, our), as well as the indefinite pronoun everyone. The fourth difference was using many words between male and female students in writing argumentative essay. It was in line with Steiner (2014:8), female usually used more words in convey or describe something. For male students it was in line with Steiner (2014:11), men have a richer vocabulary and uses language better than women. The first similarity was the use of Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay between male and female students. It was proved by Yuka (2014:598), females use words related to Psychological Processes more often than male students. The second similarity was pay attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization in writing argumentative essay. It was related to the statement by (Hasan, Ahmed 2011:13), commonly males use compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences more than females.

CONCLUSION

The researcher found some writing style differences and similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay in terms of lexical and grammatical features. There are three differences between male and female students in writing argumentative essay in terms of lexical features. Meanwhile there are two similarities between male and female students in writing argumentative essay in terms of grammatical features.

For the lexical features, the first difference is the way to express the opinion. Male students convey their personal opinion in writing argumentative essay, meanwhile female students change their personal opinion to the general opinion

in writing argumentative essay. The second one is the use of certain personal pronouns more frequently (your, you, our). In writing argumentative essay, male students rarely use personal pronouns. However, female students use personal pronouns more frequently in writing their argumentative essay. The third difference is the number of words used. Male and female students use many words in writing argumentative essay. The difference in the number of words used between male and female students is male students use many words by providing kinds of vocabulary while female students repeat many words. Male students are rich in vocabulary use then female students.

Despite those differences, female and male students have several similarities in terms of grammatical features. The first similarity is the use of Psychological Processes. Both male and female students use Psychological Processes in writing argumentative essay. They express their personal feelings in conveying their arguments. Giving personal feelings to their argumentative essay, can make it easier for the readers to understand what they want to convey. The second similarity is paying attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. Male and female students are paying attention to the use of sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. By paying attention to it, they feel that their argumentative essay will be easier to read by the readers since their argumentative essay is neatly arranged.

REFERENCES

- Ahmad, Zulfiqar. 2019. Analyzing Argumentative Essay as an Academic Genre on Assessment Framework of IELTS and TOEFL. English Language Teaching Research in the Middle East and North Africa, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-98533-6_13
- Alami, Maryam Sabbah and Mohammad Iranmanesh. 2013. Male-Female Discourse Difference in Terms of Lexical Density. Maxwell Scientific Organization. ISSN: 2040-7459; e-ISSN:2040-7467.
- Crusius, Carolyn Channell. 2003. Aims of Argument: Text and Reader. McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2003. ISBN 0072948353, 9780072948356.
- Hyland, K. 2003. Second Language Writing, in Responding to Student Writing, ed.

- Jack C Richards. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press as cited in Raihany, Afifah. 2014. The Importance of Teacher's Written Feedback on the Students' Writing in Teaching Learning Process Vol. 1 Tahun 9, Mei 2014.
- Imani, Hadina Habil. 2014. Lexical Features of Academic Writing. Language Academy. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. Vol. 1, June 2014.
- Ishikawa, Yuka. 2014. Gender differences in Vocabulary Use in Essay Writing by University Students, pp 598. 2nd Global Conference on Linguistics and Foreign Language Teaching, LINELT-2014, Dubai – United Arab Emirates, December 11 – 13, 2014.
- Mayberry, Katherine. 2009. Everyday Arguments. Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN 10: 0-618-98675-8 ISBN 13: 978-0-618-98675-0
- Morais, Veldeci Santos, et al. 2020. Netnography: Origins, Foundations, Evolution and Axiological and Methodological Developments and Trends. The Qualitative Report.2020. Vol. 25 Number 2
- Olson, C.B. 2003. The Reading/Writing strategies for Teaching and Learning in the Secondary Classroom, Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon
- Patton MQ. 2002. Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods. 3rd Sage Publications; Thousand Oaks, CA:2002.
- Steiner, Sara. 2014. Gender, Genre, and Writing Style in Formal Written Texts, pp 7 – 13. Osijek.
- Wingate, Ursula. 2012. 'Argument!' Helping Students Understand What Essay Writing Is About, pp 145. King's College London, Department of Education and Professional Studies, Waterloo Rd, London.
- White, Fred D. 1986. The writer's Art: A Practical Rhetoric & Handbook. California: Wadsworth Publishing Company.
- Zare-ee, Sheena Kuar. 2012. Do Male Undergraduate Write More Argumentatively? pp 5788. University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur