

Women Wearing Revealing Clothes are ‘Asking for It’: Men’s Language and Misogyny

Wanita Memakai Pakaian Mendedahkan adalah 'Memintanya': Bahasa Lelaki dan Misogini

Sabrina Adia Mohd Sharizal

¹Kesumawati A. Bakar

English Language Studies
Centre for Research in Language and Linguistics
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Correspondence e-mel: ¹kesumawati@ukm.edu.my

ABSTRACT

In this globalization era, technology has become a dominant feature of our life and the main language used in communication technology is the English language. Lately, the use of the language to spread negativity has become a norm among users of social media. The use of slurs and downgrading words by men, targeting women, are frequently observed on social media platforms such as Twitter. This notion of hatred towards women by a group of people is defined as misogyny. This research aims to investigate the relationship between men’s language and misogyny on Twitter. The objective of this research is to identify and analyze the types of misogynistic language in English posts on Twitter. This research adopts a qualitative approach in analyzing English tweets from Twitter. Using Anzovino, Fersini and Rosso (2018)’s taxonomy of misogynistic behaviour model, the tweets are classified into 6 types of misogynistic language. The results of the analysis show that the most common type of verbal abuse is “derailing”, followed by “stereotype and objectification”. The least common are “sexual harassment & threats of violence” and “dominance”. The reason behind the highest frequency of “derailing” is due to the belief of that women should not have equal rights. This research is significant for the public to understand the characteristics of men’s language and how it influences misogynistic behaviour on social media.

Keywords: technology, men’s language, misogyny, Twitter, social media

ABSTRAK

Di zaman globalisasi ini, teknologi telah menjadi satu ciri dominan di dalam kehidupan semua orang dan bahasa utama yang digunakan di dalam teknologi komunikasi adalah Bahasa Inggeris. Kebelakangan ini, penggunaan bahasa tersebut untuk menyebarkan perkara negatif telah menjadi satu perkara normal di kalangan pengguna media sosial. Penggunaan kata kesat dan menurunkan taraf seseorang dari para lelaki, menyasarkan wanita, kerap kali dikaji di media sosial seperti Twitter. Tanggapan kebencian terhadap wanita oleh sekumpulan orang ialah didefinisikan sebagai “misogyny”. Penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk menyiasat hubungan antara bahasa lelaki dan “misogyny” di Twitter. Objektif penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti dan menganalisis jenis-jenis bahasa misoginis dalam Bahasa Inggeris di Twitter. Menggunakan model taksonomi kelakuan misoginis oleh Anzovino, Fersini dan Rosso (2018), tweet-tweet tersebut telah diklasifikasikan mengikut enam jenis bahasa misoginis tersebut. Hasil analisis telah menunjukkan

jenis yang biasa digunakan adalah “derailing”, diikuti “stereotype and objectification”. Jenis paling kurang adalah “sexual harassment & threats of violence” and “dominance”. Sebab disebalik frekuensi tertinggi iaitu “derailing” adalah disebabkan kepercayaan bahawa wanita tidak sepatutnya mempunyai hak yang sama. Penyelidikan ini penting untuk khalayak ramai untuk memahami ciri-ciri bahasa lelaki dan bagaimana ianya memberi kesan kepada kelakuan misoginis di media sosial.

Kata Kunci: teknologi, bahasa lelaki, kebencian terhadap wanita, Twitter, media sosial

1. Introduction

The word ‘misogynist’ or the term ‘misogynistic behavior’ has been tossed around in the cyberworld and triggered many parties as it is considered as an offense, especially to the female gender. According to the Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (2021), the word misogyny is defined as the notion of hatred towards women by a group of people. The action to protect and empowering women dates back in 1848, in demand of equality of women and men so it is obvious that this issue has already been discussed since decades ago and is still being discussed today. According to Kim (2017), the word misogyny is often related to the context of hate speech and gender-based abuse that was targeted towards a female individual. In the context of misogyny, this issue occurred from the words thrown out by the misogynistic community to attack women generally, and to assert dominance of a certain gender against another gender, in this case, men and women, respectively. Female on and outside of the internet struggle with the discrimination and being looked down upon; having to face slurs everyday about being a woman. Frenda et al. (2019) opinionated that the hate against women is a complex subject matter as it involves other external features such as traditional or cultural customs, but it must be changed. It is clear that the issue on misogyny is crucial and gave a huge impact towards the feminist community.

However, there is a complication in which misogynistic terms are often used to attack women nowadays. Men’s language is often associated with misogyny as men are less in politeness and are more dominating in conversations (Kiesling 2007). Kiesling (2007) also mentioned that there are four main masculinity cultural discourse of men’s language, which are gender difference in which it is seen as men and women are biologically and categorically different in biology and behavior, heterosexism which defines masculinity as heterosexual and to only feel sexual desire towards women and not men, dominance in which it identifies as masculinity with dominance or power, meaning that men are oriented to be strong, in control and authoritative over women and male solidarity when communicating with other people, especially the opposite gender. Nevertheless, according to Kiesling (2007), even though both men and masculinity is connected, both are totally different things. He mentioned that whatever men do are not masculine, and all masculine activities are not necessarily done by men. The use of slurs and downgrading words targeted towards women, typically in English language, has become a norm in our society since English is being used globally, especially on internet platforms such as Twitter. Ging and Siapera (2018) believed that there is a persistency between online and offline violence, as they may continue occurring from online to the real world. That is when the rise of online harassment towards women occurred. According Vitak et al. (2017), generally the probability of women being harassed and stalked online is high. When compared to their male counterparts, young women face higher rates of physical attacks and ongoing abuse. These issues stemmed from the harassments that women received online. The harassment may range from throwing slur words to physical abuse. According to Pamungkas et al. (2018), online harassment can be seen within the gender of target, an example is the usage

of bad words to abuse their female target such as words like “bitch” and “pussy”. As a result, the victim of misogyny often feels insecure and physically threatened when they are both online and offline.

This research aims to investigate the relationship between men’s language and misogyny on Twitter. The objective of this research is to identify and analyze the types of misogynistic language in English posts on Twitter. This research adopts a qualitative approach in analyzing English tweets from Twitter. Using Anzovino, Fersini and Rosso (2018)’s taxonomy of misogynistic behaviour model, the tweets are classified into 6 types of misogynistic language. This will be discussed further in the methodology section,

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Lately, the use of the language to spread negativity has become a norm among users of social media. The use of slurs and downgrading words by men, targeting women, are frequently observed on social media platforms such as Twitter. This notion of hatred towards women by a group of people is defined as misogyny. Ideally, the use of misogynistic men’s language is considered a norm as it is said to be one of the themes in masculinity. Hence, this issue occurred from the words thrown out by the misogynistic community to attack women generally, and to assert dominance as a symbol of masculinity. Example of words or terms claimed from the misogynistic community are “#WomenSuck” or “all girls end up being bitches in the end” (Anzovino, Fersini and Rosso 2018). Some people think that they are entitled to discriminate against women by making negative comments and slurs. Now that we are living in a faceless world, these people have become more and more aggressive towards females on the internet.

In reality, misogynistic male language is a serious issue as it downgrades and discriminates against the female gender and does not correlate with masculinity. Masculinity does not represent male as there are variants in the topic, such as masculine female and feminine male as what Kiesling (2007) mentioned, whatever men do are not masculine, and all masculine activities are not necessarily done by men. Misogynists are not entitled to comment and slur women just because they are different in terms of gender. Female on and outside of the internet struggle with the discrimination and being looked down upon; having to face slurs everyday about being a woman. Nevertheless, the issue on how men’s language and misogyny is still unclear. This proves that it is important for us to acknowledge whether men’s language relates to misogyny in the context of online harassment faced by female online users.

2. Literature Review

Generally, men’s language is often associated with misogyny since the stereotypical view of masculinity is somewhat applied when we discuss about the topic of misogyny. The nature of impoliteness in so-called masculine language is said to be connected to the usage of misogynistic words to downgrade and harass women, especially online where its users are bold enough to type slurs behind their screens. In this literature review, we explain the features of men’s language, the definition of misogyny as well as types of online harassment faced by women.

2.1 Theory on Men’s Language

In the context of sociolinguistic, men’s language is a topic on how men use language to express their feelings and solidarity, as what Kiesling (2007) mentioned, there are varieties of ways on the usage of language by men portrayed towards different genders. In the area of language and gender, it is often grouped as certain theories such as differences and

dominance portrayed by each gender. The characterisation of male in language is often depicted with 'dominance' and the differences in language usage in between the genders is often related to cultures that they learn and settled since they were young (Kiesling 2007). In Kiesling's study (2007), he mentioned that there are some patterns in which forms the usage of language by men, and one of them is dominance. Ideally, dominance is connected to masculinity, so the generalisation of men using linguistic features that portray power and dominance is expected by the community. Coates (2002) claimed that men are more likely to utilise wordy tactics that are hierarchically lengthy or powerful stances, or vice versa.

Dominance can be done in few steps when conversation between different genders occur and one of them is interruption when speaking. Interruption can also be seen as a strategy on showing dominance or power as they are trying to avoid the person that they talk to from speaking or giving opinions by showing them power of who is in-charge of the conversation. Kiesling (2007) opinionated that we should not make the generalisation on this matter as it was suggested that there are few reasons behind this claim. Van Eecke and Fernandez (2016) agreed that according to their investigation, men do interrupt more compared to women but there are other aspects and potential vital factors that are needed to be considered that may influence the interruptive behaviour.

The way all participants in an interaction orient to different motions and qualities employed in a specific utterance determines whether a person is powerful or dominant. In this situation, the claim that men use powerful linguistic features in their conversation is undetermined as there are also different ways to portray power and not only by exerting dominance towards the other gender in the conversation process. Some included examples of exerting dominance would be using force, threatening or even showing superior knowledge and hierarchy. Kiesling (2007) thinks that the number of powers combined with the undetermined social definition for linguistic features is the reason why there are generalisation made for men and masculinity in the context of how men use language or speak. It is verifiable that men use several strategies to assert dominance in conversation, however, it is unclear on how a single linguistic feature is used against women that make men dominant. Plus, not just women who treats men as dominant just because they are men, there are cases in which men also thinks that other men are dominant in conversation. Different kinds of power take place by certain men to create dominance over the people that they talk to, hence, there are many similar ways to perform this power in conversational processes, be it with the opposite gender or the same gender.

There are few other discourses that are in the context of men's language, which are solidarity and politeness. Kiesling (2007) opinionated that a specific speech genre of overly competitive and distancing forms of insulting, is often used between men to show solidarity. It may seem negative as they are using insults, but in Kiesling's (2005) study of few frat parties, he found out that members of the frats used insults to create homosociality and building bonds in front of potential members. It is clear that it is not just to show solidarity, but to display a playful competitive environment to persuade a potential member to join their fraternity community, hence, displaying those men not only compete in speech forms, but they also regard them as desirable and enjoyable. Park et. al, (2016) agreed that assertive language used by male portrays social domination, involvement, and activity aside from forming or maintaining interpersonal ties. For politeness context, Park et. al, (2016) mentioned that men's language is described as more assertive and direct, while women's language is described in the other way around; courteous and indirect.

2.2 Theory on Misogyny

According to Merriam-Webster (2021), misogyny is a noun word that is defined as the “hatred of, aversion to, or prejudice against women”. Misogyny is also an act of behaviour or speech that display and fosters misogyny. According to Kramarae (2000), male privilege, patriarchy, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, demeaning of women, violence against women, and sexual objectification are all examples of misogyny. This topic is being discussed for several years, even decades, as it is a sensitive yet serious subject to talk about as it involves the discrimination of a certain gender. Misogyny occurs in many forms; abusing, insulting, intimidating, and more, both offline and online as what Anzovino et al. (2018) mentioned, misogyny can take many forms in language, including social exclusion, discrimination, hostility, sexual objectification, and violence threats.

Over the centuries, womenkind have been suppressed, and their rights have been pushed away and the society expects women to act lady-like, doing house chores, cooking for the family, and giving birth to children. This made women seem oppressed and raised many voices to go against the oppression and discrimination of women, leading to a concept of feminism. Hawksworth (2006) defined feminism as a collection of socio-political movements and philosophies with the unifying goal of defining, establishing, and achieving gender equality in politics, economics, personal life, and social life. People who support the movement, also known as feminists, have campaigned for women rights including their place at work, education, property owning, equal rights in the working industry, and even the right to vote. Not only feminists fight for the equality and women rights, but they also worked on the protection of women, girls and children from abuse and harassments such as sexual harassments and domestic violence and promoting physiological integrity and autonomy. In the context of feminist movement, according to Srivastava et. al. (2017), there are four waves of the movement and each wave acknowledged different aspects of the same issue in feminism.

The first wave occurred as early as 1848 in New York, called “Women’s Suffrage Movement” in the hands of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This movement focused on promoting the women’s right to vote. It then followed to the second wave of feminist movement in 1960s to campaign social equality for women including their legal inequalities, domestic violence and other. According to Abrahams (2017), sexual harassment, campus sexual harassment, rape culture, workplace discrimination, body shaming, sexist imagery in the media, online misogyny, assault on public transportation, and other types of harassment associated with the use of social media are all targets of fourth-wave feminism, which began around 2012. Feminists still rise and soar in their movement, leading to the third movement of feminism in the 1990s, dealing with rising issues of intersectionality, transfeminism, vegetarian ecofeminism, and postmodern feminism. Feminists over the centuries have worked hard to receive and maintain equal gender rights and always on the move to protect womenkind and children from abuse and harassment. Feminism has taken the public’s focus and attention, bringing the issue into legal forms such as sexual harassment at workplace. Sexual harassment is one of the violations of law of human’s right and women’ right in equality, thus, it is considered illegal to harass a person due to their gender. Srivastava et. al. (2017) suggested that workplace sexual harassment is not harmless as it involves other external manifestations such as mental and physical health, economic, and social costs that express themselves in a country's overall development indices.

Thus, we can observe that the issues on misogyny and the discrimination of female is not something that we can brush off. It may seem small, as the generalisation of view that female is the weaker gender, but feminists over the centuries do not condone with the opinion, hence, the creation of the feminist movement globally throughout the years. Srivastava et. al. (2017) opined that it is inspiring to see how far women have come over generations, and the fight will continue until misogyny is eradicated from the world. Gender equality will remain a dream without equal access to education, equal opportunity, and economic liberation (Srivastava et al. 2017).

2.3 Past Studies on Online Misogynistic Harassment

Almost everyone on the internet faced online harassments despite their genders and sexuality, but women are more likely to experience online harassment compared to men as confirmed by Ging and Siapera (2018), women are far more likely than men to be subjected to serious forms of sexual or gender harassment in online situations. Vitak et. al. (2017) also agreed that women are more likely to be stalked and harassed online than they are offline. According to Pew Internet Project (2014), 26% of women reported being stalked online and targets of online sexual harassment is 25%. They also claimed that when compared to their male counterparts, young women face higher rates of physical threats and ongoing harassment.

There are variations of terms coined in based on online harassment that relates to gender such as cyberbullying, cyberharassment, online violence against women, online misogyny, gendered cyberhate and so on. Though it seems like these issues are only experienced online, it is found out that in some cases, gendered cyber-bullying may elongate to offline situation. This can be seen as what Poland (2016) gave an example in her book about cybermisogyny, an organized movement called “Gamergate” threatened lives of women who belong to the video games industry. She mentioned that the situation first took place online, however it is then deteriorated offline. According to Freda et. al, (2019), hate speech is amplified by the dissemination of hate ideas on the internet, which supports and incites hate crimes in the real world. An example given by Freda et. al, (2019) is there is a link between the rise in sexist

conduct online and the number of rapes per state in the United States. Not only that, but this issue may also give a huge impact towards the wellbeing of the victims. According to Van Laer (2013), online harassment victims may feel emotional discomfort, which can lead to withdrawal from social media platforms or, in extreme situations, self-harm.

The events of cyberbullying, especially online violence against women, are usually done by throwing slur words against women. Since English is commonly used on the Internet, English slur words are often used and are grouped in taxonomy for misogynistic behaviour. Anzovino, Fersini and Rosso (2018) designed a taxonomy to distinguish types of misogynistic messages and classified them into groups of different manifestations. The modelled misogynistic phenomena including discredit (slurring women for no other reason than to offend them), stereotype and objectification (to subjugate women, or descriptions of women's physical attractiveness, and/or comparisons to limited standards), sexual harassment and threats of violence (to use physical force to assert control over women, or to use threats to intimidate and silence women.), dominance (to maintain male dominance, safeguard male interests, and keep women out of the conversation) and derailing (to rationalise abuse, deny male responsibility, and try to refocus the debate by disrupting it). Hence, we can observe that there are variations in realizations of misogynistic behaviour online against women in English Language. The

objectives of this research are two fold: 1) to identity and analyze the types of misogynistic language in English posts on Twitter and 2) to investigate the relationship between men's language and misogyny on Twitter.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

For this study, the type of research design that will be used is qualitative research to analyze and interpret the English tweets by the social media users. According to Mohajan (2018), qualitative research focuses on how people interpret and make sense of their experiences in order to comprehend their social reality. Additionally, qualitative research allows us to conduct a close analysis of oline issues through a variety of methods such as interviews and observations.

3.2 Method of Analysis

For this study, the taxonomy of misogynistic behavior is adapted from a model of misogynistic phenomena taxonomy modeled by Anzovino, Fersini and Rosso (2018) to explore the types of manifestations of misogynistic phenomena against women in Twitter. The model is as follows:

TABLE 1. *Taxonomy of the types of manifestations and their meanings and examples*

Taxonomy	Meaning	Example
Discredit	Slurring women for no other reason than to offend them	"Women end up being bitches in the end"
Stereotype & Objectification	to relegate women to second-class status	"Women should just be in the kitchen."
Sexual Harassment & Threats of Violence	to exert physical dominance over women and scare them with threats	"Domestic violence is never acceptable, unless your wife is a snob, that is."
Dominance	to maintain male dominance, safeguard male interests, and keep women out of the conversation	"It is better to not let a women become the president"
Derailing	to rationalize abuse, deny male responsibility, and try to refocus the debate by disrupting it	"Women wearing revealing clothes is 'asking for it'."

the tweets will be analyzed and categorized according to the taxonomies.

3.3 Data Collection Method

This study will be using a qualitative method which is content analysis and observations. The data will collected from Twitter, focusing on English tweets containing misogynistic elements. 100 tweets were collected for the analysis of misogynistic language features and sorted them into the above taxonomies (see Table 1) .

3.4 Data Analysis

Content analysis was used to analyse, categorize and quantify the collected data . According to Krippendorff (2018) content analysis is a research method for inferring context from data that is repeatable and valid. Plus, it allows the researcher to analyse data in a specific context of in a specific group of culture, in this case, the worldwide community of Twitter. The tweets collected from the participants will be individually analysed using

this method and are then classified into the different misogynistic types and the frequency of each one is recorded. For the process of classification, we analyzed the vocabulary used in the tweets and the potential misogynistic meaning in them. Other than that, there were also Twitter profiles that dedicate themselves to voice out their opinion of patriarchy and slurring of women, hence, their tweets were also collected for the data. Considering their intentions in the collected tweets and the vocabulary used, the examples of tweets and frequency results of the data are as follows:

TABLE 2. *Example of tweets for each misogyny manifestations*

Misogyny Manifestations	Tweet Example
Discredit	“Wow what a loser. A cunt rage quitted because she can’t handle the fire and the burn. Why are women so dumb? No intelligence whatsoever. And she claimed to have 2 degrees. Yeah right #WomenAreDumb #Cunts #Losers #FuckFeminist.”
Stereotype & Objectification	“Women are here to cook food. They don’t belong anywhere else.”
Sexual Harassment and Threats of Violence	“I’m with your Mom and she says to suck my dick to clean her shit off.”
Dominance	“I just learnt that woman used to not have rights... That’s how it should be #WomenAreOnlyGoodForRoots #FuckWomen #ManPower”
Derailing	“Stop supporting women. You can’t just fight for them to have equal rights. They need to prove that they’re worthy. Women’s day is so dumb.”

TABLE 3. *Frequency of tweets based on the misogyny manifestations*

Misogyny Manifestations	Frequency
Discredit	23
Stereotype & Objectification	24
Sexual Harassment & Threats of Violence	11
Dominance	11
Derailing	31

As mentioned in the previous section, the applied approach to analyse these tweets are by manually analysing the vocabulary as well as the lexicality of the tweets, hence, based on the results of the analysis, the tweets are then classified by the misogynistic manifestations listed before.

Discredit. This manifestation brings the meaning of using slurs towards women as to offend them without any other reason. In other words, people who are against women would use vulgar words and vocabulary to describe or voice out their opinions, such as “*slut*”, “*whore*”, “*bitches*”, “*pussy*”, and “*hoes*”.

Stereotype & Objectification. As for this type of manifestation, it highlights the stereotypical view of the world towards women as well as objectifying women. Commonly, misogynistic individuals would comment where women should be or what women should do. Among the total of 24 tweets that are listed as having stereotype and objectification, few examples are extracted which are “*women are emotionally unstable creatures*”, “*all women are attention seekers*”, “*a woman’s purpose is very simple: submit, serve, breed & obey*” and “*women belong to the kitchen*”.

Sexual Harassment & Threats of Violence. Among the 100 collected tweets, 11 tweets have the elements of harassing women sexually and threatening women physically.

Examples include “*suck my dick*”, “*hole is well*”, “*I fucking wanna kill them*”, and “*Give me a bj hoe*”.

Dominance. This type of manifestation shares the same amount of frequency of tweets as sexual harassment and threats of violence which are 11 tweets. In the 11 tweets, the tweets often mention about the dominance of men, as well as gatekeeping the men’s interests and avoid having conversations regarding women. Other than that, dominance show the support of misogyny and patriarchal system, and was shown in the examples such as “*misogyny and patriarchy is what keeps the world running*”, “*never give ground to the feminists*”, “*girls stayinside on holi, it’s a men’s festival*” and “*#ManPower*”.

Derailing. This type of manifestation collected the highest frequency of tweets which is 31 tweets. This manifestation deals with the rationalisation of abuse and ignorance of the male responsibilities and changing the topic or refocusing the debate by disrupting the conversation. This includes ignoring women’s right to avoid abuse and accusing women for unrelated events of circumstances. Examples include “*How you are posed is very distracting*”, “*If your daughter becomes a feminist, you failed as a parent*”, “*fuck equal rights, fuck equal pay, fuckwomen!*”, “*personally I don’t think women and girls should be allowed to enjoy things*” and “*You though your seemingly innocent and modest pictures didn’t arouse men. Women, you understand absolutely nothing about men!*”.

Based on the five types of misogynistic manifestation, we are able to conclude the frequency of the tweets using percentages and visualise the results in a pie chart.

4. Discussion

This section provides the summary and the discussion of the results of the analysis.

4.1 Different Types of Misogynistic Language against Women on Twitter

The types of misogynistic language against women are divided into five categories: discredit, stereotype & objectification, sexual harassment & threats of violence, dominance, and derailing. As mentioned, the collected 100 tweets were classified into the said categories. Based on the analysis, it is found out that each of the tweets fitted the description of the category. Among the 100 collected tweets, the highest frequency goes to “derailing”, with 31 tweets out of 100. Next is “stereotype & objectification” with 24 tweets, “discredit” with a total of 23 tweets and the least frequent is “sexual harassment & threats of violence” and “dominance” with 11 tweets each.

“Derailing”, by definition is to justify abuse, deny male responsibility, and attempt to refocus the discussion by disrupting it. We were able to observe this type of manifestations towards tweets that contain implications and words that matches the definition of ‘derailing’. Based on the tweets gathered, it is safe to say that most of the derailing tweets go against feminism or the idea of femininity and ignore male responsibility. It is different from being ‘masculine’; this type of manifestation exerts more towards ignorance in fighting for feminism and women’s rights. Other than typing out tweets voicing out their opinions in derailing against women, hashtags were also used to spite women and their rights. Examples includes “*#BoycottWomen*”, “*#FuckWomenRights*”, “*#FuckFeminism*” and more.

Next, the act of relegating women to second-class status is called “stereotype and objectification”. In this category of misogyny, the name of the type speaks for itself; the tweets contains elements of stereotypical views against women and feminists. Not only

the generalizations that were made by the Twitter users, views of objectification against women and feminists were also made. The act of generalization typically occurs when the one voicing out their opinions against women uses typical comments about women such as women being “dishwashers” or where they belong. Example of tweets includes “*fuck women drivers y’all suck*”, “*women are emotionally unstable creatures*”, “*all women are attention seekers*” et cetera.

Thirdly, “discredit” collected a fair number of tweets based on the meaning it carries -slurring women for no reason but to offend them. The usage of slurs and negative words towards women are often used in these tweets, in which they were trying to convey their hatred towards women and people who supports the idea of feminism. The words such as “whore”, “cunt” and “bitch” are often use against women. These types of slurs can be found in these tweets such as “*slutty female whores*” or “*these bitches*”.

“sexual harassment & threats of violence” and “dominance” collected an equal amount of frequency. As for sexual harassment & threats of violence, we are able to observe that these people who go against women and feminists tend to use sexual innuendos, harassing them verbally and non-verbally and also give physical threats towards the targeted people. It can also be seen that the sexual harassment tweets are often related to discredit, in which the users tend to use slurs alongside harassing someone online to show that they are more “dominating” in the situation. Needless to say, according to the tweets collected, some may not show that they are projecting sexual harassment or physical threats of violence by words or sentences but in visual aids such as pictures, gifs and videos. An example of a tweet includes a woman showing that she went through a surgery for the reduction of her chest, and a user exclaimed “no!” which implies that she would be more desirable if she had a larger chest, thereby demonstrating the intent to sexually harass her. Another example that includes both sexual harassment and dominance is “*I’m with your Mom and she says to suck my dick to clean her shit off*”.

“Dominance”, however, brings the meaning of maintaining male dominance, safeguarding male interests as well as keeping women out of the conversation. Usually, those who portray dominance are from males with a dominating mindset, or as the internet slang calls it, an alphas male mindset. Male dominance stems from a sense that male is much better than female, hence, people with male dominance prefers to maintain the dominance of a male and gatekeeping their rights and denies any women-related topics. An example of a ‘dominance’ type of tweet is “*a woman’s behavior is determined by men and their rules and guidelines, she is educated and led by men, and her behavior is evaluated and corrected by men. Her life is centered on men, she exists for men and under the authority of men.*”. Based on the tweet mentioned, it is safe to say that dominance, too, touches on how women should act, of course, based on a male dominated mind-set.

4.2 The Relation between Men’s Language and Misogyny

According to the theory of men’s language, males often use assertive language to show dominance and, in few conversational cases, to show solidarity towards men. However, in relation to the topic of misogyny, how men use this type of language may be interpreted as something negative; something that may not be the norm towards the opposite gender. the use of sexual harassment and threats of violence by men to exert dominance and inferiority towards the opposite gender and people who go against them (regardless of gender and sexuality), shows a connection between men’s language and misogyny. In one of the tweets that was labelled as the type of ‘threats of violence’, the Twitter user wrote “*I swear these feminist... I fucking wanna kill them... assholes*”. From the tweet, we can

see the different categories of misogynistic language in one tweet,. The user stated his hatred towards feminists and stated that he wanted to end their lives and called them “assholes”. These aggressions and usage of the microelements of misogynist create ‘dominance’, hence, an example of a Tweet fulfilling the needs of a misogynistic post.

Looking at the relationship between men’s language and misogyny based on our preliminary findings, it is no doubt that the relationship coexists, especially when it comes to the exertion of dominance from male towards female (and sometimes towards the same gender to show “solidarity”). However, further and more detailed research should be done to clarify the interrelation between men’s language and misogyny, as the discussion of the results and the matching of the theory is somewhat small, but may spark new ideas to help people recognize how men’s language relates to misogyny and the implications it has on society.

5. Conclusion

Lack of prior research on the topic of men’s language and misogyny forms one of the motivations behind this study. this research is one of the few attempts to classify tweets collected from Twitter and to show the relationship between men’s language and misogyny. With the help of the list of of misogynistic classification by Anzovino, Fersini and Rosso (2018), we are able to detect and classify the misogynistic features in the collected tweets, helping us to decipher the context and meaning that they bring to match with the descriptions and meaning that each of the realizations carry. the frequency of each tweet that was classified to each of the realizations shows the correlation between the two elements, thus answering both of the research questions: “What are the different types of misogynistic language against women on Twitter?” and “How does men’s language relate to misogyny?”. Although the findings are still in its infancy, the results can guide future researchers towards a better understanding of the topic and may raise awareness on the importance and implications of this issue on the language that we use and encounter daily, online as well as face-to-face.

References

- Abrahams J. (2017). Everything You Wanted to Know about Fourth Wave Feminism – But Were Afraid to Ask Prospect. <https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/everything-wanted-know-fourth-wave-feminism> [25 February 2018].
- Anzovino M., Fersini E., & Rosso P. (2018). Automatic Identification and Classification of Misogynistic Language on Twitter. *International Conference on Applications of Natural Language to Information Systems*. 57-64.
- Coates C. M. & Morgan C. L., (2002). Heroines and History: Representations of Madeleine de Vercheres and Laura Secord.
- Frenda S., Ghanem B., Montes-y-Gomez M., & Rosso P., (2019). Online Hate Speech Against Women: Automatic Identification of Misogyny and Sexism on Twitter. *Journal of Intelligent & Fuzzy Systems*. 36(5). 4743-4752.
- Ging D., & Siapera E. (2018). Special Issue on Online Misogyny.
- Hawkesworth M. E. (2006). Globalization and Feminist Activism.

- 25-7.Holmes J. (2013). Women, Men and Politeness. Routledge.
- James D., C& Clarke S. (1993). Women, Men and Interruptions. *Gender and Conversational Interaction*. 231-280.
- Kiesling S. F. (2005). Homosocial Desire in Men's Talk: Balancing and Re-creating Cultural Discourses of Masculinity. *Language in Society*. 34(5). 695-726.
- Kiesling S. (2007). Men, Masculinities and Language. *Language and Linguistics Compass*. 1(6). 653-673
- Kim J. (2017). #IAmAFeminist as the "Mother Tag": Feminist Identification and Activism against Misogyny on Twitter in South Korea. *Feminist Media Studies*. 17(5). 804-820.
- Kramer J. & Kramarae C. (2000). Women's Political Webs: Global Electronic Networks. *Gender, Politics and Communication*. 205-22.
- Krippendorff K. (2018). Content analysis: An introduction to its methodology. Sage publications.
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary. (2021). Merriam-Webster.
- Mohajan H. K. (2018). Qualitative Research Methodology in Social Sciences and Related Subjects. *Journal of Economic Development, Environment and People*. 7(1). 23-48. Oxford Learner's Dictionary. 2021. Oxford.
- Pamungkas E. W., Cignarella A. T., Basile V., & Patti V. (2018). Automatic Identification of Misogyny in English and Italian Tweets at Evalita 2018 with a Multilingual Hate Lexicon. *Sixth Evaluation Campaign of Natural Language Processing and Speech Tools for Italian (EVALITA 2018)*. Vol 2263. 1-6. CEUR-WS.
- Poland B. (2016). Haters: Harassment, Abuse and Violence Online. University of Nebraska Press.
- Srivastava K., Chaudhury S., Bhat P. S., & Sahu S. (2017). Misogyny, Feminism and Sexual Harassment. *Industrial Psychiatry Journal*. 26(2). 111-113.
- Tannen D. (1993). Gender and Conversational Interaction. Oxford University Press.
- Van Eecke P., Fernandez R. (2016). On the Influence of Gender on Interruptions in Multiparty Dialogue. *Interspeech*. 2070-2074.
- Vitak J., Chadha K., Steiner L., & Ashktorab Z. (2017). Identifying Women's Experiences with and Strategies for Mitigating Negative Effects of Online Harassment. *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*. 1231-1245.