Representation of Gender Stereotype in Lexical Verbs
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Abstract
The present study concerns language and gender. The language choice, in this case the use of lexical verbs used by male and female, may imply that those verbs represent some stereotypes about gender. These stereotypes may implicitly be introduced at the early age of children and these can be seen through animated movies. To understand how gender representation is reflected through the language choice, the writer analyzed the lexical verb usage in Disney animated movie using the theory proposed by Biber. The study aims to reveal the most frequent types of lexical verb used by male and female characters, and to figure out how the male and female characters are represented based on the lexical verbs usage. Three Disney animated movies, Zootopia, Tangled and The Princess and the Frog that have male and female major character were chosen as the data. The results of the study show that the male and female characters have some different types of lexical verb. Male characters are more dominant in the use of activity verb, communication verb, Causative verb and verb of occurrences than the female character. Meanwhile, the female characters in the three Disney animated movies only are dominant in one type of semantic category of lexical verb which is Mental verb.

Keywords: gender stereotype, lexical verb

Introduction
Nowadays, people are aware that society portrays male and female differently. Stets and Burke cited in Setyobagas (2015) state that the rule of femininity and masculinity can be seen through the role of gender in the society rather than the sex of the person because society is the one that shapes the idea how a good male and female should be. For instance, in the case of behavior, women who have bad personality can be considered as bitches, while men who are not masculine can be considered as gay. Gender represents certain characteristics, beliefs, and roles which are associated with male and female. Meanwhile, stereotypes are a kind of perceptions or opinions about something, society’s beliefs and perceptions toward gender depending on their assumption through the experiences. For example (Coates, 2013, p. 86) in Britain, women love to gossip whereas men do not; women talk more than men; women are more polite, and men swear more rather than women.

The construction of gender stereotype in the society can be influenced by media because various forms of media, including advertisements, television series and movies, are almost presented everywhere and every time in this period. Media can be entertaining and educational for children, teenager, adult, and adolescent. Media plays an important role in creating the social perception of gender stereotypes. Nevertheless, for children, media is able to open up a kind of new world and give them an idea of something in their society through televisions, books, advertisements and others. Children are given with various messages, images and representations of gender, constructing a dreamlike world of childhood innocence (Giroux, 1999). Children begin to make concepts of gender at the age of 2, and most children know if they are a boy or girl by the age of 3; stereotypes are well developed by the age of 5; and children get a surely clear distinction of being male and female at the age of 5 to 7 (Martin & Ruble, 2004).

One of the most viewed programs by children on TV is movies, especially animated movies. For many years, children’s entertainment has been identified interconnected with the animated movies. Children can learn about gender stereotype through it. The representation of gender in the Disney movie can be seen through the verb which reflects the role of female and male in the movie. Burton cited in Mills (2008) has discovered that the verbs used by girls/boys often describe that boys are active while girls are passive.
On the basis above, the writer is interested to know, first, what the most common types of verbs are used by male and female characters and second, how the verb represents gender stereotypes in the Disney Animated Movies.

**Gender Stereotype and Verb**

According to Coates (2013), sex refers to biological difference, while gender refers to categories of social construction based on sex. Stereotyping someone is to interpret the behavior, personality, and so on that is applied to the characteristics of a group, for example ‘Italians are excitable’ and 'Black people are good at sport' (Cameron, 1988 cited in Talbot, 2003). Moreover, society builds a certain stereotype of gender construction for the description to male and female, as Eckert and McConell-Ginet (2003) state that men are strong, brave, aggressive, sex-driven, rational, direct, competitive, practical and rough; women are weak, timid, passive, emotional, irrational, indirect, cooperative, nurturing, and gentle. Besides, gender stereotype makes male and female very different in categories and give them a fixed set of characteristics.

Holmes (2008) stated that “Our speech provides clue to others about who we are, where we come from, and what kind of social experiences we have had”. Verbs are able to describe what men do and what women do, for example men are often associated with aggressive action as kick. There are several verbs which state that men work, but no verbs that say that women do so. Some specific verbs are able to portray gender, for instance men can handle, manage the situation, meaning men are capable of doing something difficult. In contrast, women’s actions do not indicate that they are able to accomplish things in the same level.

Ikram, Subakir, Hamid, Keong, Othman and Jaludin. (2006) found out the representation of gender based on the usage of verb in the textbooks. They divided the verb into activity verbs, process verbs, verbs of bodily sensation, transitional event verbs and momentary verbs. They show that there is a frequency imbalance of each category of verbs associated with males and females. Based on the frequency of the occurrences of the verb, it portrays the difference of behavior and personality of the characters. For instance, males were portrayed as brave, optimistic as well as being arrogant and over confident with the use of verb, *asked, failed, tried, moved, continued*. In contrast, verbs related to females showed that they were more patient, punctual and attentive such as *noticed, shouted, discovered, fell, and waited*.

According to Biber, Conrad, and Leech. (2002) main verbs play a major role in clauses because they occur in the middle of a clause and determine the other clause elements. Lexical verbs denote actions, processes, and states of affairs that happen or exist and also define the role of human and non-human participants in such actions, processes, or states (Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad, and Finegan (1999). Lexical verbs are distinguished into seven semantic categories (Biber et al., 1999), including Activity verbs, Communication verbs, Mental verbs, Causative verbs, Verbs of occurrence, Verbs of existence or relationship, and Verb of aspect.

There has been a study that discuss gender stereotypes in children books by Amandara (2013), in the television series, Setyobagus (2015) in textbook, Sovič and Hus (2015). Amandara (2013) is concerned with a corpus-driven approach to analyze how male and female characters are represented in the collection of 62 tales by Grimm’s brothers by examining nouns related to male and females and nouns that indicate the occupational role of men and women. Setyobagus (2015) analyzed the adjective feature usage by the four main characters of The Simpson: Bart, Homer, Lisa, and Marriage Simpson. Sovič and Hus (2015) explored gender stereotypes through the images of female and male participants in 3 textbooks.

**Methodology**

In the study a qualitative approach was applied. The data of this study were obtained by identifying noun and verb usage of male and female in the Disney Movies and the data were classified into some categories based on semantic categories of Biber et al (1999). The data of this study were taken from Disney Animated movies that are played in Indonesia. The numbers of Disney movies are too big to be analyzed; therefore, in order to make this research more focused, the writer used purposive sampling to take a sample. The writer used some criteria to take an appropriate sample for this study. The writer has some criteria for taking the data sample. The movies are chosen based on top 50 highest-grossing animated
movies all the time. The successful of box office rank is obtained from gross reports provided by boxofficemojo.com. Disney animated movies were excluded from the study if they were not original films production of Disney as Toy Story, Cars, Inside Out which are PIXAR movie production but under the label of PIXAR and Disney.

This study only chose Disney Animated Movies released in theatres with male and female major character. Disney animated movies were also gathered from the last 10 years, in which the data would provide information about the modern-day usage of gender representation of male and female. The movies are Zootopia (2016), Tangled (2010), The Princess and the Frog (2009). The specific characters selected from each movie were Lt. Judy Hopps as the main female character and Nick Wilde as the main male character in Zootopia; Rapunzel as the main female character and Flynn Rider as the main male character in Tangled; and then Tiana as the main female character and Prince Naveen as the main male character in The Princess and the Frog Disney animated movie.

In collecting the data, first, the writer downloaded the movies from μTorrent®. Second, the writer downloaded the script of the movies in order to get some clear words of the dialogue among the main male and female characters in Disney animated movies from (www.subscene.com). Third, the writer watched the 3 Disney animated movies. Fourth, the writer matched and identified the main male and female characters names with the subtitle in the Microsoft word. The writer did not take the song lyric from the male and female characters. Fifth, the writer identified noun and verb of each sentence of main male and female character in 3 Disney animated movies. In analyzing the data, first, the writer categorized the verbs based on the genders of the speakers into male and female. Second, the writer classified the verbs of each gender based on Longman Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English book by Biber, et al. (1999). Fourth, the writer compared and analyzed the classification of the result of the data.

Result & Discussion

After putting all the data into the tables, the writer found the most frequent types of lexical verb used by male and female character in the three Disney animated movies. The writer calculated that the total number of lexical verb are 744 lexical verbs in the three Disney animated movies. She then put the lexical verbs in a table to be identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of Lexical Verb</th>
<th>Zootopia</th>
<th>Tangled</th>
<th>The Princess and The Frog</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity Verb</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Verb</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Verb</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causative Verb</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verb of Occurrence</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verb of Existence</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verb of Aspect</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the data shown in the table 1, the writer discovered that the three Disney animated movies do not use all the types of semantic categories of lexical verbs and have different number of each semantic category of lexical verbs. The first type of semantics categories of lexical verbs is activity lexical verb. Biber et al. (1999) explains that activity verbs usually refer to actions and events related to physical activity. It can be seen that 19% of activity verbs from the total activity verbs occurrences were related with the male character, while 13% activity verbs from the total activity verbs occurrences were related with the female character in Zootopia. Moreover, 16% of activity verbs from the total activity verbs occurrences were related with the male character, while 13% of activity verbs from the total activity verbs occurrences were related with the female character in Tangled.
Furthermore, 14% of activity verbs from the total activity verbs occurrences were related with the male character, while 20% of activity verbs from the total activity verbs occurrences were related with the female character in *The Princess and the Frog*. In *Zootopia* and *Tangled*, the male character has more dominant activity verb usage than the female character does. Based on the frequency, the male characters are more dominant than the female characters. It may imply that the male characters in Disney animated movies are portrayed as the character that is more attractive to do the physical activity rather than the female character. Furthermore, the data of lexical verb are specific to the representation of each gender of men and women. For instance, there is a situation where men are strong to handle the situation which is represented in the activity verb of *pay*, *buy*, and *take*. Meanwhile women are represented with the activity verbs such as *hide*, *follow*, *eat*, and *borrow* which show women as the subordinate class.

Nevertheless, there is also a situation where men and women have the similar representation in doing the physical activity as the activity verbs of *run*, *handle*, *fight*, and *break* are only used by women to characterize them as the character who is also able to do something with physical activity. If we look at the role of each character of the three movies, the female character in *Zootopia* tends to do a physical activity such as *handle*, *popped*, *follow*, *cut* and *walk* because the female character in *Zootopia* is described as the police officer. The female character in *Tangled* is described as the princess who has been jailed during her life, so she only uses the activity verbs such as *hide*, *meet*, *spend* and *chart*. Meanwhile, the female character in *The Princess and the Frog* uses the activity verbs such as *travel*, *deliver*, *eat* and *break*, because she is the character that is described as a waitress. The male character of Zootopia is a seller, while the male character in Tangled is a thief, and the male character in *The Princess and the Frog* is a Prince. The male character as the seller uses the activity verb which is related with the trade such as *advertise*, *move*, *give*, and *use*, while the male character as the thief uses the activity verbs like *climb*, *chase*, and *search*, and the male character as the prince uses more leisure activity such as *marry*, *play*, *buy*, and *date*. The use of activity verb among the male characters that have different role has a clear difference.

The second type of semantic categories of lexical verbs is communication verb. Biber et al. (1999) explains that communication lexical verbs are sub category of activity verbs that involve communication activities; general communication verbs describes speech and writing. The table 1 shows that the distribution of communication verbs includes 5% of communication verbs related with the male character, 3% of communication verbs related with the female character in *Zootopia*, 9% of communication verbs related with the male character, 8% of communication verbs related with the female character in *Tangled*, 6% of communication verbs related with the male character, and 7% of communication verbs related with the female character in *The Princess and the Frog*.

In *Zootopia* and *Tangled*, the usage of communication verb of male characters is more dominant than the female characters. The finding shows that the male characters of Disney animated movies are depicted as the characters that speak more and take more dominant role in the speech or conversation compared to the female characters. Only men *sing*, *translate*, *give* and *offer* while women *state*, *mumble* and *call*. Men’s activity is more linked with the ability of speaking, capability of explain things to others and management to do something. In contrast, women’s activity does not indicate that they are able to accomplish things to do the same extent, but women are more related with the ability of writing such as *sign* and *write*. It does not prove, as Coates (2013) stated, that women love to gossip whereas men do not; women talk more than men.

The female character in *Zootopia* who has role as the police officer in the society tends to have a bigger power in the conversation as the use of communication verb of *state*. Meanwhile, the female character in *Tangled* as the princess has a power which is appropriate with the use of communication verb as *call* and because the female character is the princess who has been jailed during his life, she does not have any power to speak as the use of communication verb of *mumble*. Moreover, the female character in *The Princess and the Frog* prefers communication verb of *sign* because she is described as the hard working waitress character that has more to do with a contract. The male character in *Zootopia* uses the communication verb of *thank* because he is a seller so he should show his responsive to the consumer. The male character in *Tangled* uses more communication verbs than the other two movies as *spare*, *give*
and sing, because the movie describes the thief who likes to seek an attention of others with his speaking. Meanwhile, the male character in The Princess and the Frog uses communication verb of offer and translate. It is obviously suitable with the character that has a role as the prince because the prince has authority to offer and has knowledge to translate.

The third type of semantics categories of lexical verbs is mental verb. Biber et al. (1999) explain that mental verbs express a wide range of activities and states that do not involve physical action experienced by human. These include mental state, emotion, attitudes, desire, perception, and the receiving of communication. Table 1 illustrates that 45% of mental verbs were related with the male character, while 43% of mental verbs were related with the female character in Zootopia. Moreover, 34% of mental verbs were related with the male character, while 50% of mental verbs were related with the female character in Tangled. In addition, 29% mental verbs were related with the male character, while 31% mental verbs were spoken by the female character in The Princess and the Frog.

Tangled and The Princess and the Frog Disney animated movies show higher percentage of the use of mental verb used by the female character than the male character. It may imply that the female characters in the Disney animated movies are portrayed as the characters who do non-physical activities and tend to express their emotion and feeling of something. Women are represented to be more care with others seen in the use of understand, hear, see, and appreciate. The finding proves as Archer and Lloyd (2002) stated that traits assigned to women are expressing emotions and caring for others. Stereotypically, women are more associated with sensitivity and emotion than men. In the three movies, men and women love and like, but men assume, avoid, notice, and suppose, all of which are related to the rational thought. However, women hope, doubt, dream, need, and expect, all of which are related to the emotional thinking.

The use of mental verb by the female character in Zootopia tends to the desire usage such as need and hope. Because the character has a role as the police officer, she should have some desires to be able to fulfill her role. The female character, who acts as the princess in Tangled, tends to show her power by using the verb of break, make, and promise. Meanwhile, the female character in The Princess and the Frog tends to the perception and cognitive meaning such as think, see, and hear because she needs an understanding and consciousness of her role as a worker. The male character in Zootopia uses some cognitive meanings such as forget, doubt, and remember and attitudes such as learn, assume, and owe because the seller requires the thoughts and attitude to run his business successfully. The male character who acts as the thief in Tangled uses more attitudes such as assume, lie, and want because the thief should have a strong instinct about what he wants to do next. Furthermore, the male character in The Princess and the Frog also uses more attitudes such as admit, object, and intend, because the prince also needs to know about what to do for the prosperity of his people.

The forth type of semantic categories of lexical verbs is causative verb. Biber et al. (1999) stated that causative lexical verbs indicate that some persons or things bring about a new situation. The table 1 shows that the distribution of causative verbs is divided into 23% of causative lexical verb occurrences were related with the male character, while 30% of causative verbs were related with the female character in Zootopia. And then, 26% of causative lexical verb occurrences were related with the male character while, 19% of causative verb occurrences were related with the female character in Tangled.

Moreover, 43% of causative verb occurrences were related with the male character, while 36% of causative verbs were related with the female character in The Princess and The Frog. In the Tangled and the Princess and the Frog the male characters are found to have higher usage of causative verb than the female character. The male characters in the Disney animated movies are depicted to have more contributions in the role of society, while the female characters have a little contribution in the society. The findings show that boys are able to dominate and the boys’ dominance is regarded by all participants (Coates, 2013). Female’s causative verbs tend to cause someone to do physical activity more often than the male such as go, try, take, sit, and hop, while male’s causative verb is more a bit to cause someone to do physical activity. Moreover, men’s capability is considered more able to take care of the situation without the help of the others; women cannot do all of the things by themselves.

The female character in Zootopia uses most causative verbs such as wait, make, and come which cause someone to do something because the female character that has role as the police officer has more powers.
to bring a new situation around her in the society. The same case found in the female character in The Princess and the Frog that acts as the worker who has hard worker personality/ She is able to bring the new situation such as keep, open, and tell. It shows that the female characters who have a job or role in the society have more powers to bring the new situation in the society. The usage of causative verb of female character in Tangled is the lowest; she is described as the princess who has been jailed for a long time, so it shows that she does not have the power to make some new situations in the society. The most causative verb is used by the male character in The Princess and The Frog who has authority as the prince such as get, go, come, and sit. The reason is that the prince has the power to make the new situation around or to make someone to do something. The two male characters in Tangled as the seller and The princess and The Frog as the thief do not have an authority and a role to make the new situation in the society.

The fifth type of semantic categories of lexical verb is verb of occurrence. Biber et al. (1999) stated that verb of occurrence reports the events generally the physical events that occur without the actor. The data imply that the distribution of verb of occurrence is divided into; 8% of verb of occurrence related with the male character, and 5% of verb of occurrence related with the female character in Zootopia Disney animated movie. Moreover, 13% of verb of occurrence was related with the male character and 7% of verb of occurrence was related with the female character in Tangled Disney animated movie. Meanwhile, 6% of verb of occurrence was related with the male character and 3% of verb of occurrence was related with the female character in The Princess and The Frog Disney animated movie. All of the three movies show that the male characters dominate the usage of verb of occurrence. It can be implied that the male characters as the ones who are more competitive in communication in order to report the situation around them. The finding does not prove as Coates (2013) stated that women talk more than men. Besides, the variation of lexical verb used by the male to report the situation in the three movies are more variable than the female. There are 16 variable lexical verbs used only by the male, while only 14 variable lexical verbs are used by the female. The variable of the verb of occurrence by the female character in Zootopia is the most variable verb of occurrence because the role of the female character as the police officer has the work that always involves reporting the situation of surrounding. The female character who has a role as the Princess in the Tangled also uses more variable verbs of occurrence because a princess has been familiar with the activities as speeches.

The female character in The Princess and the Frog, as the hard-working rarely speaks because her priority is to work and work so that the use of verb of occurrence is not variable. The male character in Tangled uses most variable verb of occurrence, because the male character in this movie is described as the thief who is talkative. The male character in The Princess and The Frog who has role as the prince uses more variable verbs of occurrence than the male character in Zootopia who has a role as the seller because the prince has been familiar with thw activities as speeches, so the vocabulary must be rich. Meanwhile, the seller only needs speaking as a necessity because his job is to serve the consumer.

The sixth type of semantic categories of lexical verbs is verb of existence or relationship. Biber et al. (1999) stated that verbs of existence or relationship report a situation that exists between entities. The data show that 0.8% of verbs of existence or relationship were related with the male character, whereas no verb of existence or relationship was related with the female character. Moreover, there is no verb of existence or relationship related with the male character and 0.7% of verbs of existence or relationship were related with the female character in Tangled. Furthermore, 1% of verbs of existence or relationship were related with the male character, while 1% of verbs of existence or relationship were related with the female character in The Princess and The Frog.

Verb of existence or relationship usage by male and female characters has more or less the same number. The writer interprets that male and female characters have the same role of their existence to be recognized and respected by other people in the society than the female character. This finding does not prove as Lakoff (1995) stated that men are able to make others accept and play their representation in the society, while all practical purposes of women are unaccepted (cited in Holmes and Meyerhoff, 2003). Nevertheless, men fit in which means join and women live; it confirms that men push the limits and as the risk-takers, while women are easy-going nature.
The female character in *The Princess and the Frog* uses verb of existence *stay* to show her existence in the society as the waitress. Meanwhile, the female character in *Zootopia* who has a role as police officer does not have any usage of verb of existence because she has already had the role and been recognized in the society. In *Tangled*, the female character has a role as the princess but she has been jailed during her life so she still needs to declare her existence with the use of verb of existence as *live*. The male character in *Zootopia* uses verb of existence of *fit in* to show his presence in the society, because the seller still needs to be recognized by the society. On the contrary, the male character in *Tangled* does not use any verb of existence because indeed he does not want society to know his presence because it can endanger himself who has the role as the thief and the thief also rarely socializes himself with people. The male character in *The Princess and the Frog* shows his presence with the use of verb of existence *stay* because in this movie the prince is described as the prince who has been expelled from his father’s kingdom so he needs people to know that he is still the prince.

The last type of semantic categories of lexical verbs is verb of aspect. Biber et al.(1999) stated that verbs of aspect characterize the stage of event or activity. The data show that there is no verb of aspect that is related with the male and female character in *Zootopia*. The distribution of verbs of aspect show that 2% verbs of aspect were related with the male character, while 2% of verbs of aspect were related with the female character in *Tangled*. Furthermore, 1% of verbs of aspect were related with the male character and 1% of lexical verbs of aspect were related with the female character in *The Princess and the Frog*.

The two Disney animated movies, *Tangled* and *The Princess and The Frog*, show that verb of aspect used by the male and female character have the same number. The writer assumes that Disney animated movies portray male and female characters as the ones who like to take an advance to do the activity. The finding proves as Archer and Lloyd (2002) stated that there some traits assigned to men such as doing the activity and getting things done. However, men *start* and women are *pushing on* which means *continue*. Thus, it indicates that men are the risk-takers of what they do and they are capable of making things happen. In contrast, women’s effort to accomplish things is not the same extent as men.

The female character in *The Princess and the Frog* who has a role as the waitress who always makes an effort to do something for her life in order to make better life in order to be recognized by the society as the use of verb of aspect *pushing on* which means *continue*. Meanwhile, the female character in *Zootopia* who has a role as the police officer does not use any effort which is shown that there is no usage of verb of aspect. It is because the police officer does need anything to do to make their life better or to be recognized by the society because they have already got an important role in the society. The female character or the princess in *Tangled* needs to do some efforts to make her life and her people’s life better because her role is important to the society. The same thing as the male character in *The Princess and the Frog*, has to do something for his life and his people. Furthermore, the male character in *Zootopia* does not use any verb of aspect which means he has nothing to do more for his life because he has already had a job and his role has been considered by the society. The male character in *Tangled* shows some efforts with the usage of verb of aspect; the male character that has a role as the thief makes some efforts to do more for his life in order to make his life better or be accepted by the society.

**Conclusion**

From the data collected, it has been found that the male characters in the three Disney animated movies are more dominant in several categories of lexical verb such as activity verb, communication verb, Causative verb and verb of occurrences than the female character. Meanwhile, the female characters in the three Disney animated movies only dominate one type of semantic category of lexical verb which is Mental verb. Meanwhile, verb of existence and relationship and verb of aspect are dominated by both male and female characters. From the investigation of lexical verb usage in the semantic category from the three Disney animated movies, the writer can conclude that the representation of male and female character tend to have different representation in Disney animated movies. In the case of physical activity, the male characters are still depicted as the character who more affords to do the physical activity. The existence of the male and female characters is depicted similar and they both are similarly depicted as the characters that are more active in doing activity. The female characters compared with the male characters
also do not show their competition in communication, but the female characters appear more in non-physical activity. Moreover, the role of the characters of each movie affects the usage of lexical verb. From the study conducted here, the writer gives suggestion to the further research, especially for those who are interested in language and gender research. The writer suggests to the next researcher to analyze language and gender based on other word class such as noun, adverb, adjective, etc. and to take the background of the character. This study will guide the next research of language and gender research.

References