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**FEMALE AND MALE FEATURES OF SPEECH  
(BASED ON THE MOVIE “TOOTSIE” 1982)**

**ЖІНОЧІ ТА ЧОЛОВІЧІ РИСИ МОВЛЕННЯ  
(НА МАТЕРІАЛІ ФІЛЬМУ «ТУТСІ» 1982)**

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Gender linguistics has been of interest for more than 50 years since the first research in the field conducted by Robin Lakoff. Nowadays this field becomes more and more popular, and emerging of more advanced

computerized tools simplifies the research process and helps get better results.

Our research is based on the American comedy named “Tootsie” released in 1982. “Tootsie” was a success, since it managed to become the second-highest-grossing movie of the year after the famous “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial” [1]. The main character, Michael Dorsey, is an actor whose dream is to show the world his talent, but it was not meant to come true since nobody wanted to work with him due to his unpredictable behavior. One day he decides to take a risk and disguised as a woman called Dorothy Michaels goes to an audition for hospital administrator Emily Kimberly in one soap opera. That is where his journey starts. He gets the role precisely because of his character since that was exactly what they were looking for. The research concentrates on distinguishing how male and female features of speech got portrayed in Michael/Dorothy’s speech and what exactly got affected by the gender switch.

For getting a better and more objective understanding of what changes took place in the character’s speech, an automatic content analysis tool called LIWC (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count) was used [5]. Also for comparing our results to understand which category has lower or higher indexes we refer to information about each of the measures provided by LIWC. The dataset was constructed from randomly selected subsets of text from across 15 different types of English language sets [2, p. 8]. For our research, we’ll use indexes related to movies.

Robin Lakoff in her article “Language and the Woman’s Place” (1973) states that: “...women’s speech sounds much more “polite” than men’s” [4, p. 56]. This was the case for our main character. When being Michael, his index of the category “Polite” is within the norm, which is: 0.96, but after the switch, we can see a drastic increase to 2.78.

In the research “The Psychological Meaning of Words: LIWC and Computerized Text Analysis Methods” by Yla Tausczik and James Pennebaker, where LIWC was used to define gender differences of speech, it was found that women used more social words, and pronouns, including first-person singular and third-person pronouns, while men used more large words, articles, and prepositions in their speech [6, p. 36]. In Dorothy’s case categories “Socbehav” and “Prosocial” were higher than the mean and in Michael’s speech, they were both within the norm, which proves the statement mentioned above.

Concerning the usage of first and third-person pronouns, our findings differ. For both of them, the usage of “I” pronoun is higher. This tendency could be explained by the fact that they both have depression. According

to To’Meisha Edwards and Nicholas Holtzman: “...first-person singular pronoun use is a reliable marker of depression in both genders” [3, p. 67]. This could be the case for our research material since Michael is an unemployed actor who struggles to find a job, and Dorothy lives in constant fear that her true personality will be revealed because she cannot be with the love of her life.

Indexes for the usage of third-person pronouns, articles, and large words are within the mean for both of them which needs further investigation. As for the usage of prepositions, though for Michael it is within the norm, we can still see the difference, because for Dorothy the index is lower than the norm, which means that for him, the usage of prepositions is more characteristic than for her.

The results obtained show that with the change of gender, speech undergoes changes as regards to the perception of male and female speech characteristic features. It was found that the following categories of the characters’ speech have changed the most: “Polite”, “Prosocial”, “Soctbehav” and “Prepositions”. The discrepancies in the indexes received in other categories are worth further investigation.

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