



## The different Between Male and Female in Using Indirect Speech Act in Having Relationship When Texting in WhatsApp

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**Abstract** This research discovered to determine whether men or women frequently utilize indirect speech when texting their partners on WhatsApp. Three couples that communicate via WhatsApp are the subjects of this study. They are between the ages of 20 and 25. Within two weeks, the data was gathered by recording their message history. The data was analyzed by classifying it into direct and indirect speech acts by Clark 1977. It was discovered that women are more likely than men to use indirect speech acts. Ten indirect speech acts were performed by the females of three couples, whereas only three were delivered by the man, according to three conversation histories. Besides, man tend to use direct speech act while they want to the deliver their purposes.

**Keywords:** Indirect Speech Act; Texting; Dating Relationship; Direct Speech; Speech Acts.

**Abstrak** Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui apakah pria atau wanita sering menggunakan ucapan tidak langsung saat mengirim pesan kepada pasangannya di WhatsApp. Tiga pasangan yang berkomunikasi melalui WhatsApp menjadi subjek penelitian ini. Mereka berusia antara 20 dan 25 tahun. Dalam waktu dua minggu, data dikumpulkan dengan mencatat riwayat pesan mereka. Data dianalisis dengan mengelompokkannya menjadi tindak tutur langsung dan tidak langsung berdasarkan Clark 1977. Ditemukan bahwa perempuan lebih cenderung menggunakan tindak tutur tidak langsung dibandingkan laki-laki. Sepuluh tindak tutur tidak langsung dilakukan oleh perempuan dari tiga pasangan, sedangkan hanya tiga yang disampaikan oleh laki-laki, menurut tiga riwayat percakapan.

**Kata Kunci:** Tindak Tutur Tidak Langsung; Pesan; Hubungan Kencan; Tindak Tutur Langsung; Tindak Tutur.

## INTRODUCTION

Men and women typically communicate closely with one another. Therefore having relationship is a common occurrence in society, particularly among young adults. According to Ericson, every individual should face the phase of growing. It is about a close relationship with his/her opposite sex (Papalia, Olds, & Feedman, 2009). When they have this phase, individuals disposed a romantic relation that many people called is as dating relationship (Santrock, 2003).

While doing the communication, the sentence that are delivered by men is arranged well and brief than female. (Allan & Barbara, 2012). Casually they just give a simple introduction then explain it simply and give the conclusion. It is easy to be understood and get the point of what they want to be delivered. It is contrary with the females which tends to be complex (Allan & Barbara, 2012). In same situation, more than one topic can be conveyed by them. (Allan & Barbara, 2012) When they want to express what they want, it is often expressed in the different way of male do. For example while female want to tell that she wants to buy a bag to another male of even female. It could be possible that she talk about the leather of the bag then make the topic of the leather. Perhaps that the leathers of the bag that she want to buy is snake leather, she can change the topic about the snake, then talk about the snake and its kind in the world. That is certainly different from the first she wants to speak up in the beginning while it is happen in the same time or situation.

The speaking ability of the females is in left front side of the brain and added by a small area in the right side. That is why female is better in doing communication than Male because they have two side area of speaking while male only have one (Allan & Barbara, 2012). It is also probably that the female can do two activities in the same way and also do an activities and speaking in the same time.

In having the relationship, they do the communication frequently. For example, by asking the news from their couple, tell their experience or even express their feeling. Liana and Herdianto (2017) said that there was a significant correlation of dating relationship couple that related to their communication intensity and their commitment with what they are doing. They found that the higher the communication intensity, the higher commitment, otherwise, the lower intensity of communication to be done, the lower the commitment to be. It means that the dating relationship couple often done the communication in their daily life, perhaps they have the commitment that they will do.

The communication can be done by sending message. For instance, while they can not meet each other they will communicate by social media whether it is text, call or even video call. Media social certainly make them still keep in touch in doing communication. WhatsApp is one of the most used social media platforms in today's world. The user can text, call, and video call with this social media platform. Additionally, it offers a news feed where users may post their status updates, videos, and images.

Hancock and Rubin (2014) stated that no significant differences between male in doing the communication, however, when they have the communication with female especially in speaking, they often interrupt more and use much more dependent clauses. Further they also conclude that there are two aspect that influence the female in doing the communication, they are dependent clause and interruptions. This is occurred related to the gender role. Language may be influence more by the schema of gender norms rather than the gender characteristics of the speaker. In the specific finding, especially for making the request, Onem (2016) found that both male and female significantly difference in using the total words for each request statistically that females tend to make length sentence, more details and more direct. It is also related to the social and culture of the participant to avoid the losing face

As the woman have the linguistic ability better than men, especially in speaking, will they also have the better ability in doing indirect speech act while communicate with their opposite couple? Indirect speech acts are employed to convey ideas through other constructs, according to Clark (1977). It would be intriguing to find out if men or women frequently utilize indirect speech when texting their significant other across WhatsApp. This study examined the use of indirect speech in WhatsApp texts between a man and a woman in a romantic relationship.

### **Direct and Indirect Speech Act**

While people do something for other or have others to do something for them, speech act are utterances to make both of these happen (Reiter, 2000). Making apologies, requests, promises or threats are all speech acts. Searle (1975) makes a distinction between direct and indirect speech acts. Direct speech acts have a propositional content and they carry an illocutionary force-an intention (Searle, 1975). In other words, asking questions with the expectation of a real answer is an example of direct speech acts. For instance, "can you swim?" can be described as a direct speech act if the question asked solely for the purpose of

providing information (Yule, 2006). On the other hand, an indirect speech act is “an act performed” by means of another” (Searle, 1979: 60). In other words, when the syntactic structure is similar to that of a question but the function is that of a request, it can be called as indirect speech act (Yule, 2006). For example, “can you turn the music down?” is not truly a question. As a result, depending on the intended meaning, a speech act can be direct or indirect.

### **Dating Relationship**

Ericson (2009) said that every individual should face the phase of growing. It is about a close relationship with his/her opposite sex (Liana in Papalia, Olds, & Feedman, 2009). Close communication is common between men and women. Thus, the idea of dating is a common occurrence in society, particularly among young adults. According to Santrock (2003), throughout this stage, people engaged in romantic relationships, which many refer to as dating relationships.

### **METHOD**

Descriptive qualitative research was performed in this study. Creswell (2014) asserts that qualitative research explains the organic environment that allows the researcher to create experience as an unfolding model. Three couples who communicate via WhatsApp are the subjects of this study. They are between the ages of 20 and 25. Documents containing their WhatsApp message history were used to get the data. According to Clark (1977), the data was analyzed by classifying it into direct and indirect speech acts.

**The characteristics of the Speech Act by Clark (1977)**

No	Form	Function
1	Declaratives	Assertion
2	Interrogatives	Questions
3	Imperatives	Commands

Based on the characteristics above, it can be notion that if the form of the sentence is declaratives it means that the function must be the assertion, and the same with interrogatives and imperatives. However, it will be different while the characteristics of indirect speech act is expressed by other construction. for example, if someone deliver the

sentence in declarative form but it is not always functioned as the assertion in its illocution, it means that the function and form is not parallel.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on three couples chat history the researcher categorize each of their sentence into direct and indirect speech act. The sentence that contain of speech act was mark with bold sentence. The following show the chat history from the first couple which show that there are three speech act that has been found. The first is when the female said “*udah itu ajah? (just it?)*” in these sentences the female uses interrogative sentences however it is not functioned to ask or make question but to assert or respond to the male. The second is when the man said “*jangan dipaksakan udah malam ini (don’t impose yourself, it has been midnight)*” in this sentence the man use declarative sentences however it is functioned to command the female to stop. While the third sentence is *Bsk aku pulang soree, ada yang jemput ga ya? ( yes, my dear, tomorrow I’ll be back in the afternoon, is there someone who will pick me up?* The female use interrogative sentence while the function is to command the male to pick her up.

### Chat History from Couple 1

Direct	Indirect
Female : <i>lagi apa sayang?</i> (what are you doing dear?) Male : <i>tiduran yang, sayang lagi apa?</i> ( I am liying down dear, how about you?) Female: <i>lagi ngerjain tugas yang, banyak, bantuin</i> (I am doing my task dear, they are so many) Male : <i>tugas apa? Sini aku bantuin deh</i> (what task is it? Let me help you) Female: <i>LP yankk</i> (LP darl) Male : <i>apa itu lp?</i> (what is LP) Female : <i>Laporan pendahuluan, gak ngerti itu sayang</i> (preliminary report, you’ll not understand dear)	
	Male : <i>yaudah</i> (alright) Female: <b><i>udah itu ajah? (just it?)</i></b> Male : <i>nnt ganggu pulak yang</i> ( I am afraid, will disturb you) Female: <i>capek lho yang, jenuh, mknya ngechat ayang</i> (so tired darl, saturate, that is why I text you)

	<p>Male : <i>jangan dipaksakan udah malam ini (dont impose yourself, it has been midnight)</i>                  Female: <i>daripada gak siap, pagipun dibantai yang</i> (I am afraid it will not be done, I'll do it till morning)</p>
<p>Male : <i>sama siapa pulang dr klinik?</i> (with whom you go back from clinic)                  Female: <i>sama yang lebih ganteng dr ayang</i> (with someone who more handsome than you dear)                  Male : <i>emang ada?</i> ( is there anyone be like that?)                  Female: <i>ada gak ya?</i> (will it be there?)                  Male : <i>mana ada</i> (it will not)                  Female: <i>kayaknya yang jemput aku tadi ganteng lho yang</i> (but, the one who pick me up is handsome dear)                  Male : <i>gak yakin aku</i> ( I dont believe it)                  Female: <i>ganteng lho yang tukang gojeknya</i> (the gojek rider is handsome)                  Male : <i>hahaha, gojek rupanya</i> (hahaha. It is gojek)</p>	
	<p>Female : <i>hahaha iya sayangkuh, Bsk aku pulang soree, ada yang jemput gay a?</i> ( yes, my dear, <b>tomorrow I'll be back in the afternoon, is there someone who will pick me up?</b>                  Male : <i>bisa gak ya?</i> (can I?)                  Female: <i>gosah</i> ( you can't)</p>

In the second couple chat history, the indirect speech act can also be found. The first is when the female said “*bukannya abg yg ngajak? mestinya abg tau* (you have asked me, it means that you’ve known)” she uses the interrogative sentences but it is functioned to assert that the male who has asked her. The second is when the female said “*rasa abg adek mau kemana?* (do you think, where I want to go?)” she used interrogative sentence to however it is also function to assert to the male that she did not know where she wanted to go. The third indirect speech is when the female said “*berarti kita gak jadi pg inikan?* (it means that we will not go)” she use interrogative sentences to while the function is to assert. Then the female also said “*yaudah adek mau tdr, malas, bye, gosah balas* ( if so, I want to sleep, so lazy, bye, don’t replay it)”. She used imperative sentences which is the

function is to assert to the ma that she did not want to chat the male. And the last is when the female said “*trs ajah gak tau. Terusss gak tau* (you still don’t know, still be like that)” she use imperative sentences which the function is to command but here it is function to assert that the female was angry.

### Chat history from couple 2

Direct Speech Act	Indirect Speech Act
Female : <i>jadi kita pg bg? (will we go dear?)</i>	
Male : <i>jd dong (yes ofcourse)</i>	
Female : <i>kalau gt mandilah adek dulu ya (if so, I am going to take a bath)</i>	
Male : <i>gosah mandi (dont take a bath)</i>	
Female : <i>knp? Nanti jauh2 pulak abg dr adek (why? You’ll keep distance from me later)</i>	
Male : <i>mana bisa abg jauh dr adek, bisa kiamat dunia abg nnt (how I can keep distance from you, seems to be end of the day for my world)</i>	
Female : <i>alay, teringatnya kemananya nnt kita bg? (tacky, by the way, where will we go dear?)</i>	
Male : <i>adek maunya kemana? (where do you want to go dear?)</i>	
	Female : <i>bukannya abg yg ngajak? mestinya abg tau (you have asked me, it means that you’ve known)</i>
Male : <i>abgpun bingung (I am confuse to)</i>	
Female : <i>jd pg ato gak ini? (so, will we go?)</i>	
Male : <i>jadi (yes)</i>	
Female : <i>kemana kita? (where will we go)</i>	
Female : <i>terserah abg ( up to you)</i>	
Male : <i>adek pengen kemana? (where do you want to go)</i>	
	Female : <i>rasa abg adek mau kemana? (do you think, where I want to go?)</i>



	Male : <i>rasa adek abg tau?</i> (do you think I know it?)
	Female : <i>berarti kita gak jadi pg inikan?</i> (it means that we will not go)
	Male : <i>kok gt?</i> (how be like that?)
<b>Male</b> : <i>kan marah pulak...</i> ( are you angry)	
<b>Female</b> : <i>gak</i> (no)	
<b>Male</b> : <i>gara2 gt ajah</i> ( it cause a simple thing)	
<b>Female</b> : <i>jgn balas lagi</i> (dont replay it again)	
Two missed calls	
<b>Male</b> : <i>kok gak diangkat? Knp sih dek?</i> (why dont you answer it?, what happen dear?)	
<b>Female</b> : <i>knp ya?</i> (why?)	
<b>Male</b> : <i>mana tau abg</i> (I dont know)	
	Female : <i>yaudah adek mau tdr, malas, bye, gosah balas</i> ( if so, I want to sleep, so lazy, bye, dont replay it)
	Female : <i>trs ajah gak tau. Teruss gak tau</i> (you still dont know, still be like that)

In the third couple, the indirect speech act also can be found. The first is when the female request something to the male. In doing request the female did not use interrogative sentences but she use imperative sentences by use the sentence “*eh, aku titip pembalut ya* (eh, I board out menstrual pads)”. The second when male said “*malu loh beb* ( I am shame dear)” which is means that he did not want to buy female’s menstrual pad however the male express it with another way. The third is when the female got angry because the male did not want to fulfill her command and the male asked “*is it ok*” but female did not answer it with short question as it should be but give a long assertion and command. She said “*aku tiba tiba capek, mau tidur, kamu gosah datang ya, ngantuk berat* ( I suddenly tired, I want to sleep, you dont need to come, so sleepy)”. Then while the male respond by declarative sentence “*yaudah kalau gt* (if so, alright)” the female use her indirect speech act again by saying “*sampe kapanpun gosah datang2* (whenever it is, you dont need to come)”. The imperative sentences that used by the female function as the assertion that she was not ok with it. Then the male also said “*ampunlh menghadapi boru regar kesayangan ini* ( so tired to face my lovely regar girl (surname)” which is want to



saud that he did not know what to do the the female however said it by different assertion. Last but not least the female also said “*makan sayangmu!* (eat your love)” which is the sentence’s form is imperative however the function is not to command but to give the assertion that she was really angry.

### Chat History from Couple 3

Direct	Indirect
Male : <i>yaudah aku ini otw rumahmu ya</i> (I’m on the way to your house)	
	Female : <i>eh, aku titip pembalut ya</i> (eh, I board out menstrual pads)
	Male : <i>males ah.</i> ( so lazy)
Female: <i>oh jadi kamu gak mau?</i> (oh, you dont want, do you?)	
Male : <i>aduh, marah lagi</i> (oh, she is angry again)	
Female : <i>bye!!!</i> (bye!!!)	
Male : <i>jgn gtlah sayang, yodah nnt aku belikkan ya</i> ( dont be like that darling, I’ll buy it later)	
Female : <i>udah basi, gak perlu</i> (I dont need it again)	
	Male : <i>malu loh beb</i> ( I am shame dear)
	Female : <i>yaudah</i> (alright)
	Male : <i>gapapakan?</i> (is it ok)
	Female : <i>aku tiba tiba capek, mau tidur, kamu gosah datang ya, ngantuk berat</i> ( I suddenly tired, I want to sleep, you dont need to come, so sleepy)
	Male : <i>yaudah kalau gt</i> (if so, alright)
	Female : <i>sampe kapanpun gosah datang2</i> (whenever it is, you dont need to come)
	Male : <i>ampunlh menghadapi boru regar kesayangan ini</i> ( so tired to face my lovely regar girl (surename)
	Female : <i>makan sayangmu!</i> (eat your love)

Based on the result above, it can know that the first couple both male and female use indirect speech act. The female use interrogative sentences however it is not functioned to ask or make question but to assert or respond to the male. While the man use declarative sentences however it is functioned to command the female to stop. It means that in their conversation the form of the sentences is not functioned as its function.

In the second couple the use of indirect speech can be found more than the first couple. There are five indirect speech acts that can be found which is all is done by the

female. The first is the female used the interrogative sentences but it is functioned to assert that the male who has asked her. The second is when the female said used interrogative sentence but functioned to assert to the male that she don't know where she want to go. The third indirect speech is when she used interrogative sentence while the function is to assert. The fourth is when the female use imperative sentences which is the function is to assert to the male that she did not want to chat the male. And the last is when the female use imperative sentences which the function is to command but here it is function to assert that the female was angry.

In the third couple, the female does indirect speech act four times. The first is when the female request something to the male. In doing request the female did not use interrogative sentences but she use imperative sentences. The second is when the female got angry because the male did not want to fulfill her command respond it with by giving long assertion that should be short and add command. The third is the female used imperative sentences but functioned as the assertion that she was not ok with what the male do. The last is when the female five the imperative sentences however the function is to give the assertion that she was really angry. While the male does it two times. The first when he did not want to fulfill the female's want by giving the other assertion and the second is when he did not know what to do cause of the female got angry by giving a long assertion.

It means that female use indirect speech act more often than male. Based on three chat history found that there are ten indirect speech acts that delivered the females of three couples and only three indirect speech acts by the male. Many researches about the differences between male and female in doing the communication has revealed that female tends to use the indirect speech while they do the communication, Suri et al (2024) found that female use assertion, information and confirmation in doing the communication to build the improve the connection and build relationship.

## **CONCLUSION**

From three chat history that has been found, it can conclude that female use indirect speech act more than the male in texting through WhatsApp. The females tend to use the sentences which is different in function and form rather than male which is use indirect speech act by express the sentence in different way but the function and form still paralel. However in the first couple, the male use indirect speech act with non paralel both of the fom and function. Therefore, the focus of the research that has been stated in

the introduction part which stated that female tend to use the indirect speech act than male in their texting through WhatsApp can be proven. Besides it also in compliance with Allan and Barrabara (2013) that said that woman produce the sentence that more complex. As they can produce the sentence that not paralel both of the form and the function.

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