

**LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY MEN AND WOMEN
IN THEIR E-MAIL RESPONSES TO POSTINGS FROM
SAME- AND CROSS-GENDER PARTICIPANTS
IN “YAHOO” DISCUSSION GROUPS**

A THESIS

**As Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching Faculty**



By:

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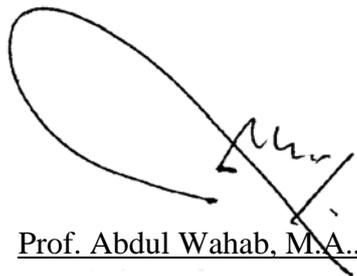
**UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA
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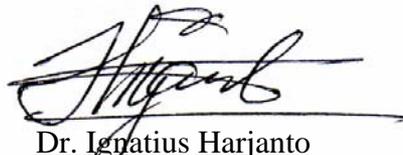
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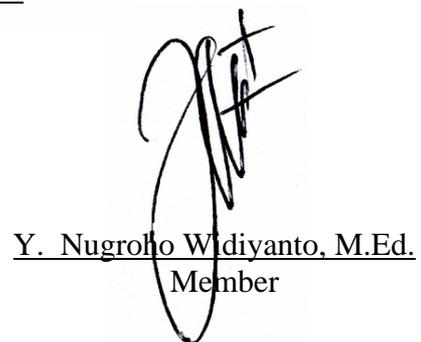
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ABSTRACT

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Key words: difference, language features, e-mail, *Yahoo* Discussion Groups

Language is something used universally by people around the world. Although many new technologies of communication have been available for us to use today, communication itself remains rooted in and dependent on our everyday ability to interact through language. As one of the products of the advancement in communication technology, electronic mail (E-mail) is rapidly becoming a preferred communication medium for many people and for many diverse reasons. Yet, it seems that not everyone is equally enamored with this new technology. Men and women do not seem to respond to e-mail in the same way. Several researched previously conducted to examine implication of gender in online communication found that men and women communicated differently online than face-to-face. Interested in this matter, the writer studied the different way men and women communication through e-mails. This study focused on the use of certain language features by men and women in their e-mail responses to postings from other same- and cross-gender participants in "Yahoo" discussion groups.

This study is intended to answer the following research questions: (1) Do men and women use different language features when responding to e-mail postings from same-gender or cross-gender participants in "Yahoo" discussion groups? (2) What language features are frequently used by men and women when responding to e-mail postings from same-gender or cross-gender participants in "Yahoo" discussion groups?

As a creative instrument, the writer herself collects the data taken from the Internet. There are one hundred e-mail messages collected randomly from several "Yahoo" Discussion Groups with various topic discussed within a month period (March 2003). The e-mail messages were sent by both male and female participants in the discussion groups.

This study is qualitative and descriptive study. The writer analyzed the data using a set of parameters. They are the researcher's background knowledge and seven coded variables of language features commonly used by men and women in writing their e-mail responses.

After analyzing the data, the study finds that male and female participants in "Yahoo" Discussion Groups do write differently to other cross-sex participants than same-sex ones; even though not in the same extent. Women are more likely to write different e-mail responses when writing to other male participants than female ones. In contrast, men do not seem to differentiate their e-mail responses whether writing to the other male or female participants in the discussion groups.