Language of Men: A Cultural Misinterpretation in Modern Literature

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Abstract — This study would lay basis by describing how traditional gender norms and stereotypes have long been prevalent in literature. Hence, this study aims to observe and identify the behaviors of men found in Philippine modern literature from selected three (3) local movies namely Kita Kita, Woke Up Like This, and Bromance: My Brother's Romance; along with the misinterpretations related to it. The study aims to identify the different behaviors of men found in modern literature, along with the misinterpretations found throughout the behaviors, that may generally define the term 'Language of Men'. The study conducted a documentary phenomenological qualitative research design. Creswell (2007) proposes a phenomenological research approach to understanding individuals' subjective experiences and perceptions.

Research findings show that there are various behaviors of men found in modern literature along with how men are also being culturally misinterpreted by their behaviors based on societal expectations and standards imposed by society. Through observation and analysis of the movies, the researchers came up with themes to define the behaviors of men found in modern literature, the misinterpretations, and the holistic definition of the term 'Language of Men'. M.A.C.H.O. (Muscular, Arrogant, Confrontational, Healthful, Oppressive), D.E.L.I.C.A.T.E. (Daintiness, Elegance, Loveliness, Impressionable, Compassion, Affectionate, Tactfulness, Expressiveness), W.EA.K. (Withholding emotions, Enforcing traditional gender roles, Accepting male privileges, Keeping silence), E.R.A. (Emotional Openness, Resilient, Authentic self-expression), V.O.C.A.L. (Vulnerability, Openness, Compassion, Authenticity, Liberation), and E.N.A.R.T.E. (Expressive, Neat, Affectionate, Respectful, Tranquility, Empathy).

The term Language of Men signifies the lives of men who behave differently and uniquely on how they interact with others, but also on how they define their masculinity and freely express their emotions. Based on the research findings, the study offered recommendations to language and literature teachers, scholars, linguists, and future researchers to further analyze the behaviors of men as a continuation for future research.

I. Introduction

In a world where gender norms and expectations have shifted significantly, the cultural interpretation of males who embrace feminist actions, behaviors, values, and lifestyles – "effeminate men" – often reveals a complex and frequently misconstrued narrative. (Messerschmidt, 2019)

Becoming a feminist is often gradual and, in some ways, a lifelong process (Mishra, 2021). It holds not only for women but for men as well. Various factors help men develop feminist consciousness. Some examples are the nature of the household a person is reared in, encounters with non-traditional images and roles of men and women, exposure to social and gender-related issues, and exposure to diverse societies. This essential concept extends to both men and women, resonating in everyday life and portraying male characters with feminist characteristics in modern literature. Just as feminist consciousness gradually evolves in individuals, it is often reflected in protagonists' character development in contemporary literature.

Within Mishra's (2021) study, the lack of comprehensive understanding surrounding how men engage with and internalize feminist principles, resonates deeply with the misinterpretation of fictional men with feminine characteristics in modern literature. Just as research acknowledges the complexities of men's relationship with feminism, the portrayal of male characters in literature often mirrors the diverse and sometimes contradictory responses to feminism. Some male characters in modern literature undergo significant transformations, embracing feminist principles and embodying qualities frequently associated with femininity, such as empathy, sensitivity, and a commitment to gender equality. However, the notion that these characteristics somehow indicate their sexual orientation persists, much like the research that suggests men's commitment to feminism may decrease after engaging with the subject. This misinterpretation overlooks the intricate nuances of these characters' journeys and the broader narrative they contribute to, which reflects the complex and fragmented nature of men's discourses on feminism.

In a world where political rhetoric can undermine women by characterizing them as "gentle" and "weak," it becomes apparent that deeply ingrained beliefs about gender can affect not only women but also men who challenge traditional norms. This environment can create an oppressive atmosphere where men embracing feminist values and characteristics might be hesitant to express themselves fully, further entrenching stereotypes and limiting the progression toward a more inclusive and equitable society.

In modern literature, authors increasingly utilize feminine male characters to shed light on the misinterpretation of gender among feminist men, highlighting that embracing feminine ideals does not necessarily equate to a particular sexual orientation. They reflect the broader societal

struggle against restrictive views of masculinity and, in doing so, help break down the harmful assumption that embracing feminism somehow implies a specific sexual orientation. By portraying such characters, literature contributes to the ongoing dialogue on gender and identity, reinforcing the importance of accurate and diverse representation in dismantling ingrained misconceptions.

Such gender stereotypes are very influential in that they affect conceptualizations of women and men, and they establish social categories for gender. In relation, femininity, and masculinity or one's gender identity refers to the degree to which a person sees themselves as masculine or feminine, given what it means to be a man or a woman in society. This also moves to the deviation of femininity and masculinity being portrayed by somewhat a different gender as to what it is assigned to, being a man having a feminine trait or a woman having a masculine trait. Being misgendered or misinterpreted creates challenges and issues for people.

The opening to this research would lay the basis by describing how traditional gender norms and stereotypes have long been prevalent in literature. Authors may promote stereotypes by portraying one-dimensional masculine characters who are influenced by cultural norms and prejudices. This misinterpretation of masculine language limits the richness and authenticity of male characters in contemporary literary works, depriving readers of a deeper understanding of masculinity. Hence, this study aims to observe and identify the behaviors of men found in modern literature and the misinterpretations related to it.

Literature Review

According to Gundersen and Kunst (2019), Norwegians' visual images of feminist women were less feminine and more masculine than those of women with moderate views on gender or other activist identities (i.e., the control conditions). These effects further explained why feminist women were seen as dangerous; they were more noticeable in male participants and those with higher hostile sexist sentiments. Furthermore, hostile sexism once more mitigated the effects, such that participants who held stronger hostile sexist beliefs perceived the feminist male as less manly than the man in the control condition.

These individuals frequently find themselves grappling with the mistaken assumption that their behaviors and adoption of what are traditionally considered feminine traits equate to a particular sexual orientation, which leads to gender stereotypes being misinterpreted by such individuals.

In the study by Cryan et al. (2020), it is evident that gender stereotypes are widespread societal beliefs about what physical and personality traits are expected from individuals based on their gender. Traditional gender stereotypes dictate that women should exhibit qualities like kindness and warmth while men should demonstrate traits such as assertiveness and competence. These stereotypes influence the words we choose in our language, automatically triggering associated characteristics when referring to specific genders, even those who do not consciously

endorse these stereotypes. This phenomenon extends to how gender labels affect our perceptions and associations.

In Mishra's (2021) study, men's engagement in feminism and the feminist movement has increased substantially in recent decades. Few men have engaged with and contributed to feminist movements throughout history. Men's engagement, in particular, was primarily limited to their support for women's equal rights. Some women could perceive men-in-feminism as "a threat to an ideology that uniquely empowers women in a patriarchal society" (Schmitz and Haltom, 2017). Many feminists, nonetheless, believe that men's engagement in feminism is necessary to dismantle patriarchy and achieve gender equality.

In a relatively gender-equal society, as in the case of Sweden, Mishra's (2021) study shows that men prefer to call themselves feminists rather than pro-feminists {or "equalist"}. Even those engaged in feminism for quite some time share a similar view. Gaurab, 30, however, had a different problem. He said:

I would like to consider myself a feminist. Nonetheless, I am uncomfortable with the term Naribadi (feminist). The term, it appears to me, personifies a woman. I think we have to find new terminology here. Many men would otherwise remain reluctant to freely and willingly join feminism. To be honest, it is rather humiliating for us menfolk to attach ourselves to the terminology. We want to engage in feminism because We believe that it can address our problems as well. However, it is not clear how it will enable us to do so.

In literature, just as in reality, it is vital to recognize that men's responses to feminism are indeed varied and often influenced by factors such as class, caste, sexuality, religion, and spatial location. Similarly, the misinterpretation of male characters in literature can be attributed to these factors. The portrayal of men marginalized in terms of sexuality, caste, and poverty as more pro-feminist emphasizes the critical role of context and background in shaping one's feminist consciousness, whether in literature or society at large.

Another study focusing on the experiences of gay fathers found that stereotypical concepts on gender traits and roles have been one of society's significant influences as gender stereotypes are the beliefs about the psychological traits and characteristics of, as well as the activities appropriate to men or women (Fatimah et al., 2019).

A local study in the Philippines in Parmanand's (2020) work shows that Former President Duterte's emphasis on a masculinized form of political rivalry creates significant challenges for his female opponents. Duterte's rhetoric undermines the position of the vice president, who is a woman, by characterizing her as "gentle" and "weak." This rhetoric reflects a common issue in politics where women leaders can face a double bind: if they conform to traditional stereotypes of femininity, they may be seen as weak, while if they adopt more masculine political styles, they are often criticized for deviating from cultural norms. This influence of narrow perceptions and rigid stereotypes of robust masculinity in men can have a cascading effect on society, impacting not

only the interpretation of men with more feminine ideals, characteristics, and behaviors but also limiting their voice and agency.

II. Methodology

Research Design

The study conducted a documentary phenomenological qualitative research design. Creswell (2007) proposes a phenomenological research approach to understanding individuals' subjective experiences and perceptions. It sought to uncover a phenomenon's essence by exploring participants' lived experiences, emphasizing their interpretations and meaning-making processes.

In this research, applying a documentary phenomenological approach involved delving into the subjective experiences of readers, critics, and authors when encountering male characters in modern literature. It aims to uncover how these individuals interpret and make meaning of the language, actions, and behaviors of male characters about feminism. This approach has provided valuable insights into the varied and often complex ways in which cultural misinterpretations of men's roles and identities unfold in the literary context, shedding light on the lived experiences of those engaged with these texts.

As applied to this research, Creswell's phenomenological theory provided a valuable approach to investigating how readers and critics perceive the feminist actions and behaviors exhibited by male characters in contemporary literature. This approach encourages deep exploration of the subjective experiences of individuals when engaging with literary works featuring such characters.

By adopting the phenomenological perspective, researchers delved into the intricate and multifaceted ways readers and critics interpret the language, actions, and behaviors of male characters with feminism. It allowed for a holistic understanding of the lived experiences of those encountering these characters, uncovering the underlying meanings, values, and emotions they attach to them.

Subjects of the Study

The subjects of the study were the 3 Philippine local movies selected by the researchers, namely *Woke Up Like This (2017),* directed by Joel Ferrer, *Kita Kita (2017)* directed by Sigrid Andrea P. Bernardo, and *Bromance: My Brother's Romance (2013)* directed by Wenn V. Deramas; to observe the portrayal and dynamic change of the male characters seen in the movies, about their behaviors in modern literature, precisely the feminine behaviors being misinterpreted as feminine. The researchers have also added the viewers as subjects of the study to observe their interpretations of the movies about the characters' masculinity and femininity. It examined the roles, traits, and development of these characters in contemporary literary works, providing insights into how

authors depict masculinity in the ever-changing landscape of the 21st century. This study aimed to enhance the understanding of masculinity's cultural and social aspects and cultural misinterpretations in modern literature.

Data Gathering Procedure

The researchers conducted an observation and documentary analysis among the three selected local movies for the specifications of male characters observed on their usual and unusual behaviors among their verbal and non-verbal languages. The researchers also conducted additional documentary analyses to examine related texts to gather data and interpretations about the study.

The research investigated the different behaviors of men in select movies by observing the traits of each behavior from an inventory based on the Theory of Masculinity by R.W. Connell. This led to a further observation on identifying the cultural misinterpretations of said behaviors that are deemed unusual from the researchers' point of view, based on research that portrays traits of behaviors of masculine men, to define further the overall terminology and message of the Language of Men in Modern society, as represented by numerous modern authors and literary creators. The researchers also used thematic analysis to identify and analyze themes in the documents related to the behavior of men, cultural misinterpretations, and the portrayals of non-masculine behavior in men.

This study used an inventory as a tool based on the Theory of Masculinity by R.W. Connell that showcased the different traits of each masculinity present in men, regardless of being stereotypical or unusual. Each type of masculinity showed different traits of men as bases for their behaviors shown in the movies.

III. Results and Discussion

This chapter proceeded with a thematic analysis that further discusses the different behaviors of men found in modern literature, specifically from the select modern Philippine movies, and the misinterpretations involved with the behaviors seen in each film. This study also defined what the researchers defined as the meaning of the Language of Men.

The Behaviors of Men Found in Modern Literature

The researchers have observed and analyzed the movies through sufficient critiquing and have created themes that would appropriately define each type of behavior under the theory of Masculinity. The researchers have come up with two (2) themes that identify the behaviors of men found in modern literature, namely *MACHO* and *DELICATE*.

M.A.C.H.O.

The behaviors of the movies' main male characters can be summed up with the term **MACHO**, which stands for *Muscular, Arrogant, Confrontational, Healthful, and Oppressive*. These behaviors, traits, and principles were considered prominent in the male characters' actions throughout the movies.

Muscular. Muscularity in men has been an outside standard to hegemonic standards. Men with muscular physiques tend to be more domineering and powerful on the outside, regarding their bodies and traits that affect other aspects of the individual's status in society. This observation implies that men have the standard to have muscular appearances to show better well-being than others outside of their own perception.

Arrogant. This type of attitude is common among hegemonic males in society. This implies that men consider pride and arrogance as excessive confidence to show that they are strong, tough, and not easily looked down upon. This shows outside strength and bravery when inside; they show up a front to hide their weakness and fragility. This form of masculinity, characterized by traits such as dominance, aggression, and control, can lead to men feeling entitled to their violent actions. The adherence to these hegemonic norms can shape men's perceptions of themselves, leading to behaviors that reinforce power differentials and social hierarchies.

Confrontational. The movies Bromance: My Brother's Romance and Woke Up Like This depict behaviors that involve physical violence and instigation. Both Brando and Nando exhibit short-temperedness when dealing with confrontational situations, such as during a basketball match and interaction with their friends, and often show disrespect. These behaviors can be considered hegemonic, as they portray violence as a means of establishing dominance and authority over others. Other factors influence confrontations, like dominance threat, fear of femininity, and stresses on masculine gender roles and norms, and they are predictors of hostile attitudes and behaviors toward women.

Healthful. Being physically fit and muscular showed how they take care of their health. This implies that men perform actions to maintain a fit lifestyle, such as doing exercises, going to the gym, or doing lively activities that help them to stay fit and healthy, although in the movie, the protagonists showed behaviors of being a drunkard and treating other aspects of their body poorly, not negating their physical appearance showed to say that they critically value other people's perception on how they look, simply from their physical body.

Oppressive. Although oppressiveness is a broader aspect of hegemonic masculinity, this trait showed the attitudes of men in a wider sense that due to societal norms on masculine behavior, they have integrated this trait into their professional and casual lifestyle.

D.E.L.I.C.A.T.E

The researchers interpreted the data and observed that men exhibit refined senses of aesthetic aspects in their lives, which can be themed as **DELICATE:** *Daintiness, Elegance, Loveliness, Impressionable, Compassion, Affectionate, Tactfulness, and Expressiveness*.

Daintiness. It refers to delicacy or refinement, frequently connected with grace and elegance, particularly in appearance, behavior, or taste. As demonstrated in the three films, it is about being cautious and precise in manner or appearance and is sometimes associated with femininity, which frequently adheres to social norms.

Elegance. This refers to the trait of being gracefully stylish and tasteful in look, manner, or design, as shown in the three films where the male protagonist is especially linked with these qualities that might defy established gender conventions and preconceptions.

Loveliness. This refers to the actions and gestures that evoke feelings of warmth, affection, or admiration. This quality often conveys a sense of feminine allure and appeal. In "*Woke Up Like This*," Nando's portrayal of lovability with a sense of feminine allure and appeal was evident in scenes where he showcased his sensitivity and emotional intelligence. In "*Bromance: My Brother's Romance*," Brando demonstrates lovability with feminine allure and appeal in scenes where he expresses vulnerability and affection towards his friends or romantic interests.

Impressionable. This refers to openness to emotional or cultural influences affected by external factors, such as ideas, opinions, experiences, or emotions that the male characters evoke in the three films. In "*Woke Up Like This*," Nando showed his sensitivity and understanding in scenes where he listened carefully to friends sharing their problems or cultural experiences, showing empathy and a willingness to learn from different perspectives.

Compassion. It refers to the male characters' deep awareness of and sympathy for the suffering of others, coupled with a desire to alleviate that suffering. Compassion is often associated with femininity due to its nurturing and empathetic qualities, which are not often seen in men. In the study from Atip et al. (2023), A common tendency among individuals, particularly men, is to exhibit resilience and compassion instead of openly revealing their genuine emotions. This aligned with the prevalent societal notion of masculinity, where men often aim to embody the expected societal image of masculinity. For this reason, males perceive a help-seeking attitude (i.e., mental health problem) as a weakness or stigmatized and, therefore, may refuse to seek help.

Affectionate. It refers to the display of tenderness and emotional closeness toward others that involves expressing love and nurturing behaviors, which are traditionally valued in many cultures as feminine traits. In "*Kita Kita*," Tonyo's tenderness and emotional closeness are portrayed in scenes where he shares intimate moments with Lea, the film's protagonist.

Tactfulness. This refers to the quality of being sensitive and considerate when dealing with others or delicate situations. The male characters in the three films are sensitive and considerate, and they can communicate effectively and considerately, especially in sensitive situations.

Cultural Misinterpretation to the Behaviors of Men

These findings discussed the misinterpretations that were identified based on the three movies in Philippine modern literature. The researchers have created two (2) themes relevant to the aforementioned results, namely *WEAK* and *ERA*.

W.E.A.K.

Based on the male protagonists in the movies, the theme regarding the misinterpretations can be defined as **WEAK:** *Withholding emotions, Enforcing traditional gender roles, Accepting male privileges, and Keeping Silence*. The acronym is about how men are misinterpreted based on the traits and behaviors shown, which greatly impact the overall aspect.

Withholding emotions. This trait means refraining from expressing emotions openly or vulnerably due to societal pressure to appear stoic and unaffected. This expectation stems from traditional gender norms that dictate men should be strong, stoic, and unemotional, while vulnerability and emotional expression are often associated with weakness or femininity. High rates of male suicide are understood via men's ostensibly poorer abilities to talk about – and more generally seek help for – problems in general and emotional problems specifically. This has led to the development of public mental health campaigns that urge men to 'speak up' more often about the difficulties they face. (Chandler, 2021)

Enforcing traditional gender roles. This entails the societal pressures placed on individuals to adhere to predetermined norms and expectations based on their assigned gender, typically perpetuating a binary understanding of masculinity and femininity. A study suggested that people's decision-making is affected by their emotions, especially for men who experience situations that evoke their emotions (Williams & Patrick, 2023). Another study suggested that women belong in the kitchen. Men should do hard labor. Little girls should play with baby dolls. Little boys should like cars and fighting, a traditional gender role established by our society (Arnold, 2022).

Accepting male privileges. Acknowledging and benefitting from societal advantages and privileges afforded to men based solely on their gender without questioning or challenging systemic inequalities. Trans masculine individuals have unique experiences and perceptions of male privilege due to their initial socialization in female bodies. Some trans-masculine individuals reported that male privilege made them feel safer (Schwiter, 2021).

Keeping silence. This pertains to choosing not to speak out or challenge harmful attitudes, behaviors, or systems that perpetuate gender inequality or discrimination, thus perpetuating

complicit masculinity. Cultural expectation imposed on men extends beyond suppressing emotions; it encompasses a broader spectrum of behaviors and experiences. Men are often conditioned to internalize their struggles and hardships, whether it is facing societal pressure to conform to rigid gender roles, navigating complex emotional landscapes, or dealing with mental health challenges.

E.R.A.

The researchers created a theme to discuss the misinterpretations of men's behaviors regarding the transition of men's interaction, which can be defined as **ERA**: emotional openness, Resilience, and *Authentic self-expression*.

Emotional openness. This refers to expressing one's feelings and thoughts openly, breaking away from traditional stereotypes of stoicism associated with masculinity. In a study from a journal, "Men tend to regulate their emotions through actions rather than words" by Wright (2023), men's inclination towards taking action can be viewed as a type of emotional intelligence. Research suggests that men and boys can recognize and understand specific emotions, such as jealousy, love, anger, sadness, and anxiety, in themselves and others, similar to women.

Resilient. Despite facing challenges and societal pressures, the male characters exhibit resilience, showing the ability to adapt and overcome obstacles with determination and strength. The study "The Resilience Journal: Exploring the Potential of Journal Interventions to Promote Resilience in University Students" by Lohner and Aprea (2021), This study delved into the obligation of universities to stimulate students to acquire essential career skills, emphasizing that these challenges cannot be solely minimized to mitigate their impact on well-being.

Authentic self-expression. This pertains to presenting themselves authentically through fashion choices, communication styles, or emotional expression, reflecting a commitment to being true to themselves rather than conforming to societal expectations of masculinity. In the study "Relationship between Social Skills and Happiness: Differences by Gender" by Salavera and Supervía (2021), the research indicated that self-expression in social environments and the capacity to decline or terminate social interactions directly influence men's happiness levels.

Language of Men

From the results gathered on the select three (3) movies of modern literature, the researchers can define the Language of Men as two (2) different themes, namely *VOCAL* and *ENARTE*, in accordance with the overall observation of men today present in modern society and modern literature.

V.O.C.A.L.

A theme created by the researchers regarding how men are observed from misinterpretations can be represented with the theme **VOCAL:** *Vulnerability, Openness, Compassion, Authenticity, and Liberation.*

Vulnerability. This pertains to expressing themselves freely; they let their feelings express themselves in simple ways, yet they may expose sensitive parts of their emotional state. Men are encouraged to embrace their vulnerability, allowing themselves to be open and honest about their emotions and struggles. Men are more prone and vulnerable to disease than women because of their greater exposure to behavioral and cultural risk factors.

Openness. Modern men are encouraged to be more open in their communication with themselves and others. This openness involves being transparent about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences rather than adhering to societal expectations of emotional restraint. Through open communication, men can foster healthier relationships, resolve conflicts more effectively, and cultivate a greater sense of authenticity in their interactions.

Compassion. In the landscape of men's expression, "compassion" embodies the capacity to empathize with others and respond to their emotions with kindness and understanding. Modern men increasingly recognize the importance of compassion in their communication, allowing them to connect with others on a deeper level. Self-compassion was inversely related to body shame and body surveillance, with self-compassion moderating the link between surveillance and shame among men.

Authenticity. In today's world, there is a growing emphasis on authenticity, encouraging men to be true to themselves and their values. Authentic expression involves embracing one's individuality and resisting pressures to conform to rigid gender stereotypes.

Liberation. In the realm of men's expression, "liberation" signifies breaking free from societal constraints and expectations that dictate how men should communicate and express themselves. Modern men are increasingly seeking liberation from traditional notions of masculinity that limit their emotional range and self-expression.

E.N.A.R.T.E

The theme created by the researchers involves men being uniquely expressive in their own lifestyle. **ENARTE:** *Expressive, Neat, Affectionate, Respectful, Tranquility, and Empathy*

Expressive. In contemporary society, men described as "expressive" possessed the capacity to effectively convey their emotions, thoughts, and ideas through various means of communication. Being expressive goes beyond simply articulating feelings verbally; it encompasses the ability to express oneself through body language, art, music, or any creative outlet.

Neat. When men are characterized as "neat," it indicates that they maintain a clean, tidy, and well-organized appearance. This encompasses various aspects, including grooming, attire, and overall presentation. The study "Men's Perspectives on Their Grooming Practices and Appearance Concerns: A Mixed Methods Study" by Hamshaw and Gavin (2021), examined how grooming behaviors and appearance concerns influence men. It suggested that gay men prioritize grooming more and adopt more grooming habits compared to straight men.

Affectionate. Today, there is a growing recognition of the importance of men expressing affection and emotional warmth towards others, including their friends and family. Affectionate behavior, such as hugging, comforting, and expressing care, is increasingly normalized and valued as part of healthy masculinity. However, societal stereotypes and misconceptions can still equate affectionate behavior between men with romantic or sexual interest, leading to potential misinterpretations and stigmatization.

Respectful. Respectful behavior involves recognizing and valuing the autonomy, boundaries, and dignity of others. In today's context, there is a greater emphasis on promoting respect as a fundamental aspect of masculinity, including respecting diverse identities, perspectives, and experiences. However, respectful behavior from men towards other men or individuals of different genders may sometimes be misconstrued as romantic or flirtatious, especially in contexts where traditional gender norms discourage emotional openness and intimacy between men.

Tranquility. This refers to a state of calmness, serenity, and peace. In the context of men, tranquility represents a departure from traditional notions of masculinity that prioritize action, dominance, and aggression. Men who embrace tranquility prioritize inner peace and emotional balance, recognizing the importance of self-care and mindfulness in their lives.

Empathy. In the language of men, Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, to put oneself in someone else's shoes, and to comprehend their emotions from their perspective. Men who prioritize empathy in their communication often exhibit greater sensitivity, patience, and listening skills, which are qualities traditionally associated with femininity.

IV. Conclusion

Men appear emotionally stable with their peers and social life, usually behaving and having a more firm and domineering personality to establish their stance and identity to people. With such traits being portrayed, they are typically seen as prideful but also gentlemanly with their stature. Men are commonly misinterpreted due to their behavior and outward appearance. Men seen acting all high and mighty might be misinterpreted as prideful and arrogant, while men who break down and cry are seen as weak. This can ruin their image in their social life and barricade them from expressing genuine emotions. Men can also express themselves freely without fear of being misinterpreted positively or negatively. They have a broad spectrum of how they live, behave,

interact, express, portray, and show what they feel without discrimination. Based from these results, teachers are encouraged to observe and understand how their male students act and behave in school with their fellow students to identify how they express themselves. Language and literature teachers should be aware and are encouraged to educate students that most young people nowadays are more vocal about their expressions, regardless of their gender and masculinity or femininity. Language and literature teachers should further educate their students to be sensitive to the variety of behaviors, traits, and principles men and women use to express themselves more clearly and not to be subjected to discrimination and degradation. Administrators may conduct seminars and training aligned to GAD to minimize and eliminate misinterpretations of men's behaviors. Future researchers are encouraged to analyze different modern literature materials further to understand the evolving definition of masculinity presented to different characters portrayed in many kinds of literature as a continuation of future research.

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