

NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF DOMINATION IN HENRY JAMES'S NOVEL: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Inspired by Baeyens et al's (1988) work, this study draws on negative aspect of domination to unravel the role of sociolinguistics in Henry James's novel "The Portrait of a Lady" for retaining social factors and crafting of characters in that time. Probing into negative and positive domination, the paper highlights the role that the character has played in imposing his/her domination among others negatively and in the same time clarified how social factors have a fundamental effect on others.

Accordingly, the study attempts to ask the following questions: (1) What are the most frequently negative aspects of domination employed by the characters on the micro-level? (2) Which are social factors the more effective and widely utilized at the macro-level than other factors in the novel "The Portrait of a Lady"? Therefore, this study adopts (Baeyens et al.1988) and (Holmes (2013) as models to analyze the negative aspect of domination from sociolinguistic perspective. Consequently, it attempts to fulfill the following aims: (1) Discovering the most frequently negative aspects of domination that are employed by the characters on the micro-level (2) Identifying which social factors are more effective and widely utilized at the macro-level than other factors in the novel "The Portrait of a Lady". According to the aims mentioned above, it is hypothesized that: (1) Negative potency and negative dominance are the more frequently used in the selected novel. (2) Position and ethnicity are the more widely effective than other factors.

Keywords: Negative aspect of domination, micro and macro domination, social factors.

1. INTRODUCTION

There are two terms catch the reader attention when he is talking about sociolinguistics, i.e. "Socio" or relating to society and linguistics or "pertaining to language." As such, sociolinguistics has integration or something to do with language and society. Theoretically, sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics that deals with the study of language in relation to society. Language and society are described like hand and gloves. They are related, as language cannot exist without society. Sociolinguistics can throw much light on both the nature of language and the nature of society. Thus, Negative Dominance refers to negative thoughts, words and feelings dominate in dealing with individuals or society by using the language or the reactions in high concern/low trust situations.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Sociolinguistics

Spolsky (1998:3) states that sociolinguistics emphasizes the social influences on language, and the sociology of language, which emphasizes the role of language in society.

One of the principal uses of language is to communicate meaning, but it is also used to establish and to maintain social relationships. Much of our conversation functions are to express and refine our mutual compact of companionship (ibid).

Since Labov's groundbreaking research in the 1960s, sociolinguistic studies have amply documented the effects of social factors on the language of different speaker groups within a speech community, and the significance of the interplay between language variation and language change. Considering sociolinguistic tradition as a whole, there has been a preponderance of studies which are concerned with regional variation and variation due to social class and gender differences.

Sociolinguists in this regard theorize sociolinguistics in terms of macro-level approaches, which take society as the preliminary or opening point, and observe the role of language in different communities, and micro-sociolinguistics which begins from the point of language and studies how social factors effect linguistic structure and usage (Ilie and Norrick, 2018:13).

Micro level, the sociolinguist's aim is to show how particular differences in pronunciation or grammar lead members of a speech community to make judgments about the education or social status of a speaker. Regarding **macro-level**, sociolinguists attempt to examine some topics such as language maintenance, and shift, code switching, and show how research in these areas can illuminate our understanding of the relationship between social, cultural, and linguistic issues.

2.1.1 Sociolinguistic Variables

In every communicative situation, there is an intricate way of variety of factors of dominance, which may be more or less noticeable in certain situation. Even gender identity is more relevant than age, class, or occupational individualities, but in certain situation it may less applicable and other factors is highlighted according to the nature of situation (Dijk, 2008:115).

a. Gender

Holmes (2013:320) treats gender as given and unchangeable, which classifies any person that encounter as male or female. Gender identity is just like a construction not as a rigid characteristic, is additionally valuable in representing precedents where women adjust to manly contexts, and men adjust to female contexts by utilizing characteristics, which in a roundabout way index or are connected with manliness and femininity. Ladies in the police compel, for example, are at times encouraged to depict a manly picture to wear massive sweaters proposing abdominal area quality, and well-worn boots to recommend they are utilized hard-working work.

From the perspective of femininity and masculinity, masculinity is associated with power and subjugation. In order to keep this category of society, the boys are systematically socialized for the concept of dominance and violence (ibid).

b.Position

Weber (1968:932) claims that the concept of status clarifies the concept of someone's inferiority, person's position superiority in the status order, which considers as a significant part of his/her identity. Lindner (2011:55) demonstrates the position of both the men and women in

some societies by clarifying those men put in front position while women put in the secondary one.

c. Social Class

The concept of social class is defined by Krieger et al. (1997:74) as a social classification alluding to social gatherings manufactured by associated monetary and lawful connections, introduced upon individuals' basic area inside the economy as bosses, workers, independently employed, and jobless, and as proprietors, or not, of capital. In this regard, Lareau & Conley, (2008 :29) mention the hierarchy of social class as the following, upper class, middle class, working class and low class.

d. Ethnicity

Dealing with this factor as an ethnic group or ethnicity is a group of people who identify with each other on the basis of shared certain characteristics that distinguish them from other groups such as a common set of traditions, ancestry, language, history, society, culture, nation, religion or social treatment within their residing area. There are differences between the use of a given language by its native speakers and other ethnic groups (Bell, 1976).

2.2 Domination

The concept of the dominance position is defined and clarified by the Court of Justice in 1978 through the United Brands case (27/76 February 1978). The Court considers that a dominant position it is "a position of economic strength owned by a company that has the power to restrict the competition, being able to have an independent position compared to other competitors and customers"

The concept of domination is used to indicate as a type of power and usually social power that is, power over other people. Domination involves inequities or asymmetries in power. The English domination comes from the Latin dominus. A dominus is a master, and mastery represents an extreme of social power. Masters usually have all but complete control over how their slaves will act or over the conditions in which they act. As a result, the master/slave relation is often treated as the most obvious case of domination. In this regard, Dijk (1993:249) defines dominance as "the exercise of social power by elites, institutions or groups, that results in social inequality, including political, cultural, class, ethnic, racial and gender inequality". Dijk's definition illustrates the concept of dominance and considers it as an outcome of injustice in the society either by political issues or as a matter of racism.

2.2.1 Levels of analysis negative domination

In this section, there are two levels **micro** and **macro** levels and each one of them has its own use with domination. So, language use, discourse, verbal interaction, and communication be appropriate to the micro-level of the social order. Power, dominance, and ideologies (gender, social class, and so on) on the other hand, appropriate with social groups are typically belonged to a macro-level of analysis. It is important to put in mind when analysis these ideologies sociolinguistically, the analysts must perform a micro-and macro-level analysis. So, a micro-level analysis emphasis on grammatical aspects such as vocabulary, phrases or words lead to the negative aspect of domination, and verbal interaction with negative entities of domination.

2.2.1.1 Domination at the Micro Level

Dominating others through language can be done at the individual as well as collective level. At the micro level, in face-to-face encounters between participants, the interlocutors adopt strategies to establish their power over their counterparts. Grillo (1989:36) states that the negative dominance is a power that one person (an individual) can exercise over another within a conversation unconscious choices of words are meant to establish domination.

Micro-level (linguistic) text analysis focuses on describing specific linguistic features, which are of particular importance for the text under investigation. These are dependent on the lexical features of the genre of the text as grammar and vocabulary (Rheindorf, 2019:143).

2.2.1.2 Domination at the Macro Level

Macro-level (social) analysis focuses on wider social formation into account to interpret the findings of the text analysis. Depending on the text in question, the focus may be on historical, political, or cultural formations or on a combination of them. The focus of analysis is on details of the social formation and on changes in the social formation and purposes for these changes (Rheindorf, 2019:143).

Mansoor (2005) pinpoints that “in many countries as English has become implicated in social and economies mechanism that structure inequality” Relating the role of language at the macro level in structuring dominance.

From Skutnabb-Kangas’s point of view (2000), the imposition of dominant languages is an effort to integrate world languages and cultures; a sort of culture and linguistic diversity that exists in the world. She considers English as a universal second language; the British and American governments protect their capital interests.

2.2.2 Aspects of domination

Abuse of a dominant position is a threat to the functioning of the free persons. Thus, the effects of this type of behaviour are highlighted to show the main effects regarding the characters in the novel. In order to achieve the goal of the study, the researcher will use the content analysis to compress the effects of the abuse of dominant position in two categories: **positive** and **negative** effects but the study is limited to the negative aspect of domination.

2.2.2.1 Positive domination

The idea of dominance is also has positive inferences and these implications include the international responsibilities, as the sitting of useful standard and the function as a medium between mysterious professional language and personal nonprofessional access. The Positive aspect of dominance lies in the extent to which it fosters universal access as traffic control (Eastman,1983:96).

2.2.2.2 Negative aspect of domination

This aspect lies in the extent to which it denies access, guarding the status and upholding existing power structures. The meaning of power depends on the status, power and their affects toward others. Thus, this concept has its own affects whether occurs on the side of the individual or the community, in individual social relationships; power is contrasted with solidarity and sometimes is reflected in politeness forms. Regarding, speech community, the concept of power is contrasted with importance this means it may affect the other to learn the dominant language (Brown & Gilman, 1960:253).

Negativity dominance does not require, operationally, the use of objectively equated or objectively measured stimuli. Negativity dominance is the most robust and most common exemplification of negativity bias. In the purest condition, negativity dominance holds that the combination of events of equal but opposite subjective valence will be negative (ibid).

Negative components of a complex object or something are over weighted only when the good and the bad are found together in one object, particularly, when they are inseparable (Royzman, 2000:59). Under these conditions, the negative component is excessively more influential in determining the overall appraisal than the positive components of comparable magnitude. The cases of negativity dominance afford more dramatic and effectual means of showing that the core of the positive and negative asymmetry in both physical and moral domains may be the fact that the corrupting or “devaluing” power of bad things is greater than the redeeming power of good things (Royzman & Kumar, 2001).

2.2.3 Negative Aspects

Negative aspects (e.g., events, objects, personal traits) are established in four ways: (ibid).

(a) **Negative potency:** This aspect refers to the negative entities that are stronger than the equivalent positive entities.

(b) **Steeper negative gradients:** The negativity of negative events grows more rapidly with approach to them in space or time than does the positivity of positive events.

(c) **Negativity dominance** denotes combinations of negative and positive entities yield evaluations that are more negative than the algebraic sum of individual subjective valences would predict.

(d) **Negative differentiation:** It indicates the negative entities, which are more varied, yield more complex conceptual representations, and engage a wider response repertoire (Baeyens et al.1988:199).



Figure (1) Negative Aspect of Domination

This review has evidence for this classification, with emphasis on negativity dominance, including literary work which is a novel by Henry James entitled “*The Portrait of a Lady*”.

2.3 Data description

The novel that will be analyzed is chosen from Henry James's novels which is entitled "*The Portrait of a Lady*" in (2001). The theme of this novel is about a young American woman called Isabel Archer, who, "affronting her destiny. She inherits a large number of money and subsequently becomes the victim by two American expatriates. The idea of this novel reflects James's continuing interest in the differences of domination between the New World and the Old, often to the detriment of the former. It also treats in a profound way the themes of personal freedom, responsibility, and betrayal. Accordingly, the current study will discover and emphasize the negative aspect of domination in this novel from sociolinguistic study.

2.4 Model of Analysis

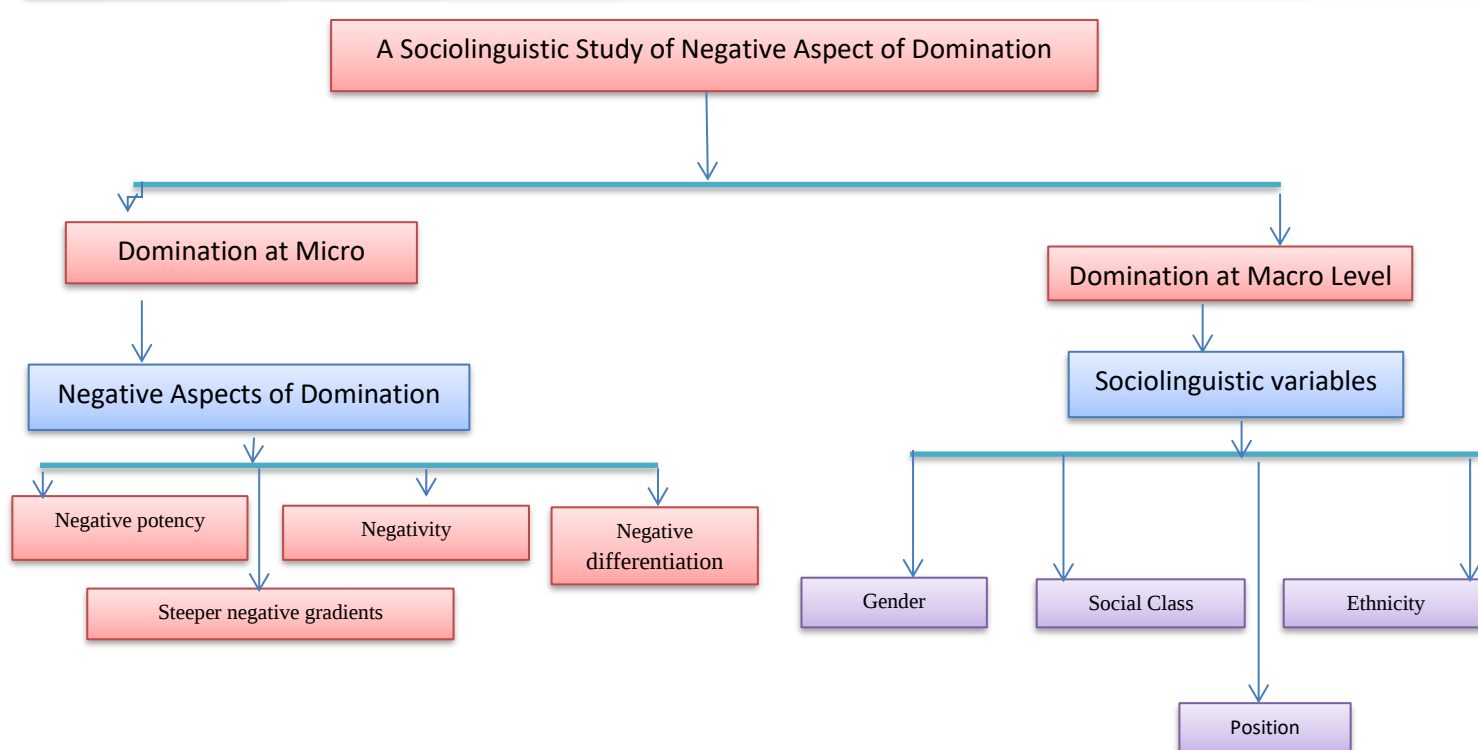


Figure (2) Model of Analyzing Negative Aspect of Domination from Sociolinguistic study.

2.5 Data Analysis

Extract (1)

"I speak of Madame Merle exactly as I speak to her: with an even exaggerated respect." "Exaggerated, precisely. By whom, pray? By me? If so I do her a poor service." "No, no; by herself." "Ah, I protest!" Isabel earnestly cried. "If ever there was a woman who made small claims—!" "You put your finger on it."

In this text, Isabel speaks with Madame Merle precisely as she addresses her with negative impression without any respect to her age. She behaves with Madame Merle as helpless or poor

assistance. She says that she fights with her about travelling to Europe. Then, Isabel truly cries, if at any point there was a woman who made little cases "I will put your finger on it."

This text will be analyzed according to micro and macro domination levels with regard to the reason behind using negative aspect of domination by the characters.

At **micro level**, Isabel is harshly used the **negative aspect of domination** as **negative potency** that refers to the notion of disrespected Madame Merle, thus, negative expressions or words are more richly descriptive of the affective experience of harsh dominance than that of positive ones as in "*I speak to her: with an even exaggerated respect.*" Regarding **Steeper negative gradients**, Isabel's negative dominance is rapidly determined by the period of her life since she loses her family, she has negative events in her life, and these negative events reflect her dominance with her money. Therefore, the gradient in her life is measured as of how steep a slope is. The greater the gradient the steeper a slope is.

Negativity dominance: This aspect lies in the extent to which Isabel denies access, guarding the status and upholding existing power structures between her and Madame Merle. Thus, meaning of power that Isabel has depended on her status and power to make her affects toward Madame Merle. Concerning the last aspect on the micro level of domination which is called **negative differentiation**. This aspect refers to the ability of discerning negatively valence with emotional states and this negative aspect indicates how negative entities are more varied among others.

At the wider one **macro** level of domination, that considers society as a starting point. **Gender:** Gender identity is just like a construction not as a rigid characteristic, thus, Isabel represents her negative dominance toward a woman that systematically socialized for the concept of domination, since Madame Merle's work as a service woman in her house. **Position** refers to the status Madame Merle's inferiority and in society, which considers as a significant part of her identity and for this reason Isabel harshly speaks with her and reflects her negative domination. Regarding **Social Class**, Isabel follows this idea in dealing with Madame Merle as she is from high class and her dominance in society is different from Madame Merle's class (lower class). With the last sociolinguistic variable on the macro level **Ethnicity**, Isabel's ethnicity is different from Madame Merle's ethical and each one-shared attributes that distinguish them from each other such as a common set of traditions. So, even if there is a differences between them from the side of ethical issues, it must respect her with respect to her age and her work.

Extract (2)

My dear father, you're too modest!" "That's a kind of joke, sir," said Lord Warburton. "You young men have too many jokes. When there are no jokes you've nothing left." "Fortunately there are always more jokes," the ugly young man remarked. "I don't believe it—I believe things are getting more serious. You young men will find that out." "The increasing seriousness of things, then that's the great opportunity of jokes." "They'll have to be grim jokes."

In this text, Warburton is speaking with his father but with dominant aspect as he has a good social status and position, thus, he considers his father's speech as a kind of joking. He says to him that he does not trust it and he accepts things that are getting more genuine.

This extract will be analyzed according to the levels of domination with regard to the reason behind using negative aspect of domination by the characters.

At **micro level**, Warburton uses **negative potency as negative aspect of domination** that refers to the notion of disrespected his father's speech and considers it as a kind of joking; thus,

negative expressions or words are more richly descriptive of the affective experience of harsh dominance than that of positive ones.

Negativity dominance: This aspect lies in the extent to which Warburton denies guarding the status of his father and upholding existing power structures between him and his father. Thus, meaning of power that Warburton has depended on his status and power to make his affects toward him. Concerning **negative differentiation**, this aspect refers to the ability of discerning negatively valence with emotional states and this negative aspect indicates how negative entities are more varied among them.

Position as sociolinguistic variable occurs with wider level of domination that called **macro** level of domination. **Position** refers to the status of Warburton's superiority in the society, which considers as a significant part of his identity and for this reason he harshly speaks with his father and reflects his negative domination. Regarding **Social Class**, Warburton follows this idea in dealing with his father as he has a good social status and his more money and position lead him to be from high class and his dominance in society is different from his father's class (lower class).

Extract (3)

I've been rowing a little," Isabel answered; "but how should you know it?" "Oh, I know he doesn't row; he's too lazy," said his lordship, indicating Ralph Touchett with a laugh. "He has a good excuse for his laziness,"

There is a quarreling between Isabel and lordship about her cousin Ralph Touchett. He refers to him as a lazy one that he cannot row well, he laughs at him by saying he is excessively lethargic, and he has a decent pardon for his apathy.

According to the text above, it will be analyzed according to **micro** and **macro** domination.

At **micro level**, lordship is harshly used the **negative aspect of domination** as **negative potency** that refers to the notion of laziness, thus, negative expressions are more deeply expressive of the affective experience of harsh dominance than that of positive ones as in *"Oh, I know he doesn't row; he's too lazy,"*. **Negativity dominance:** This aspect lies in the extent to which lordship repudiates access, guarding the status and upholding existing power structures between him and Ralph Touchett. Thus, meaning of power that lordship has depended on his status and power to affect Ralph Touchett's feelings. Concerning the last aspect on the micro level of domination which is called **negative differentiation**, this aspect refers to the ability of discriminating negatively with emotional states and this negative aspect indicates how negative entities are more varied among him.

At the wider one **macro** level of domination, that considers society as a starting point. The first factor that is utilized in this level is **Position** refers to the Lordship's superiority in the society, which considers as a significant part of his identity and for this reason Lordship harshly, speaks with him and reflects his negative domination. With the last sociolinguistic variable on the macro level **Ethnicity**, Lordship's ethnicity is different from Ralph Touchett's ethical and each one-shared attributes that distinguish him from each other such as a common set of traditions. So, even if there is a differences between them from the side of ethical issues, he must respect him.

Extract (4)

Yes, I'm irritated," the Countess, answered. "You often irritate me. Your own coolness is fabulous. You're a strange woman." "Madame Merle went on. "Do you mean that as a threat?" asked the Countess rising. Madame Merle shook her head as for quiet amusement. "No indeed, you've not my coolness!"

Countess addresses Madame Merle that I am aggravated and you regularly aggravate me your own coolness is impressive. Also, she addresses her that she is a strange woman (Madame Merle) and she considers Countess's speech as a threat to her personality.

This text will be analyzed according to the two levels of domination **micro** and **macro** levels.

At **micro level**, **negative aspect of domination** as **negative potency** is utilized in Countess's speech which is very injured to Madame Merle as indicating to the notion of disrespected her, thus, negative expressions or words are more richly descriptive of the affective experience of harsh dominance. Regarding **Steeper negative gradients**, Countess's negative dominance is rapidly determined by the period of her life since she feels that her family and reflect her dominance with her money. Therefore, the gradient in her life is measured as of how steep a slope is.

Negativity dominance: This aspect lies in the extent to which Countess's denies access, guarding the status and upholding existing power structures between her and Madame Merle. Thus, meaning of power that Countess has depended on her status and power to make her affects toward Madame Merle. Concerning the last aspect on the micro level of domination which is called **negative differentiation**. This aspect refers to the ability of discerning negatively valence with emotional states and this negative aspect indicates how negative entities are more varied among them.

At the wider one **macro** level of domination, that considers society as a starting point. **Gender:** Countess's represents her negative dominance toward as a woman that systematically socialized for the concept of domination, since Madame Merle's work as a poor woman in her life. Regarding **Position**, it refers to the Madame Merle's inferiority in the society, which considers as a significant part of her identity and for this reason Countess harshly speaks with her and reflects her negative domination. Concerning **Social Class**, Countess follows this idea in dealing with Madame Merle as she is from high class and her dominance in society is different from Madame Merle's class (lower class). With the **Ethnicity**, Countess's ethnicity is different from Madame Merle's ethical and each one-shared attributes that distinguish them from each other such as a common set of traditions. So, even if there is a differences between them from the side of ethical issues, it must respect her with respect to her age and her work.

Extract (5)

Said Ralph "This conviction passed into his mind with extreme rapidity; it was perhaps kindled by the pure radiance of the young lady's imperturbable gaze. He returned this challenge a moment, consciously, resisting an inclination to frown as one frowns in the presence of larger luminaries. "Who's the gentleman you speak of?" "Mr. Caspar Goodwood—of Boston. He has been extremely attentive to Isabel—just as devoted to her as he can live."

Ralph's speech is about addressing Isabel to marry a man who is called Mr. Caspar Goodwood and Ralph wants to convince her by saying it is ignited by the unadulterated brilliance of the young woman's imperturbable look. He returned this test a second, intentionally, opposing a tendency to grimace as one glares within the sight of bigger lights.

This text is analyzed according to the two levels of domination **micro** and **macro** to show the negative concept of domination by the characters either by their social status, position or even their gender as a man who has a power of domination than woman according to this novel. Henry James wants to display to the readers the interesting differences of domination between the New World and the Old one via the characters.

At **micro level**, **negative aspect of domination** as **negative potency** is utilized in Ralph's speech which is very difficult to Isabel as indicating to the notion of obligating her, thus, negative expressions or words are more richly descriptive of the affective experience of harsh dominance. Regarding **negativity dominance**, this aspect lies in the extent to which Ralph denies guarding the status and upholding existing power structures between him and her. Thus, meaning of power that Ralph has depended on his status and power to make his affects toward Isabel to accept marrying Mr. Caspar Goodwood.

At the wider one **macro** level of domination, that considers society as a starting point. **Gender**: Ralph represents his negative domination as a male to hear his opinion toward Isabel. Masculinity is associated with power and subjugation and Ralph uses these features in order to keep these categories of society, he is systematically socialized for the concept of dominance and violence because he is a man. With the **Ethnicity**, Ralph's ethnicity is different from Isabel's ethical and each one-shared attributes that distinguish them from each other such as a common set of traditions or religion. So, even if there is a difference between them from the side of ethical issues.

3. RESULTS

Table (1) represents the frequencies and occurrences of the micro and macro levels of negative domination

NO.	Domination at Micro Level			Domination at Macro Level		
	Negative Aspects of Domination			Sociolinguistic Variables		
	Items	Frequency	Percentage	Factors	Frequency	Percentage
1	Negative Potency	5	%31.25	Gender	3	%21.42
2	Steeper negative gradients	2	%12.5	Position	4	%28.57
3	Negative Dominance	5	%31.25	Social Class	3	%21.42
4	Negative differentiation	4	%25	Ethnicity	4	%28.57
Total		16	%100		14	%99.98

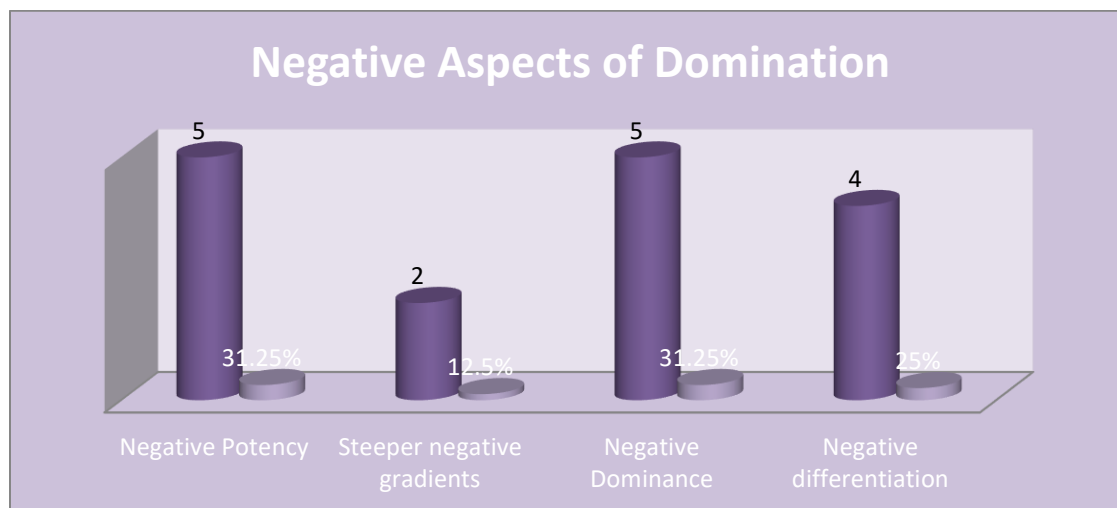


Figure (3) Negative Aspects of Domination

According to the table and figure above, the results show that negative potency and negative dominance receive the highest percentage than other aspects. They are amounted the same percentage (31.25%), this due to the fact that, Henry James wants to show the concept of negative domination among the characters through these two aspects of negative domination. The other aspects as steeper negative gradients and negative differentiation make least the above aspect mentioned.

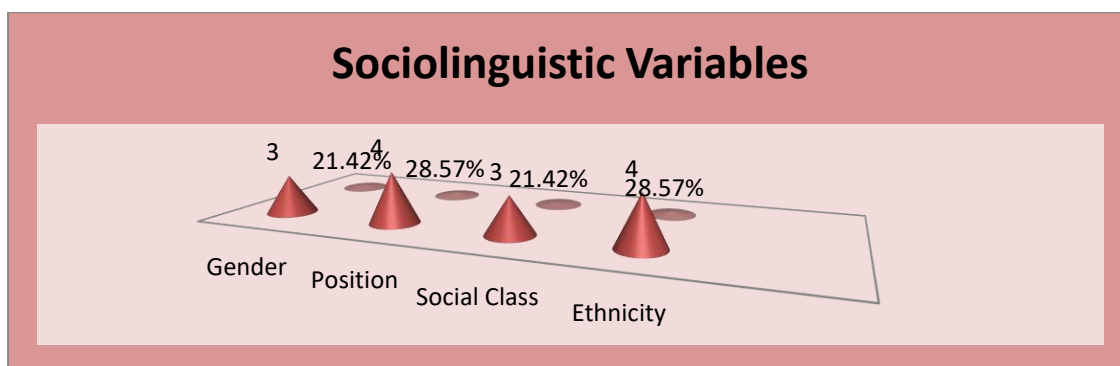


Figure (4) Sociolinguistic Variables

As what is mentioned in table (1) and figure (4) above, the results show that ethnicity and position receive the highest percentage than other factors. They are amounted (28.57%), this due to the fact that, Henry James wants to show the most variables are employed by the characters in this novel by expressing their negative dominance throughout their position as a people with high class and they feel that they have supremacy among others.

4. CONCLUSION

It concludes that:

1. Negative aspect of domination lies in the extent to the negative aspects such as negative potency, steeper negative, negative dominance, and negative differentiation with upholding the

structure of power on the micro level of analyzing it. The meaning of power depends on the status, power and their affects. Thus, this concept has its own affects on the side of the individual or in individual social relationships.

2. Negative dominance and negative potency are the more aspects resorted to by the characters in the novel. These two aspects reflect the personality of the characters in time they use these negative dominance expressions to express the idea of domination by money or social status and so on.
3. Sociolinguistic variables as ethnicity and position are more employed by the characters because Henry James's aim is to deliver a message that the notion of exploitation others weakness or their lower class lead the characters impose their negative dominance through these factors of variables

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