

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Sociolinguistics primarily focuses on explaining why people communicate differently in various social contexts and how this affects their ability to identify the language's community purpose in order to pursue societal meaning. This is related to the study of different languages that are typically done by gender, which is classified as men and women. It also relates to sociolinguistics, which explores the differences in speech patterns between men and women in everyday conversation. The different languages that men and women speak has a big impact on how language is used. Holmes (1992:33) claimed that women make an effort to talk more nicely and correctly than men, emphasizing various speech functions. Holmes believed that women rather to use standard speech form, while male usually use vernacular form which usually not in correct form. Similar results can be achieved with hypercorrect grammar. This has a role since women typically employ proper grammar as opposed to men, who typically choose vernacular form.

Women are somehow assessed exclusively in terms of how they appear and how they interact with their families (Weatherhall 2002:19). A movie with speech exchanged by men and women throughout the entire film is utilized as the study's major object to illustrate how women's attitudes regarding language change when they work in a field that is predominately occupied by men. Long conversations between a man and woman who initially met by mistake aboard a train but

ultimately fell in love as they had never imagined were possible were included in the film. The exchange of ideas went well as both parties sought to contribute. Both the man and the woman engaged in intense conversation throughout the movie both the man and woman spoke their minds and talk deeply about life, love, and every little things.

Study about Women's language in "*To All the Boys I've Loved Before*" movie is adequate since it conveys a lot on the distinct women and men conversation by same circumstance. One of the features found in the data is the use of lexical hedges by the women character of the movie which is Lara Jean. It can be seen from one example, "I guess I need to tell you a little bit regarding Josh. He and Margot have been together for the past three years." In the conversation above, it can be seen that Lara Jean as one of the woman character of the movie uses hedges while speaking to show hesitance towards her own statement.

The movie is chosen based of several issues. First, it is shown that variety of women characters and their own characteristics are appeared in the movie. The movie presented the love story of the character. The next is, it is found there are variety of particular identity based on the character's age and life experiences. Lastly, the focus of the movie is Lara Jean as the main character. Asian young woman who grew up in America who stand still with her Asian 'polite' culture. These all show difference of present study with others; as this discussed about culture issues as well. Lakoff's theory is used in present study as the theory is explicit and straightforward, it suits to discuss Lara Jean's conversation.

## 1.2. Problems of the Study

Based on the explanation above, it is captivating to discuss the use of women's language by the characters in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movie. There are two problems formulated as follows:

1. What are women's language features used by the women characters in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movie?
2. What are the functions of women's language features in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movie used by those characters?

## 1.3. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the used of women's language features by the women characters in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movie
2. To analyze the functions of women's language features in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" movie used by those characters.

## 1.4. Limitation of the Study

This study concerns on the women's language features found in the movie script. The phenomenon is achieved from Robin Lakoff's theory in women's language features. All of ten features theory proposed by Lakoff is identified in the movie, in which The features found from the dialogue between the female characters in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* movie. The dialogue is spoken by female characters to the addressee, whether it is men or women. It is realized that

the topic could be extensive, so it is needed to be limited. The theory proposed by Lakoff (1975) is used to identify the women's language features because it supports the speaker's purpose in performing the utterance during the dialogue. The theory of Functions of women's language features proposed by Lakoff (1989) is used to examine the functions of the features found in the movie's dialogue on this study.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, THEORIES**

This chapter is divided into three parts, review of literature, concept, and theoretical framework. The literature review discusses any kinds of figurative language analysis which are taken from some papers from previous thesis and articles which associated to the topic of discussion. The concepts are associated to the title with the elaborations that should give the idea understanding.

#### **2.1. Review of Literature**

Two undergraduate theses and one international article related to the current subject were reviewed for the literature. It contrasted those differences with the most recent research. Women's Language Used by the Key Character off Mockingjay Movie, a study written by Lisda Miftahul in 2016, focuses on evaluating the kinds of women's language that appeared and how the main characters used such elements in the "Mockingjay" movie. This study used descriptive qualitative analysis to describe the state of affairs in the film. The theory used in the thesis was developed by Lakoff (1975), who classified the linguistic characteristics of women into ten categories. These categories included lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super-polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. The difference between this study and previous study is that the previous study identified how the main characters used the women's language features in the movie, while this study

focus on types and functions of women's language features found in the movie. The similarity of this study with previous study by Lisda Miftahul is that both studies use Lakoff's theory to examine the women's language features.

Another previous study looked at invective words written by Ida Bagus Gede Dharma Sanjaya (2012). The research entitled Women's Language in The Nanny Diaries Movie. The previous study trained to analyze the types of women's language features found in the movie and its functions. The research method used is a qualitative one, by watching the film several times repeatedly and marked words that were relevant, then, put on the dialogue containing women's language features and distinguished them to be classified. The result in previous study found that all features of women's language proposed by Lakoff is performed by women's character in The Nanny Diaries. The difference between this study and previous study is that in the previous one only analyze the use of woman's language by the main character, meanwhile this study analyzed the use of woman's language by all woman characters in the movie. The similarity with current study is that both studies analyzed same problems which are types and functions of women's language features.

Besides the two previous thesis which are reviewed, there is one international article that concerning on Women's Language in Society. This article is taken from international article by Vandergiff (2012). The title of this article is "Is There a Women's Language?" in "American International Journal<sup>1</sup> of Contemporary Research "Vol.2 No.21 published by School of Arts and Sciences, New Mexico Highlands University United States of America 2012. This study

talked about how and why women's language can be identified and when it was happen. In this article, the data has been taken from the conversation record between two men and two women. The theories applied in the article are using Zimmerman and West (1975), Coates (1986), Jespersen (1922), also Lakoff (1975). The result of this study is men dissolve the most, and both women were dissolved the most. The difference of this study with previous one is that previous article used theory proposed by Jespersen (1922) meanwhile this current study uses Lakoff's theory. The similarity can be seen from the data used because previous study also uses daily conversation between men and women, similar with current study which used conversation in the movie as the data.

## **2.2. Concepts**

Several key concepts is explained in this study. Concepts are associated to the title with the amplifications that should give the comprehension of the idea as well as the relationships language usages in certain factions. The most relevant concepts is explained moreover which included women's language, women's language features, and movie.

### **2.2.1. Women's Language**

Women's language is the idiom to define a language which marks the women attribute such as avoid forceful statements that perform hesitation and uncertainty, (Holmes, 1986). According to Wardhaugh (1986:308) women and men may have variety unambiguous speech systems and gesture while speaking.

### 2.2.2. Women's Language Features

Women's language features, according to Lakoff (1975:45), are lexicon aspects of language, such as color terms, particles, and evaluative adjectives; and syntax, such as tag-questions, and related aspects of intonation used by women, which differ from the attribute of men's and women's speech. The differences can also be regarded as characteristics of linguistic disparities. (phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax) differences between men and women, where denotes a characteristic of women's speech.

### 2.2.3. Movie

According to Hornby (2006:950) movie can be determined as a sequence of moving **Figure** recorded with sound contains story, usually appeared at cinema or movie. Movie or film is an idiom that enclosed with individual motion photograph.

### 2.3. Theories

The analysis of this study is based on the sociolinguistics theories. The main theory that is applied to analyze women's language features is presented by Lakoff (1975). Lakoff began her projects about the women's language by differentiating language application by women itself with men's utterance in language. According to her, there are several reasons and purposes why women use certain features in doing speech.

### **2.3.1. Women's Language Features**

Lakoff's writings have become the premise for researchers to propose study using women's language as main topic. She introduced ten premises regarding the special of women's language in 1975. But the book has been revised so that the newest theory published in 2004. This study used the theory proposed by Lakoff (2004) include the use, such as the following:

#### **2.3.1.1. Lexical Hedges or Fillers**

The first women's speech features submitted by Lakoff (2004:79) is lexical hedges. Generally, the use of this feature has the means to express doubt or a confidence of an utterance. The examples are like the words well, I guess, sort of, like, kind of, I think, you see, you know, and it seems like. As seen below:

- a. I guess the examiner will absent in time this morning.

This sentence shows the speaker's hesitance, as the event is not happen yet and the speaker cannot make sure that the statement is clearly correct, so the speaker use the sentence "I guess.." as she is trying to guess something whether it is right or not.

#### **2.3.1.2. Tag Questions**

The second feature submitted by Lakoff is tag question. This feature is genuinely using yes-no question. Tag question is a kind of respectful assertion that does not ask for addressee's agreement. By the time, Lakoff's theory about tag question is then developed by Holmes (1992: 319) defining tags are not always

used to express uncertainty, can also be used by the experts to successfully do interaction.

For examples:

- a. Dio and Lala are here, aren't they?
- b. You are looking for your mother, aren't you?

Both the sentence are using tag question to show uncertainty from the speaker's statement. It shows us that the speaker needs reassurance about her statement.

### 2.3.1.3. Rising Intonation on Declaratives

Next feature found is Rising intonation on Declaratives which usually flare in a guise of declarative sentence used to answer question but moreover alike with yes-no question intonation which is risen. As stated by Lakoff (2004:51), using this characteristic requires the speaker to avoid being definite while expressing an opinion.

For examples:

- a. The show was really amazing, wow!

From sentence above, we can see that the speaker contributes she is unsure if her viewpoint is admitted by the addressee so that rising intonation in declaratives is used to prove the speaker leaves an open decision in a considered way.

#### 2.3.1.4. Empty Adjectives

The use of empty adjectives indicates that speaker wishes to execute her emotional expression and addressee. Some of these adjectives are gender-neutral, meaning they can be used by both men and women, while others are best uttered by women. Women have more freedom in both neutral and women's adjectives in this scenario, whereas males are more hesitant to use women's adjectives because it may jeopardize their reputation. Several examples of empty adjectives are:

##### **Neutral**

fair  
terrific  
brave  
neat  
boring

##### **Women only**

adorable  
charming  
sweet  
lovely  
cute



#### 2.3.1.5. Precise Color Terms

In precise color term, in terms of color naming, women will show opposed simplifications with men do. They got more power in mentioning clearer terms of color than men, such as burgundy, turquoise, cerulean, or peach. All of these are well known by women only. Meanwhile, men commonly do not put their focus regarding naming colors issues just like what women do. (Lakoff, 2004:43).

#### 2.3.1.6. Intensifiers

Next that is found in women's speech is intensifiers such as so, just, such, or quite. According to Lakoff (2004 :48), using intensifiers look like a way to not giving strong opinion, moreover like questions tagging. If women use hedge device

to prove uncertainty, intensifiers is used to be persuasive towards the addressee so the utterance's meaning can be strengthen. Women may try to rise or boost their utterances because sometimes otherwise they may not be heard while speaking, especially with men.

### **2.3.1.7. Hypercorrect Grammar**

Holmes (1992:167) claimed, women preferably use more correct form grammatically than men do in every social class, in which men prefer to use vernacular. This can be means that women tend to use more standard forms while speaking in which men usually avoid to do. In this theory Holmes also stated that female are usually speak more linguistically.

### **2.3.1.8. Super polite Forms**

The eighth feature called super polite form. The feature can be associated with the fact that women are supposed to act and speak in more polite way. This feature may appear when women seem to keep their words politely as they are talking to older people or any person they need to respect. This form usually started with the use of words “sorry”, “please” or anything else.

### **2.3.1.9. Avoidance of Strong Swear Words**

Swearing is kinds of interjection that occurs during an oath. It's being seen as a strong emotion expression for women, but in a courteous manner. 'Oh, Dear!' or 'OMG!' are commonly used by women, whilst 'Shit!' is commonly used by men.

Consider the following examples:

- a. Oh, my dear, you shattered my heart!
- b. You're trying to break my heart!

The difference between statement an as 'women's language' and sentence b as 'men's language' may be seen in the examples above.

#### 2.3.1.10. Emphatic Stress

Last feature, which is emphatic stress considered to the scheme of showing uncertainty by revealing own self-expression. This will lead to the tone of speaking that is being raised to emphasize certain words such example:

- a. It was a **great** singing you've done!

The word **great** in sentence in sentence is one of example of an emphatic stress to strengthen the utterances connotation.

#### 2.3.2. Functions of Women's Language Features

Every aspect of women's language has a specific purpose in every discussion they have. According to Lakoff (19751), women's linguistic features serve two purposes: they can undermine the speaker's assertion by using hedging techniques, and they can reinforce it by using booster techniques. Every aspect of women's language has a specific purpose in every discussion they have. The role of women's language features, such as those that are:

1. Hedges

Mainly functions of hedges in conversation are as follows:

- a. To mitigate the possible statement's unkindness, in terms of politeness.
- b. To emphasize uncertainty felt by the speaker's from statements or the accuracy of the statement itself cannot be verified.
- c. To make apologize in terms of speaker's assertion as they do not want to claim strongly towards themselves.

## 2. Tag questions

The use of tag questions in a conversation is aimed to:

- a. Give space and chance to think what to response for the addressee.
- b. Make 'small talk 'and evoke conversation from the addressee.
- c. Ask politely for opinions in a discussion of personal feelings from someone.
- d. Avoid to assert herself in a tough way, by that the speaker will avoid conflict happens during the conversations.

As cited in Holmes (1997:318-319) Lakoff also stated that the tag question is a device which work syntactically that may express hesitance. It may also express affective meaning which function is for facilitate devices, by that the addressee can easily come into a conversation.

3. Declaration with interrogative intonation normally appears when someone speak is willing to confirm, though at the time, they may be the one person that have the requisite facts.
4. 'Empty' adjectives is to grant appreciation towards something or somebody.
5. Precise color term is used because it is related to women interest specifically. So that, it intends to show that they are expert in something.

6. Hypercorrectness in grammar is related to politeness and showing distance between the speaker and the addressee.
7. Intensive adverbs can be performed to strengthen statements. It is also used to hedge on one's feelings or show strong emotions.
8. 'Super' polite form is often suggested to be developed by societies aimed to reduce conflict during interaction in personal.
9. Avoiding of strong swear words can be seen in how strong the speaker allow themselves to feel some things, so the emotion can be expressed in any utterances.
10. The use of emphatic stress is to highlight on someone's judgment to something. Women who concern more on feeling usually use this feature to show the positive politeness to the addressee.

Lakoff (1975: 53) claimed that there is a number of linguistics features were evidence of a confident speaker. It can be identified by split them into two features. Firstly, there are linguistics devices including lexical hedges, super polite forms, question intonations, tag questions, and euphemisms. Secondly, there are boosting devices including intensifiers and emphatic stress.