CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Review of Related Theories

2.1.1. Language and Gender

Women and men have quite a lot of differences. One of them is the language they use. The difference in linguistic features used by women and men certainly has its own charm. So many linguists are studying about this. Because of the existing patriarchy, men are always seen as superior and are considered the heart of society. Not only because men are considered physically stronger than women, but men's language is considered more influential than women.

Lakoff's theory (1975) explains that language is an expression that enables us to understand what we are getting concerned. "Languages uses us as much as we use language. As much as our choice of forms of expression is guided by the thoughts we want to express, to the same extent the way we feel about the things in the real world governs the way we express ourselves about these things." Nevertheless, the role of language in society can be considered sexist. Because if women do not speak like women, society will criticize them. Lakoff also stated that many linguistic features that used by women make them appear less confident.

Language differences between men and women are commonly found in the linguistic features used. It differentiates from the lexical, semantic, as well as syntactic characteristics that women typically wear. Generally, women's languages are more organized than men's languages because women use good language and appropriate linguistic features. In contrast to men, who prefer spontaneity when speaking. If a woman does not speak like "the average woman," she will be accused of being unfeminine. On the other hand, if a man speaks with good and correct linguistic features, he will be accused of sarcastically imitating a woman or a homosexual.

In a book by Jennifer Coates (2004) entitled Women, Men, and Language, Coates (2004) focuses her research on variations in linguistic features related to gender and speakers. In her book, Coates (2004) describes the differences he found in the way women and men talk. The difference that Coates found was the difference in the different linguistic features they used. In addition to studying the differences in linguistic features used by women and men, Coates also relates these differences to their social roles in society. In her book, Coates (2004) describes the folklinguistic view of the differences in language used by women/men and the views of early grammarians. There are six areas described, namely: vocabulary, swearing and taboo language, grammar, literacy, pronunciation, and verbosity.

2.1.2. Features of Woman's Language

According to Lakoff (1975), the language of women has several characteristics, especially linguistic characteristics which also represent a significant difference between both the language of women and the language of men. When it comes to expressing their feelings, women are typically very expressive. Women are more cautious when speaking than men, who are more spontaneous. And most women lack confidence because they overthink what they have to say.

a. **Lexical Hedges or Fillers**

When speaking and pausing, filling sentences with insertions to fill in the blanks in the sentence is what lexical hedges or fillers are. Lexical hedges or fillers are occasionally used in women's language and illustrate their insecurity when speaking. Examples of lexical hedges in this Women's feature typically involve *you know, sort of, well, you see, perhaps, I think*. Apart from expressing a lack of confidence, hedges are commonly used when the speaker needs to distinguish between facts and claims in someone's statement. While pause fillers include *um, uh, and ah*. The purpose of pause fillers is to fill in the blanks in the speaker's sentence. Furthermore, there are numerous methods for reducing illocutionary stress, and hedging is accomplished through the use of a variety of linguistic features. Hedging is an example of a female language characteristic, as are the words *can, may, will, and should.*

b. Tag Questions

Tag question is an important linguistic feature that can help us communicate in social conversations. Question tags are also common in people who speak in female language. Because women or people who speak women's languages use question tags in their sentences, whereas men's languages rule. For example, if someone asks the other person to close the door, a woman will say, *'can you shut the door, please?'* In contrast to men's language, which will say *'shut the door.'* Masculinity in male language for anyone who uses it gives the user a rough and powerful appearance.

c. Rising Intonation on Declaratives

Lakoff (1975) declare that there is a peculiar sentence intonation-pattern, found in English as far as I know only among women, which has the form of a declarative answer to a question, and is used as such, but has the rising inflection typical of a yes-no question, as well as being especially hesitant. The effect is as though one were seeking confirmation, though at the same time the speaker may be the only one who has the requisite information. Assertive rising declaratives are characterized by a high pitch accent which thus rises to a high boundary tone.

d. 'Empty' Adjectives

Women, as we know, have a more diverse vocabulary than men. Women much more often use words like cute, charming, devine, adorable, and gorgeous. And, as Lakoff implies, it is an empty adjective (1975). Empty adjective is only concerned with the word emotional reactions to the

specific information. Some of these adjectives were gender neutral, meaning that native speakers of either gender, men or women, could use them.

e. **Precises Colour Terms**

When it comes to color naming, women are more likely than men to use the correct color naming. When shown the same color, the responses of girls and boys may differ. If a girl and a boy were shown the color green, the girls would respond more specifically to that color. "That's turquoise," women will usually respond, while men will usually respond, "That's green," without being more specific about the color. When men be more specific or precises about color they see, one might will conclude he was imitating a woman sarcastically or as a homosexual or an interior decorator. Because it's common for women to be more specific about colour and it's not common for men when they be more specific about colour.

f. **Intensifiers**

One of the two examples of intensifiers in female language is *so* and *just*. Lakoff (1975) argues that intensive "so" is more frequent in women's than men's language, although men can also use it. We have an attempt to hedge on one's strong feelings, as though to say: I feel strongly about this but I dare not make it clear how strong. Example of intensifier in woman's language "I like that body scrub *so* much!"

g. **Hypercorrect Grammar**

According to Lakoff (as cited in Holmes, 1995), hypercorrect grammar is the consistent use of standard verb forms that women usually use.

h. **Super Polite Form**

Women typically use indirect requests as well as softening words in feminine language. According to Lakoff (1975), women's language uses a very polite sentence form.

i. **Avoidance of Strong Swear Words**

Women, as explained previously, have a more polite language structure and a wider vocabulary than men. Women are known to avoid using swear words, because although men are known to use swear words on the spur of the moment. In addition, women are usually considered immoral when they use strong swear words, whereas men are considered natural when they use strong swear words.

j. **Empathic Stress**

Emphatic Stress is a type of special emphasis that a speaker appears to give to a word in a sentence, usually to single out, compare, correct, or clarify something. Women prefer to use words which also emphasize or strengthen the meaning of their utterances.

2.1.3. Factors That Shape the Features of Women's Language

Linguists such as Lakoff and Coates say that women's languages are different from men's languages. The female language features are superior in

linguistics compared to the male language features. This is of course formed due to several factors that trigger the features of women's language. In research conducted by Dr. Vitthal V. Parab in 2015, he explained several factors that shape the features of women's language.

A. **Social Factors**

The factor that forms the features of women's language, the social factor is the social status of women. The social status of women is one of the things that shape the features of language in women. It is this social status that makes a person feel insecure and in the end the features of the female language are formed. "Men are more visible, and ideologically defined by, the public sphere while women are relegated to the domestic sphere. Women have always been and are increasingly among the wage laborers, but even employed women are primarily defined by their family roles." (Parab, 2015). In addition, socialization of sex roles is also influential. Like the theory put forward by Lakoff, the language pattern that women use is known in the community as a language pattern that shows insecurity, weakness, politeness, hypercorrection, and which is sometimes referred to as an indication of low self-esteem by the way they speak. While men, on the other hand, are considered and more widely seen by the community as dominant, strong, and direct ways of talking.

B. Culture Factors

In Parab's research (2015) he explains that women's language and culture are interrelated. Such as gender discrimination, Western women's subculture and the Bible. Likewise with the initial evaluation of the Western Women's Language. Overall, in terms of culture, their evaluation was influenced by such factors, such as gender culture, gender ideology and gender stereotypes.

2.1.4. Folklinguistics

Coates (2013) in the book *Women, Men, and Language* explains about people's linguistic beliefs which explain gender differences in linguistic features 'do women and men talk differently?' which could described as 'folklinguistics' (3rd ed., p.3). Language usually reflects the way the person thinks. However, due to gender differences, this causes contradictions. According to Coates, such contradictions can be explained by the general assumption of the rule, which is called **The Androcentric rule.** 'Men will be seen to behave linguistically in a way that fits the writer's view of what is desirable or admirable; women on the other hand will be blamed for any linguistic state or development which is regarded by the writer as negative or reprehensible'. However, Coates will only focus his research on areas of interest, including: there are six kinds of features described by Coates. They are

Vocabulary, Swearing and Taboo Language, Grammar, Literacy, Pronunciation, and Verbosity. Here is a brief explanation:

a. **Vocabulary**

At the early of the twenties century, an English professor named Otto Jespersen emphasized that it was men who had new and fresh expressions when introducing themselves. Therefore, Jesperen says that men are the main language reformers. In other words, men are considered to have a more varied and new vocabulary than women. Meanwhile, women are considered as actors who create words that last for a short time. Which in the female language feature, it is an 'empty adjective' feature. Coates cites Jespersen's words in her book which says that women use the word hyperbole more often by ignoring the exact meaning.

b. **Swearing and Taboo Language**

For centuries, people have believed that women's language is more polite, refined, and graceful. In other words, no woman uses vulgar words. Meanwhile, when men use taboo and vulgar words, it is considered normal. In fact, it is not uncommon for men to say taboo and vulgar things just to cover up their carelessness. Coates (2004) in her book said, the issue of vulgar language is a major theme in French fabliaux, medieval comic tales that appear to have been written in part in response to the new vogue for 'clean' language. One of them, La

Dame qui se venja du Chevalier (Montaiglon et Raynaud 1872–90: vol. VI), explicitly defends the courtly taboo against a man using obscene language in front of a woman.

c. **Grammar**
According to Coates (2013) the idea of eighteenth century grammar was less sophisticated than today's where grammar is a prescriptive rather than descriptive matter. Which means establishing the correct usage rules. According to Poole (1646:21) quoted in Coates (2013), the masculine gender is more valuable than the feminine. This concept appears to have served as a forerunner to the sex-indefinite he rule, which prohibits the use of they, he, or she when the antecedent's gender is unknown. The claims made by Jespersen about female syntax appear to be related to the distinction between spoken and written language. Men produce the majority of written language (in particular, printed material).
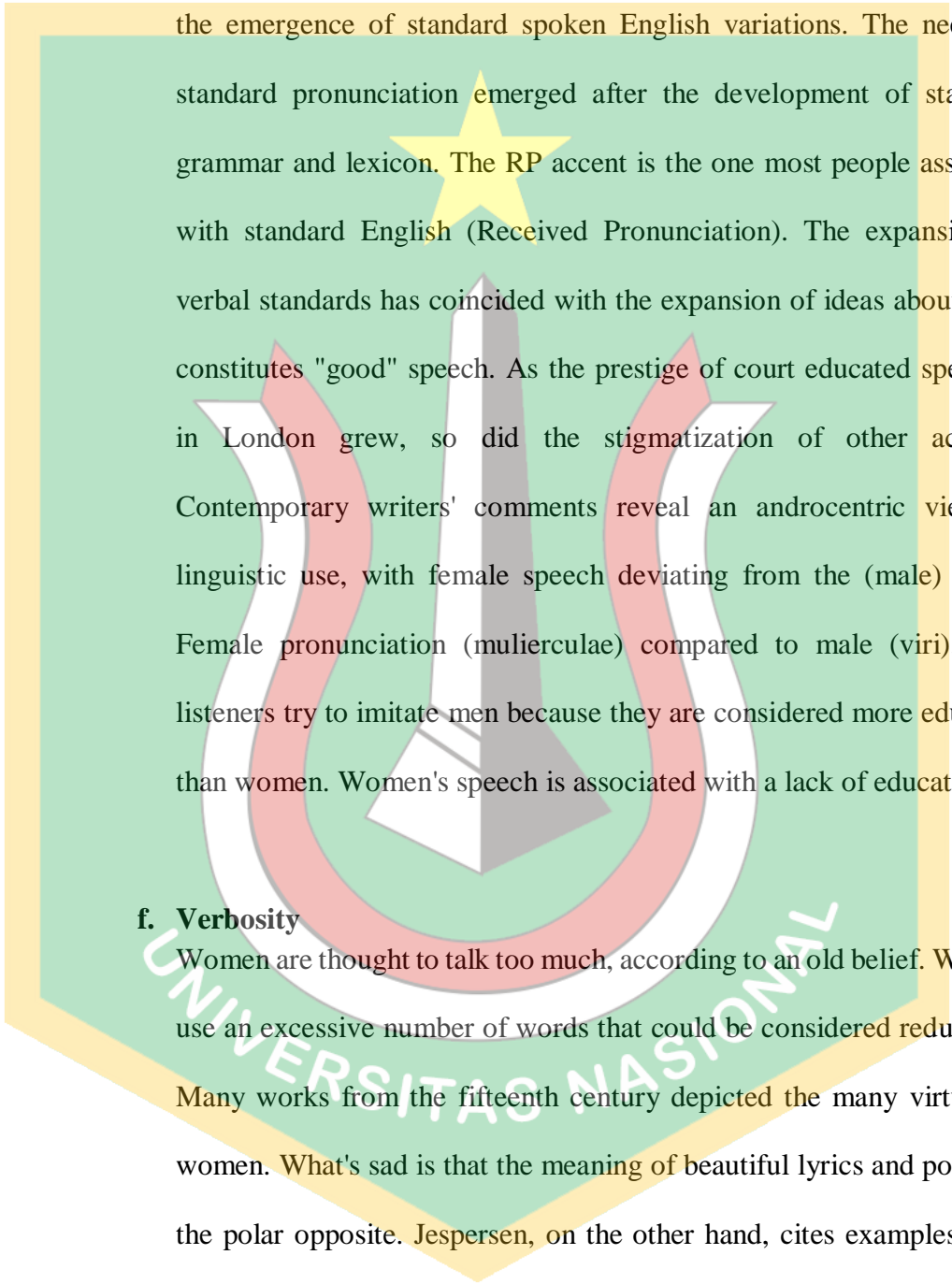
d. **Literacy**
Women had less access to literacy than men in the twentieth century. Only upper-middle-class women were allowed to study prior to the nineteenth century. This is one of the barriers that women face in terms of learning and advancement. And, as a result of what has occurred in

the past, the disparities between men and women in terms of reading, speaking, and linguistic features have become quite apparent. In her book, she cited:

"We could heartily wish that the fair sex would take notice of this last Reason; for many a pretty Lady by the Silliness of her Words, hath lost the Admiration which her Face had gained. And as the Mind hath more lovely and more lasting Charms than the Body, if they would captivate Men of Sense, they must not neglect those best kind of Beauties. As these Perfections do not depend upon the Strength of the Hand, but the Quickness of the Wit, and Niceness of the Eye and Ear; and as in these Talents Nature hath doubtless been as bountiful to that Sex as to our own, those improprieties in Words, Spelling and Writing, for which they are usually laughed at, are not owing to any Defect in their Minds, but the Carelessness, if not injustice to them in their Education. These following Essays are intended for a Help to them as well as others. (Wilson? 1724: 37)"

Which suggests that, while seventeenth and eighteenth century gentlemen agreed that women's language had its drawbacks, especially written language, they were not all opposed to the idea of changing this state of affairs through education.

e. **Pronunciation**

The emergence of standard written English variations was followed by the emergence of standard spoken English variations. The need for standard pronunciation emerged after the development of standard grammar and lexicon. The RP accent is the one most people associate with standard English (Received Pronunciation). The expansion of verbal standards has coincided with the expansion of ideas about what constitutes "good" speech. As the prestige of court educated speeches in London grew, so did the stigmatization of other accents. Contemporary writers' comments reveal an androcentric view of linguistic use, with female speech deviating from the (male) norm. Female pronunciation (mulierculae) compared to male (viri). And listeners try to imitate men because they are considered more educated than women. Women's speech is associated with a lack of education.

f. **Verbosity**

Women are thought to talk too much, according to an old belief. Women use an excessive number of words that could be considered redundant. Many works from the fifteenth century depicted the many virtues of women. What's sad is that the meaning of beautiful lyrics and poetry is the polar opposite. Jespersen, on the other hand, cites examples from the literature and refers to speed reading research that found that women read certain passages faster than men and remember more about those

passages after reading them. Men, however, still dominate inter-gender conversations, despite the fact that women are thought to talk too much. While women talk too much, men interrupt the conversation more which will lead to silence and is a malfunction in a conversation.

2.2. Previous Studies

First, Tika, M. Natsir, and Ririn (2017). This study looks at the characteristics of women's language in the movie The Devil Wears Prada. Using the theory proposed by Lakoff and Jakobsen, the researchers identified the features of female language used in the film The Devil Wears Prada. The researchers discover nine language features proposed by Lakoff in the films that were used by the actors in this study. Lexical hedges or fillers; tag questions; rising intonations on declaratives; empty adjectives; precise color terms; intensifiers; super polite forms; avoidance of strong swear words; and emphatic stress are the nine language features. Meanwhile, the researchers have found that the actors used three language functions, namely expressive function, metalinguistic function, and directive function, based on the theory introduced by Jakobsen.

Khoirul (2013). The researcher examines the features of female language used by Margaret in the film "The Iron Lady" in this study. In this film, Margaret is the Iron Lady, England's longest-serving female Prime Minister. In some of the spoken conversations, she implements language features frequently applied by women. She

has a feminine nature, as amply demonstrated by the use of female language features when implementing her duties at home as a mother, in addition to being a Prime Minister who must have a firm and authoritative nature in every word. In this study, the researcher used Lakoff's language feature theory and discovered 9 out of 10 theories used by Margaret in the film "The Iron Lady." Margaret mainly uses lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, declaratives, empty adjectives, intensifiers, superpolite form, avoidance of strong swear words, hypercorrect grammar, and emphatic stress as theories of female language features.

Monica (2018) The researcher examined the features of female language used by Mia in the film The Princess Diaries in this study. In this study, the researcher uses Lakoff's theory as a reference point to draw conclusions for his research. The researchers chose to investigate the character of Mia, who is described as an unstable adolescent forced to become a princess. According to researchers, the use of language by men and women is influenced by a variety of factors, including gender. In this study, the researcher discovered 8 out of 10 female language features from Lakoff's theory, something that Mia used in the film The Princess Diaries. Lexical hedges or fillers, intensifiers, superpolite form, hypercorrect grammar, empathic stress, tag questions, rising intonations, and empty adjectives are among some of the features of female language used.

Cindy (2020). The features of female language used by Lara Jean in the film To All the Boys I've Loved Before were examined by the researchers in this study. The

researcher used Lakoff's theory to conduct this study. This research looks into the different types and functions of female language used by Lara Jean in the film. The researcher in this study is interested in the characteristics of female language used by Lara Jean in the film To All the Boys I've Loved Before, as well as the dominant characteristics of all the features of Lakoff's theory. The researcher is also interested in the functions of female language features and the most dominant function that she employs in the film To All The Boys I've Loved Before. According to the findings of this study, researchers did not find all of the female language features used by Lara Jean in the film To All the Boys I've Loved Before. The researchers discovered nine different types of female language features, which would include lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and empathic stress. Lexical hedges or fillers are the most common feature of female language, properly accounted for 48 of Lara's 172 utterances. Female language features already have a weakening and a strengthening function. With a total of 124 of Lara's 172 utterances, the function of the most dominant female language is to weaken.

Nanda (2019) examines the features of women's language used by Indonesian woman book authors in a book entitled Dear Tomorrow by Maudy Ayunda. The research focuses on the female language features used by an Indonesian female author in her book Dear Tomorrow by Maudy Ayunda (DTMA). The study's goal was to describe the use of women's language features and language function in DTMA based

on Robinn Lakoff's types of women's language features. The data was gathered from two chapters of DTMA. The data was collected using the documentation method. The descriptive qualitative method was used in this study to analyze the data and describe the findings. The findings revealed that those two DTMA chapters did not use all types of women's language features. In DTMA, there were 66 utterances containing six types of women's language features: 19 lexical hedges or fillers, 1 empty adjective, 17 intensifiers, 10 hypercorrect grammar, 1 superpolite, and 18 emphatic stress. Based on the amount of lexical hedges or fillers used in DTMA, the dominant type of women's language features was lexical hedges or fillers. In DTMA, three types of language functions were used: express function, metalinguistic function, and directive function.

In this study, the difference from the research above is that previous research studies only focused on finding features of women's language. Meanwhile, in this study, apart from looking for the features of the female language spoken by the actress in the film Bombshell, the researcher also looks for what factors make the female language sound stronger when interacting. Because the purpose of this research is to show the power of women's language.

2.3. Theoretical Framework

In this study, the researcher applies Lakoff's theory about the characteristics of women's language. Essentially, the language used by men and women differs. In this

study, researchers will examine the use of language that is differentiated by gender. Lexical hedges or fillers, Tag questions, Rising intonation on declaratives, 'Empty' adjectives, Precise color terms, 'Hypercorrect' grammar, 'Superpolite' forms, Avoidance of strong swear words, and Emphatic stressed, according to Lakoff (1975), are female language features. And the researcher will use this theory to determine what features of the female language are used in the Bombshell film, what the benefits of using the female language feature are, and what the differences in language used by men and women are.