

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language will always be studied because it is an important component of human life. According to Hornby (2003) “Language is system of communication in speech and writing used by people of a particular country” (p.204). Humans interact through language to express meaning, and build and maintain social and interpersonal relationships.

According to Chaer (2011) “Language is an arbitrary sound symbol system used by a group of community members to interact and identify themselves” (p.30). Language is an expression that contains the intention to convey something to others and it means language are related to the society. Sociolinguistics analyses how language and society are related.

Sociolinguistics explains the way people talk usually depends on the social context. Holmes (1992) asserts, “examining the way people use language in different social contexts provides a wealth of information about the way language works, as well as about the social relationships in a community.” (p.1). Usually, people used the various styles in various social contexts. So, sociolinguistics is interested in how language and the situations in which it is used interact. There are primary factors of social

context that people need to consider namely age, urbanization, socioeconomic development, education, religion, and gender.

Gender stereotypes, are social factors from other social contexts that play a significant character in how men and women act and use language. Men or women are the person who communicates each other but they do not speak in the same way even though they use the same language. In the past, men were seen to be the centre of it, while women were considered to be outsiders and invisible. “Gender stereotype is one of the most powerful influences in shaping society’s behaviour where it has the power to dictate how women and men should behave” (Aries, 1996, p.187). “People grow up with the idea that women are more talkative than men, that women are more expert in mannerisms, and so on” (Coates, 2016, p.86). In other situation, “women are also expected to be polite and should speak with standard forms because they are guardian of society” (Holmes, 2001). These stereotypes on women’s and men’s use of language are still believed by the society up to this day.

Every person has their language feature which can represent their social status in society. Usually, women frequently use a variety of language features when they are having conversation. Lakoff (1975) give a statement “Women’s language features are the different choices in the frequency of lexical items and grammars between men’s and women’s speech that characterize the women’s language.” (p.8). Lakoff (1975) stated that “women’s speech was characterized by some linguistic features such as:

lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonations on declarative, empty adjectives, precise colour term, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super-polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.”

In 2018, Murti conducted researches on women's language with role that Mia played in the film *The Princess Diaries*. The findings of her research revealed that Mia uses eight features. She did not find two features there is avoidance of strong swear words and precise colour terms used by Mia. Besides that, the function which Murti found is just five functions. Utari (2019) investigated women’s language of Maudy Ayunda in the book of *Dear Tomorrow* by Maudy Ayunda. The final result of Utari research is that she only found six features of women's language. The focus of earlier research in this field has been on the features and functions of women's language.

These days, movie was combines Women's Language Features. Movie is a fantastic piece of writing. Today, we may simply find movies that incorporate women’s language features. *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You* or also known *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before 2* is a teenager drama-romance film produced in the America that is based on Jenny Han's book of the same name. Michael Fimognari as a directed of this movie titled *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* sequel. The focuses in this research, the researcher identifying on the usage of women’s language features and the functions by analysing a movie entitled *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*.

There are four reasons why the researcher chooses this movie in this research. The first is this movie has a correlation with sociolinguistic research, particularly the research of women's language features. Second, that Lara faces friendship and love issues in this film, which influences both her communication style and how she responds to certain situations. Third, every character has a significant difference, like the age and life experiences they have, it is made by the author to give a significant effect for the way they speak and the way they react to face every situation. Fourth, Lara Jean as a main female character is the focus on this research because the researcher analyzes and observes the utterances which contain women's language features as proposed by Lakoff (1975) and the functions as proposed by Pearson (1985) and also because Lara was a Korean girl who lived with the Asian culture and lived with the stereotypes of Asians are kind, good at speech, friendly, and also polite, but the interesting thing is she matured in America. Therefore, the reasons above can make this present research different from previous studies because Lara Jean has a different background of culture and the reason why she did women's language features. The researcher observes in her language contains Women's Language Features as proposed by Lakoff (1975) and its functions as proposed by Pearson (1985) is suitable and easy to understand to analyze Lara Jean's utterances.

The researcher wants to explain the types and analyze the functions of women's language focuses on the main female characters in *To All the*

Boys: P.S. I Still Love You movie. Therefore, this research gives a hope for the researcher because this research able to improve the understanding of women's language features and it also give their functions and also gives a beneficial contribution to the next researcher, especially for the students majoring linguistics.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

In this research the problem that will be discussed is the researcher only focuses on analysing types and functions of the women's language features used by women characters in the movie entitled *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*. This research is conducted using Lakoff's theory (1975) about women's language features and Pearson's theory (1985) about the functions of women's language features.

1.3 Research Question

From the background of the study, the research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of Women's Language Features used by Lara Jean utterances?
2. What are the functions of Women's Language Features used by Lara Jean utterances?
3. What are the most dominant types of Women's Language Features in the movie *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*?

1.4 Objective of the Research

The formulation of the problem above, is the objectives of this research can be formulated as follows:

1. To identify the type of language features used by Lara Jean in To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You movie.
2. To analyze the function of Women's Language Features used by Lara Jean in To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You movie.
3. To find out the most dominant types of Women's Language Features used by Lara Jean in To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You movie.

