

CHAPTER II

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL
FRAMEWORK**

2.1 Review of Related Theories

All of the theories related to this research will be discussed by the researcher in this chapter. The theories are a major part of sociolinguistics, which analyses the features and functions of women's language. The data will be analysed using the Women's Language theory. The used of the theories is to analysis the data are mentioned below.

2.1.1 Sociolinguistics

As the one of the major linguistic, Sociolinguistics branches which study about the use of language or language in social context. Spolsky (1998) states that “Socialinguistics is a field that studies the relationship between language and society, between the uses of language and the social structures in which the users of language live” (p.3). For the field of linguistics, it contains many patterns and assumes that the behavior of human society is interrelated. People use different styles in different social contexts; therefore, sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the contexts in which it is used. The primary factors social context that people consider are age, urbanization, socioeconomic development, education, religion, and gender.

2.1.2 Language & Gender

Gender is one of the branches talks of Sociolinguistics. According to Eckert (2003) “Gender is the diversification function, social role, and responsibility between men and women which ruled by society”. Gender and sex is different. Talbot (2010) states that, “Gender is learned from the society. In daily life, gender is related with masculine or feminine. The term of gender is often used to describe the social category, whether men or women.”

“Men and women are members of culture and they learn the suitable ways of speaking and a large set of gendered meanings that attached to different ways of speech; they produce their own behavior in the light of those meanings” (Cameron, 1998, p.281). Show the expression can be the example of the differences of gender between men and women. “Men are not supposed to show their sadness and women should not show anger especially using some swear words” (Cameron & Kulick, 2003). “Whether males or females; it is easy to know the social identity, sex, educational level, and region of someone from his/her speech” (Holmes, 2008; Wardhaugh, 2006). And a women should speak in a way that reflects femininity.

Gender and its stereotype is a social context that can highly influence the way men and women behave and even use the 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 order to divide the identity of Women's and men, Women's Language was created. It shows how women speak and express their feelings in different situations. Tannen (1990) states that, "for most women, the language of conversation is primarily a language of rapport which means a way of establishing connections and negotiating relationships" (p.111).

Cameron (2005) states that, "Women often have doubts when speaking in public due to the stereotypes and prejudice about their way of speaking and writing". "Nonetheless, while having a same topic conversation or speaking in public, women tend to show the feeling affection by using polite forms and compliments in order to enhance the relation of solidarity towards others" (Wardhaugh, 1992).

2.1.3 Women's Language Features

Lakoff (1975) suggests that, "there are some linguistic features used more often by women than by men that indicate women's role in society". The stereotype that women as the subordinate ones cause universal characteristics of how women are expected to speak. As cited in Holmes (2013), Lakoff (1975) classified ten types of women's language features, such as:

2.1.3.1 Lexical Hedges or Fillers

Lakoff (1975) stated that, “women’s use of lexical hedges arises out of a fear of seeming too masculine by being assertive and saying things directly” (p. 53). Women tend to say uncertain phrases in order to keep their femininity. The lexical hedges such as *you know, well, kind of, sort of* reduce the force of an utterance. Women use them to add tentativeness to statements.

It is believed that women use this feature for their protection in case they overstep their rights by making a certain statement Lakoff (1975). “Hedges are signal of lack of confidence, uncertain about what the speaker is saying in a conversation. Its aim to fill the gap or to take and hold on in a conversation. fillers are described as ‘meaningless particles’ such as “*umm...*”, “*well*”, and “*you see*”” as explained in (Holmes, 2013, p.303). Cameron stated that “women are co-operative conversationalist who express frequent concern for other participants in talk” (as cited in Andrew White, 2003, *Women’s Usage of Specific Linguistic Functions in The Context of Casual Conversation: Analysis and Discussion*. p.8).

2.1.3.2 Tag Questions

There are several functions when women tend to use Tag questions. One of them is, women assert their confidence by

using tag question. “A tag is midway between an outright statement and a yes-no question: it is assertive than former but more confident than the latter” (Lakoff, 1975, p. 54). Question tag used by women is followed by an interrogative tag such as; “*isn't that, right?*”, “*isn't it?*”, “*don't you?*”, “*right?*”, etc. There

are no rules about syntax in the tag question. As an example from Lakoff (1975) “A woman wants a confirmation of her claim from the addressee using a tag question”.

John is here, isn't he?

You and Gen used to do it a lot, right?

One of the reasons why she uses the tag question is because she is not sure of the truth whether John was there or not, meanwhile she still expected a positive answer from the addressee. Besides, she uses tag question to get certainty. Moreover, Lakoff (1975), “tag question is also used as a declarative statement when the speaker has enough knowledge to predict the response from the speaker” (p.54).

2.1.3.3 Rising Intonation on Declaratives

Lakoff (1975) states that, “Women tend to use rising intonation on declaratives to make sure the accuracy of an information”.

Speaker A: When will my dinner be ready?

Speaker B: Oh, around seven o'clock?

From the example above, it can be concluded that the speaker B was a woman that seems need a confirm from speaker A, even though the answer was clear. So, the answer from speaker A will become a question because the intonation has rising.

2.1.3.4 Empty Adjectives

Lakoff (1975) stated that, "Many words had affective meaning to expressing feelings, not referential meaning referring to some object or state of affairs. Adjectives such as *divine*, *lovely*, *cute*, *pretty*, *adorable*, *charming*, *sweet*, *beautiful*, and *funny* are strongly marked as feminine." The different of the expression can be seen below.

*What a **terrific** day!*

*What a **divine** day!*

From the example of (Lakoff, 1975, p.52), the word **terrific** indicates a more neutral adjective than **divine** because it is more frequently used and heard under any conditions. However, women still use this kind of adjective because it sounds positive. Besides that, "these adjectives signal the feeling of 'uninvolved' or 'out of power' instead of 'feminine'" (Lakoff, 1975, p.53).

2.1.3.5 Precise Colour Terms

Lakoff (1975) stated that, “Women have richer lexical items than men. The more specific one is about colour terms, women claim that those colour terms to be commonly used, but they are seen not real for men”. Lakoff (1975) also states that “most women, then, make far more precise discriminations in naming colors than do men; words like *beige*, *ecru*, *aquamarine*, *lavender*, and so on, are unremarkable in a women's active vocabulary, but absent from that of most men” (p.49). The vocabulary of women's language is varieties. Therefore, they tend to be more detailed in naming colors.

2.1.3.6 Intensifiers

“Unlike lexical hedges, intensifiers like *so*, *really*, *very* are used as boosting devices to strengthen the intended meaning” Holmes (1992). Lakoff (1975) stated that “women were afraid of being ignored. Therefore, the intensifiers are used more frequently by women than men.”. The purpose of using feature intensifiers is to reinforce a statement and strengthen a meaning. Therefore, this intensifiers feature is used more often by women than by men, because women improve their expressions more often.

2.1.3.7 Hypercorrect Grammar

Lakoff (1975) stated that, “women as being the preservers of literacy and culture, at least in Middle America, where literacy and culture are viewed as being somewhat suspect in a male” (p.38).

The use of hypercorrect grammar can indicate that women use the native language more often. Lakoff (1975) stated that, “hypercorrect grammar was the form of grammar usage which was codified as a standard English form according to grammar books” (p.38). Holmes (1992) “gave a reason why women use more standard English forms than men was because women looked after their need to be valued. Since women are seen as subordinate group, it is argued that they must speak carefully and politely. And also, to show the identity, claim their personality as an educated people by using it”. As proposed by Holmes (2001) “women tend to use more of the standard forms than men do, while men use more of the vernacular forms than women do” (p.163) The use of pronunciation, such as sounding the final 'g' in words such as 'going' instead of the more casual 'goin'. These are the words that include in the hypercorrect grammar, *ain't*, and *goin'*.

2.1.3.8 Super-polite Forms

Lakoff (1975) stated that, “Women in that their speech is in many ways more polite than that of boys or men, and the reason for this is that politeness involves an absence of a strong statement, and women's speech is devised to prevent the expression of strong statements” (p.57). So, it can be concluded, women will think carefully about their words before they speak. Women would say **passed away** instead of **died**, or **put down** instead of **killed** and use polite words such as *you are so kind, thank you, would you please, please and would you mind.*

2.1.3.9 Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

In order to build and shows their politeness, women tend to avoid from using strong swear words. Lakoff (1975) stated that “in Middle America, the majority might condone the use of strong swear words by men, but not for women” (p.50) It is because women are encouraged to act like a lady since they were young. women are allowed to fuss and complain, but only a man can bellow in rage. The examples can be seen below.

(a). ***Shit***, I lost my wallet again!

(b). ***Oh my God***, I lost my wallet again!

From the examples, the expression (a) uses a strong swear word while the expression (b) uses the weak one. So, the prediction by people is the expression (a) is spoken by men and (b) spoken by women. Yet, women who use strong swear words keep increasing. Also, “Men do not adopt women swear words instead if they do masculine image” Lakoff (1975, p.50). The use of swear words has become a commonplace. Whether women or men, these words are often used. The difference is that women are more careful and tend to avoid using swear words, than men. Lakoff (1975) stated that, “women often express their emotions by saying words like, *oh dear*, *goodness*, *oh fudge* While the men use; *shit!* and *damn!*” (p.50).

Eckert (2003) suggests that “swearing is kind of interjection that can express extreme statements. He also states that swearing as an expression of very strong emotion” (p.112).

2.1.3.10 Emphatic Stress

Women used Emphatic Stress is to express uncertainty. According to Lakoff (1975) “Women use this feature to show more stress or emphasize and strengthen the words. The example is **brilliant**, **excellent**”. Kennedy (2008) stated that, “Bold is used to make text stand out strongly by highlighting the important words, phrases, and sections and it may be applied

within body text, the title, and etc. (as cited in Annisa Aga Pebrianti.2013. *Women's Language Features Used by Indonesian Female Bloggers*. p.112)”).

2.1.4 Function Women's Language Features

A social character that women have is a unique language when they want to delivering some meaning or when they want to interact to people. Based on women's language functions proposed by Pearson (1985) she writes the women's language function in her book titled *Gender and Communication*, namely:

2.1.4.1 To express uncertainty

To express her uncertainty women was often use more women's language features to show it. Not only to express her uncertainty, but Women's Language is also used to express any hesitation while they are speaking, for the example “*Really? I thought you were his girlfriend.*” or “*really? I think we can meet tonight.*”

2.1.4.2 To get response

According to Pearson (1985), “Unlike men, women are more likely to ask other to do something for them indirectly. They also tend to implicitly ask the interlocutor to know what they want and that they want to be understood. Thus, tag questions are

often used to help women to get response”. The example is *the room is hot, isn't it? I saw a fan* and another example like *you did that with her, right?*

2.1.4.3 To soften an utterance

Because society looking for women need to be act polite, they need to realize that they are valued to be polite when they speaking. In women’s language features, they usually using super polite forms and hypercorrect grammar. It works to maintain their politeness when they speak and it works to turn their utterance into respect others. “Women use these features in order to sound less demanding while asking a request and to be more polite”. (Rubbyanti, 2017). For example, *I feel like you can most accurately describe a zodiak.*

2.1.4.4 To start a discussion

“Lexical hedges or filler such as *you know, well, you see, maybe, perhaps, and I think* are used by women when they are about to start discussion. Not only that, tag questions are also used by women to begin a conversation” (Rubbyanti, 2017). An example, *well, yeah, um... I love watching people's reactions when they watching movies.*

2.1.4.5 To express feelings or opinions

Women are known for being affectionate and friendly, thus they communicate their feelings to others with easily. Women also desire to improve interpersonal relationships through the emotions. “Sometimes they use emphatic stress and tag questions to express their feelings or opinions and to get attention from the interlocutor” (Pearson J. C., 1985).

To praise something, women are often used this kind of functions. This is a way, to link a connection when they use more feelings and connection with others. In this case, to express feeling or opinions was occurred in various contexts in every conversation. Emphatic stress feature was included in this function because that feature can emphasize their utterances. For example, *oh my goodness, this is such a big table*. It can be seen from the example; women show their feeling in their utterances.

2.2 Previous Studies

The first research was conducted by Aflah in 2016 with its title “Features and Functions of Women’s Language in Anna’s character of Anna Karenina Movie”. “The researcher used Lakoff’s theory as the foundation to discuss the women’s language features. The focus in this research was the features used by Anna Karenina. The most frequent feature was rising intonation on declarative and emphatic stress, the least feature

was precise colour terms, and hypercorrect grammar was never used, it is because Anna's character in that movie uses normal or standard grammar in her utterances. The research objects used those features to emphasize an utterance and to get response. It means that Anna's character in Anna Karenina movie want to show her existence as socialite and important person. The percentage of each feature was also provided with a brief explanation of the function of each feature based on the researcher's interpretation" (Aflah, 2016).

The second research titled "Women's Language Features Used by Indonesian Female Author in the Book of Dear Tomorrow by Maudy Ayunda" which is conducted by a college student from Faculty of Teachers Training and Education Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara University, Utari. The research focused on the women's language used by Maudy Ayunda in the book of Dear Tomorrow by Maudy Ayunda. "The researcher also used Lakoff's theory as the main theory. At the beginning of literature review, the researcher talked about language and gender and women's language. The female character used six out of ten women's language features. The finding showed that Lexical hedges or fillers were the most frequent feature, while question tag, precise color terms, avoidance of strong swear words, and rising intonation on declaratives were the features which were never used" (Utari, 2019).

The third research was conducted by Murti in 2018 titled “An Analysis of Women’s Language Features Used by Mia in the Princess Diaries Movie.” “Lakoff’s theory was also used as the main theory in this research. The researcher focused on the women’s language in its features and also the function. The finding showed that the female character used eight out of ten features. Each feature that was used by the character reflected her figure in different positions in the movie. The function of its feature was interpreted and explained based on the situation of the object in the movie” (Murti, 2018).

The last research was conducted by a college student from Faculty of Languages and Arts Yogyakarta State University in 2017, Rubbyanti, entitled “Women’s Language in Sense and Sensibility BBC Miniseries: A Sociolinguistic Study.” “This research was quite different with others because the researcher used the theory which contain the function of women’s language itself proposed by Judy Pearson in 1985. Lakoff and Pearson’s theory were the main theories in this research. The researcher focused on three things, they were women’s language features, women’s language functions, and the characteristic of society which was reflected in mini series. The finding presented nine out of ten features were found in the miniseries. Five functions of women’s language and three characteristics of the society were also found in the miniseries” (Rubbyanti, 2017).

All the researchers of these previous research used Lakoff's theory as the major theory. Most of the findings discussed about women's language features used by the characters and its functions. In this research, the researcher focuses on the use of women's language features proposed by Lakoff (1975) and the functions of women's language itself proposed by Judy Pearson (1985). There must be possible factors which can influence the use of women's language in *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You* movie. This study aims to provide a more complete and in-depth understanding accompanied by clear explanations.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The analysis of Women's Language Features in this research is based on the Sociolinguistics theory proposed by Lakoff (1975) which divides the women's language features method into ten features, such as: Lexical Hedges or Fillers, Tag Questions, Rising Intonation on Declaratives, Empty Adjectives, Emphatic Stress, Precise Colour Terms, Super-polite Forms, Hypercorrect Grammar, Intensifiers, and Avoidance of Strong Swear Words.

Furthermore, this research also uses the other supporting theories such as Cameron (1998; 2005), Cameron & Kulick (2003), Eckert (2003), Holmes (1992; 2001; 2008; 2013), Kennedy (2008), Rubbyanti (2017), Spolsky (1998), Talbot (2010), Tannen (1990), and Wardhaugh (1992; 2006).

And the last one, to analyze the function of Women's Language Features, the researcher used theory from Pearson (1985) as cited in Rubbyanti (2017) about the functions of Women's Language Features such as: To Express Uncertainty, To Get Response, To Soften an Utterance, To Start a Discussion, To Express Feeling or Opinions.

