

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language acts as a tool for communication between people as well as social phenomena. People's most effective and essential way of communicating is language. People use language to communicate their thoughts and feelings to others. People communicate differently depending on the social situation that involves language, relationships, and social identity in the community. Furthermore, language characterizes and presents identity dependent on the speaker's gender.

Sociolinguistics is the study of people and their languages in the field of linguistics. Sociolinguistics, according to Janet Holmes (2013), is the study of the connection between language and society in various contexts. It explores language's social roles and how it is utilized to express social meaning. Providing knowledge on how language works, as well as about social relations in a society and how individuals use language to communicate and build parts of their social identity.

According to Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015), one of the main topics in sociolinguistics is the relationship between linguistic features and the social roles and identities of the men and women who use these languages for a living. People are constantly bombarded with ideas about how men and women interact and utilize

language differently. Gender and the role of sexuality in language usage have emerged as major and interconnected topics.

Women's history in several countries describes how they are treated as a minority, preventing them from carrying out their activities and obtaining their rights in education, work, social roles, and political order. Gender equality demands women have the same rights as men, including the ability to speak. Women and men have distinct personalities in several ways, one of which is how they use language.

According to Holmes (2013), women as role models are expected to be polite, particularly in their use of language. The distinction between men's and women's languages is based on the function that provides a social role. Gender and language issues have arisen as a result of the women's movement. Lakoff's famous book *Language and Woman's Place* (1973) examines linguistic variations in two ways: how women are expected to speak (the use of language, or a language behavior) and how women speak (how they are portrayed in the language).

Since women are more expressive in their use of language, the characteristics of women's language are more noticeable than those of men's language. They communicate uniquely. It is clear from the language features and functionalities that they employed. Women, having secondary roles in society, frequently exhibit doubt and employ lexical hedges such as verbal fillers to fill in silence. Women have a unique language that men do not. Women, for example, utilize empty

adjectives to express acceptance or respect for something. Women also employ more tag questions in their arguments than men, indicating a lack of confidence.

In this research, the researcher focuses on the types and functions of women's language features employed by Enola Holmes in the Enola Holmes 2 movie. Netflix released the movie on November 4, 2022. The movie goes within the mystery, crime, drama, thriller, action, and adventure genres. The plot revolves around Enola Holmes (Millie Bobby Brown), a young sister of the famed Victorian-era detective Sherlock Holmes (Henry Cavill), who follows in her famous brother's footsteps and establishes her agency – only to discover that life as a first female detective-for-hire isn't as simple as it seems. She is preparing to quit, resigned to the harsh realities of life when an impoverished matchstick girl gives Enola her first professional job: to find her missing sister. But this case turns out to be even more perplexing than imagined, as Enola is thrust into a risky new world, from London's menacing factories and vibrant music halls to the top levels of society and 221B Baker Street itself.

The researcher chose this movie because its main character is played by a woman. The main character portrays a stereotyped picture of women in the present time, demonstrating how women's actions in society may counterbalance men's dominance. Furthermore, women have an intense tendency to be more domineering. Thus, analyzing the linguistic context of women, particularly the topic of conversations, is intriguing since the utterances produced by the female main character in this movie depict true current social realities. As a result, the researcher

is curious about the features and functions of the women's language utilized by Enola Holmes in this movie.

1.2.Limitations of The Study

The researcher will exclusively look at the features of women's languages as employed by Enola Holmes in the Enola Holmes 2 movie. Lexical Hedges, Tag Questions, Rising Intonation on Declaratives, Empty Adjectives, Precise Color Terms, Intensifiers, Hypercorrect Grammar, Super-polite Form, Avoidance of Strong Swear Words, and Emphatic Stress are the ten women's features that distinguish women's language.

The researcher's goal is also to identify the functions, and discover the social factors and social dimension that impact the use of women's language by the main female characters in the Enola Holmes 2 movie. According to Pearson (1985), there are six functions of women's languages that explain what the women were saying. Women's language roles include expressing uncertainty, asking for responses, softening utterances, eliciting responses, initiating conversation, expressing feelings, and emphasizing the utterance.

1.3.Research Questions

The main focus of this study is to examine the language features and functions employed by female characters in a movie. As a result, the following research questions as follows:

1. What are the women's language features used by Enola Holmes in Enola Holmes 2 movie?
2. What are the function of women's language features used by Enola Holmes in Enola Holmes 2 movie which is used to convey social meaning?
3. What are the social factors and social dimension affected by the situation in Enola Holmes 2 movie?

1.4. Research Objectives

It may be deduced that the goal of this research is to achieve:

1. To identify what kinds of women's language features used by Enola Holmes in Enola Holmes 2 movie.
2. To describe the functions of women's language features used by Enola Holmes in Enola Holmes 2 movie which is used to convey social meaning.
3. To analyze the social factors and social dimension affected by the situation in Enola Holmes 2 movie.