

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language has a role as communication tool between individuals and also social phenomenon. Human beings also have a role as users rather than presenting the language themselves. Therefore, the study of linguistics must be people-oriented. People are different, the most significant difference is gender difference. They have their own gender characteristics, which lead to gender differences in language.

In linguistics, study between people and their language is under the frame of sociolinguistics. According to Holmes (2013), Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society in different social contexts. It discusses the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning. Providing information about the way language works, as well as about the social relationships in a community, and the way people convey and construct aspects of their social identity through their language.

Wardhaugh & Fuller (2015) said that one of major topic in sociolinguistics is the connection between linguistics features and the social roles and identities of the men and women who speak these languages. We are surrounded with idea about men and women communicate and use language in different ways. How speakers do gender, and the role of sexuality in language performance has also emerged as an important and interrelated topic.

Relationship between gender and language problems are resulted from the women's movement. In the 1970s as part of feminism's second wave, feminist linguistics began to do the research and most of feminist agreed that there are sex differences in language. Robin Lakoff, in her well-known book, *Language and Woman's Place* (1973; see also Lakoff 1975), Lakoff examines linguistic disparities in two facets of language: 'the ways women are expected to speak' (their use of language, or their language behavior), and 'the ways in which women are spoken of (how they are represented in the language, or the sexist and gendered nature of language) (Lakoff 1973:45, as cited in Speer, 2005).

In this study the writer focuses on the features and its functions of women's language used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie. The movie released on September 14, 2018. The genre of the movie is comedy, crime, drama, mystery and thriller. The story tells about Stephanie Smothers (Anna Kendrick) who investigates about the disappearance of Emily Nelson (Blake Lively), her best friend. Emily is a 'fearless female' who works as a Public Relations for a fashion company. Once, Emily asked Stephanie "a simple favor" to take care of her son, Nicky, because there is an important situation that she has to handle. However, for more than four days Emily has not come to pick Nicky. She reported Emily's disappearance to the police. Like not getting a satisfactory response, Stephanie also intends to investigate the cause of the loss of her best friend. One by one the surprises began to emerge as Stephanie explored Emily's life that is full of secrets.

The reason the writer chooses this movie because it is performed by two women as the main characters. The main characters show a stereotypical image of women in the modern era that women's movements in society can balance male domination. Moreover, women have a large tendency to be more dominant. Thus, it is interesting to analyze the language context of women, especially the topic of conversation because the utterances uttered by the characters in this movie illustrate real modern social conditions. Therefore, the author wants to know about the features and its functions of the women's language used by Stephanie and Emily in this movie.

In addition, this work is also never designated as an object of the research which encouraged the writer to choose this work.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, I identify the problem of this research is there are features of women's language used by Stephanie and Emily. They have functions that refer to implicit meanings. Characters of Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie have opposite background, work and characteristic, so it is appropriate to be analyzed whether there are differences in the use of women's language features and what features they use the most.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The writer will only analyze the features and functions of women's languages used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie. There are ten features of women's language; Lexical Hedges or Fillers, Tag Questions, Rising Intonation, Empty Adjectives, Precise Color Terms, Intensifiers, Hypercorrect Grammar, Superpolite Form, Avoidance of Strong Swear Words, and Emphatic Stress.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The main concern of this research is to analyze women's language features used by characters in a movie. Therefore, the research is proposed to answer the following questions:

1. What are women's language features used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie?
2. What are the functions of women's language features used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie which refer to implicit meanings?
3. What is the most feature of women's language used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie?

1.5 Objective of the Research

It can be inferred that the objective of this research is intended to achieve:

1. To identify what kinds of women's language features are used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie.
2. To describe the functions of women's language features used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie which refer to implicit meanings.
3. To find out the most feature of women's language used by Stephanie and Emily in *A Simple Favor* movie.

1.6 Method of the Research

In obtaining the data and information that support this research, the writer uses qualitative research approach. Qualitative research is especially important in the behavioral sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behavior. Through such research we can analyze the various factors which motivate

people to behave in a particular manner or which make people like or dislike a particular thing (Kothari, 2004: xv).

The objects of this research are Stephanie and Emily characters in *A Simple Favor* movie. *A Simple Favor* movie is adapted from a criminal drama novel by Darcey Bell (2017), directed by Paul Feig and the script was written by Jessica Sharzer. The writer focuses on the utterances that were said by Stephanie and Emily along the movie.

The data were in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences found in the utterances of Stephanie and Emily as main characters of the movie, which are taken from the movie and its script. The data analyzed based on theories of women's language proposed by Robin Lakoff (1973; see also Lakoff 1975), and women's language functions by Judy Pearson (1985).

Besides that, the writer also does the sort of library research, and the interpretive characters of research by collecting data from conversations and the movie script by using descriptive analysis.

1.7 Benefit of the Research

This research is expected to give consciousness to the readers that there is phenomenon of distinctive language features of women. Making readers understand more about women's language features and its functions which refer to implicit meanings through movies. This study may enrich the base of linguistics studies, especially in the field study of sociolinguistics. Additionally, the writer hopes this research can be useful for current and further research as for as academic and non-academic who are interested in women's language in various content.

1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research

Paper organization is used for this research. The paper organization is explained as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Chapter one explains about the background of the research, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the research,

method of the research, benefit of the research and systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER 2: FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORIES

Chapter two explains the theoretical approach that describes more about the analytical theory of features and functions of women's language. Those mentioned theories will support this research.

CHAPTER 3: WOMEN'S LANGUAGE FEATURES USED BY STEPHANIE AND EMILY IN A SIMPLE FAVOR MOVIE

Chapter three explains the analysis of the case problem which is elaborated with the theories.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

Chapter four concludes the analysis of this research and also gives suggestion.

