CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

This research discusses about men's speech features in Amy Elliott as woman character and situations that caused Amy to use masculine traits in her speech on *Gone Girl* movie. In sociolinguistics language and gender recognized as interdisciplinary academic field that investigates variety of speech associated with a particular gender or social norms for such gendered language use. The first step to study gender is to explore the difference between men and women (e.g., Jesperson 1949; Lakoof 1973; Zimmerman & West 1975; Holmes 2001). Aspects that appear in Amy's speech features based on men's speech features can be investigated such as; the use of pronunciation, vocabulary, syntax, and manner of her talking.

The study of gender is important to the study of language. When doing interaction, we need an understanding about what people said. Sometimes between man and woman have their own style to communicate or it can be said as their own speech features. Physical appearances and voice qualities are two things of women and men differences which can be seen clearly. As human being men have their own characteristics which women do not have. Man and woman have different features which make them different in several aspects. Academic research has shown that while women tend to have more expressive, tentative, cooperative, and polite communication characteristics, men used more agressive, assertive, direct and powerfull communication traits (Merchand 2012:16).

Wood (2011) has explained that men and women grown in different gender speech communities thus, develop different communication styles. Wood stated, "a speech community exists when people share understandings about goals of communication, strategies for enacting those goals, and ways of interpreting communication" (p. 125). According to Wood's research (2005) that gender roles are the source of differential communication between males and females.

Robin Tolmach Lakoff as the professor of linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley since 1972. She explained about language features on male and female. In her 1973's research about Language and Woman's Place explained about ten elements of speech features that women use. Those speech features were claimed as speech that often used by women than men. Lakoff admitted her finding based on her intuition and observation. They are considered as representation of women expression of uncertainty and lack of confidence. Those speech features were lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonations on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise colorterms), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'super polite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. The most widespread belief about men's speech as compared with women are coarser and more direct. (cited in Cameron, 1990:223-233).

Lakoff's ideas have been appraised, discussed, disputed, accepted and/or rejected. Followed by other linguists Holmes (1992) explained about the characteristic of men's languages such as, ungrammatical form, multiple negations, pronounced –in form, deleted –ed at the end of form in pronunciation, and impolite forms are proving it. An early observer of style in language, Jesperson (1922/1949), also observed

women's speech to be generally more conservative than men's in the following ways: Men are readier to coin and use new terms, pun, utter slang expressions, and employ profanity and obscenity. Women on the other hand are shy of mentioning certain parts of the human body and certain natural functions by the direct and often rude denominations which men and especially young men prefer when among themselves.

Many other researchers have identified about language and gender, because it looked so interesting when we talked about men and woman language, there are many differences of it that can be analyzed. Most of them were used woman's speech features as the subject of their research like; Aulia (2014), Rosita (2008), Mu'minin (2010), Ratih (2013). Meanwhile, comparison language between gender as interesting topic to analyze, proven by many researchers such as; Subon (2013) and Mei (2006).

The present research analyzed in different way, she tried to analyze something uncommon from the movie *Gone Girl* which is adapted from bestseller novel by Gillian Flynn, first published on May 24th 2012. That story reminded about a book said that the biblical myth of the creation of woman from Adam's rib largely contributed to female language being considered as less perfect (secondary), which was reflected among other things in the belief that all feminine gender forms were derived from masculine forms (Baron, 1986, p. 78) it is also possibe that women linguistic features are not always different from men but it could be the same.

The present research intended to analyze from the other side which makes the men's speech features as the theory to identify language used by main character Amy Elliott as the woman character in *Gone Girl* (2014) movie. The researcher was interested to analyze it since the main character on the movie has the unique

characteristics which most of her speech features turned to language feature that is used by man. On that ground, this research described deeply about the characteristics of Amy Elliott as woman character and focus on speech features from masculine form. In order that the researcher will portray a few the masculine traits used by woman character, 'Amy Elliottt' of *Gone Girl* movie.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of study, a statement of the problem in this study are as follows:

- 1.2.1 What are men's speech features used by Amy Elliott on Gone Girl movie?
- 1.2.2 How are the situations in the use of men's speech features by Amy Elliott?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problem above, the research object of this study are:

- 1.3.1 To identify what kind of men's speech features used by Amy Elliott on Gone Girl movie.
- 1.3.2 To find the situation that caused Amy Elliott to use such of men's speech features on her language.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher tries to give understanding that woman characteristics are not fulfilled by feminine utterly only, even the masculine traits also appear in woman. So the result of this study is expected to help people know what linguistic features that women used could possibly be similar to men features usage. It is also expected to enlarge knowledge about language features and participate in developing sociolinguistic study. Hopefully, this study becomes a new reference for all students especially for English department students. The researcher really hopes this study will give everybody a lot of benefits and give the readers a better understanding about men's speech features.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This case study is limited to identify and classify Amy Elliott's speech features as the woman character in the movie of *Gone Girl* (2014). It is because her unique speech features have some similarities to men's speech features. Analyzing the movie, the writer will use Robin Lakoff's theory as basic theory supported by others theories to analyze the speech features.

To avoid broadening the discussion, the researcher limits this research and focuses on dominant features used by Amy Elliottt that usually men have, such as the style of men's speech that Amy do.

1.6 Definition of the key terms

In order to make some key term clearly to avoid missunderstanding of the readers. It is important to interpret and to define the meaning of keys theory dealing with this reaserch :

1. Language and gender :

An interdisciplinary field of research that studies varieties of speech in terms of gender, gender relations, gendered practice and sexuality.

2. Men's speech features:

The characteristic of men's speech that is used by men. Like the used of vernacular language as the one of men's speech features.

3. Amy Elliott: is the woman character of *Gone Girl* movie who has uniqueness. The way she speaks like characteristic of men's speech.

