CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Gender Studies

When performing a linguistic study from a gender perspective, different aspects are included. This study will mainly concentrate upon comparing specific linguistic traits in the language of the man and the woman, traits that within linguistic theory and research are labelled as typically male and female, or masculine and feminine. There are certain aspects, linguistic features and specific insertions that are identified as being characteristic of women's speech and men's speech respectively. The use of tag questions added to the end of a statement, hedges such as 'sort of' and 'kind of' that mitigate the statement, and indirect speech acts, are all features that have been identified as feminine, whereas 'strong' language and assertive forms are identified as masculine.

Coates (1986) has identified certain aspects that separate women's and men's conversational strategies: "...minimal responses, hedges, tag questions, questions, commands and directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments." It would be appropriate for the purposes of this study not only to examine the number of, or variations in speech, typically masculine or feminine speech utterances, but also to possibly comment on how these may be used.

Linguist Robin Lakoff has performed research on the language of men and women, and has identified features that are more frequent in women's language. In Language, Society and Power, Pilcher and Preece also discuss linguistic features that are seen to be typically feminine. Hedges, minimal responses, turn-taking in

conversation, and verbosity are features that are discussed, with the comment that they may serve a wider function than the mitigation of messages that is traditionally discussed:

"There is a widespread belief that women use more hedges [...] and epistemic modal forms [...] All these forms are said to function as mitigation, either by reducing the force of an utterance or by expressing the speaker's attitude (lack of certainty) towards their utterance. [...] Several empirical studies have found a gender difference with respect to hedges [...] but the findings of most empirical studies are rather more complex, pointing to the multifunctionality of these forms."

(Annabelle Mooney et al; Pia Pilcher and Sian Preece 107).

2.2 Theories on Sociolinguistic and Gender Differences In Language

Gender in sociolinguistics can cause different communicative competence, gender has brought differences in language features. It happens in both males and females. Research shows if men had power over language to define meaning and they showed their power in the language they used during interactions (Weatherall, Ann, 2002:5). It means gender has taken big role to show power. In the same way, gender has connection with language. Then language is imbued with power (Weatherall, Ann, 2002:6).

Power in language usage is very important part of gender differences in speech features. For example, men often do interruption than women. Commonly interruption will appear in interaction not only in same gender but also in crossgender interaction. In fact, almost all the interruption comes from males (Holmes, Janet, 2001:294). So they use interruption as the way to show their power over women in conversation. Another way power may be expressed in language by the way people address each other. It will be more respectful to using real name rather than nick name.

In fact, men on the whole, are more likely to challenge norms of language and communication because they are generally in more powerful positions than women (Weatherall, Ann, 2002:4).

Men and women differ psychologically from the way in which they communicate to the way they attempt to influence other. Academic research has shown that while women tend to have more expressive, tentative, cooperative, and polite communication characteristics, men use more agressive, assertive, direct and powerfull communication traits (Mason, 1994, Wood, 1996, Malts & Borker, 1982, Basow & Rubenfield, 2003). The dominance approach to sex differences in speech is concerned with the imbalance of power between the sexes. Powerless speech features used by women help contribute to maintaining a subordinate position in society; while conversely, men's dominance is preserved through their linguistic behavior. Early research that regards imbalance of power as a main factor toward gender speech differences can be attributed to Robin Lakoff, and her influential work 'Language and Woman's Place' (1973). Lakoff provides a list of ten linguistic features which characterize women's speech, as follows:

- 1. Lexical hedges or fillers, e.g. you know, sort of, well, you see.
- 2. Tag questions, e.g. she's very nice, isn't she?
- 3. Rising intonation on declaratives, e.g. it's really good?
- 4. 'Empty' adjectives, e.g. divine, charming, cute.
- 5. Precise color terms, e.g. magenta, aquamarine.
- 6. Intensifiers such as just and so, e.g. I like him so much.
- 7. 'Hypercorrect' grammar, e.g. consistent use of standard verb forms.
- 8. 'Superpolite' forms, e.g. indirect requests, euphemisms.
- 9. Avoidance of strong swear words, e.g. fudge, my goodness.
- 10. Emphatic stress, e.g. it was a BRILLIANT performance. (cited in Holmes 2001:286)

Lakoff considers the above features as evidences showing that women tend to be more personal and emotional, but less confident than men when speaking. Also, she believed that women's conformation to grammar rules and politeness standards reveals their subordinate status in the society. Theorists have suggested that these gender differences in communication styles put women at a disadvantage when interacting with others because they speak more tentatively than men, who are known to speak more assertively, thus leaving the impression that men are more confident and capable as leaders (Lakoff, 1973).

2.3 Linguistic Features on Male

It was explained above that gender has brought differences in linguistic features on males and females. According to Hudson (In Nur: 20015:18) calls 'linguistic item', such entities of sound, words, grammatical structure and so on. She concluded that linguistic feature is a linguistic item which is used to analyze sentence or utterance by its lexical, grammatical, phonological, syntactical or morphological features. Those some linguistics features also used by Amy Elliot on Gone Girl movie.

Here in this part, the researcher wants to give specific explanation about what linguistics features on males are. The researcher knows not only sorts of speech features which belongs to woman but also man. By observing kinds of linguistic features. The researcher tries to categories into four, mentioned in the following aspects:

2.3.1 Pronunciation usage

Phonological differences between the speech of men and women have been noted in a variety of languages. Shuy (1969) made a study in this field, and he found

that 62.2% of men pronounced "-ing" in a wrong way, but only 28.9% of women didn't pronounce right. Men often use fewer-in pronunciations than women do. For example, when a man wants to say "leaving", he tends to mention "leavin". There is no –ing in the end of word. Another example, in the words "killing" and "standing", men prefer pronunciation "killin" and "standin". Those words are called vernacular form as Holmes said (2001:153) "women tend to use more of the standard forms than men do, while men use more of the vernacular forms fewer -in' [in] than women do like words *swimming* and *typing*".

Vernacular forms as characteristic of men in using language, like Holmes said in her book. Why men prefer to use of vernacular forms because they carry macho connotations of masculinity and toughness. So that is why women might not want to use such forms. Vernacular itself refers to a language which has not been standardized and which does not have official status. (Holmes: 2001:74)

2.3.2 Vocabulary usage

We can notice that men and women tend to choose different words to show their feelings. For example, when a woman is frightened, she usually shouts out, "I am frightened to death"! If you hear a man says this, you will think he is a coward and womanish. So that is why sometimes man have their own vocabulary when expressing something like woman do. The vocabulary usage can be shown in the following aspects:

2.3.2.1 Adjectives

In our everyday life, we can notice that women like to use many adjectives, such as adorable, charming, lovely, fantastic, heavenly, but men seldom use them. When a

woman leaves a restaurant, she will say "It's a gorgeous meal". If a man wants to express the same idea, he may only say, "It's a good meal." Using more adjectives to describe things and their feelings can show that women are more sensitive to the environment and more likely to express their emotions with words, which makes women's language more interesting than men prefer to use simple adjective.

2.3.2.2 Adverbs

An adverb is the part of speech (or word class) that's primarily used to modify a verb, adjective, or other adverb. Adverbs can also modify prepositional phrases, subordinate clauses, and complete sentences. Nordquist (2016) stated that an adverb that modifies an adjective ("quite sad") or another adverb ("very carelessly") appears immediately in front of the word it modifies. An adverb that modifies a verb is generally more flexible: it may appear before or after the verb it modifies ("softly sang" or "sang softly"), or it may appear at the beginning of the sentence ("Softly she sang to the baby"). The position of the adverb may have an effect on the meaning of the sentence.

Those relate to topic of the research, the used of adverbs in gender language are different. The differences in the use of adverbs between men and women are; women tend to use such adverbs like awfully, pretty, terribly, vastly, quiet, so; men like to use very, utterly, really. In 1992, Jespersen found that women use more so than men do, such as, "It was <u>so</u> interesting" is often uttered by a woman.

2.3.2.3 Swear words

Reik in 1954 affirmed that "we all know that there is a 'man talk' and a 'woman talk'" (p. 14). He observed that "men . . . will not hesitate to say 'Hell' or 'Damned.' .

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.. Women will rarely say 'It stinks' preferring to state that it has a bad smell". (cited in

Haas 1979:617)

More recently, Lakoff (1973) observed that men use stronger expletives such as

shit and damn, whereas women use weaker or softer profanity such as oh dear,

goodness, or judge. Women always pay more attention to the grace of themselves and

their use of language. We rarely hear that women utter such words like "damn, fuck

you, hell," instead they use "oh, dear, my god" to express their feelings. Let us examine

the following examples:

Woman: Dear me! Do you always get up so late? It's one o'clock!

Man: Shit! The train is late again!

We can often here similar ways of expressing shock in everyday life. Men tend

to use more swear words than women. Women pay more attention to their manners and

politeness of using language.

2.3.2.4 Pronouns

Women prefer to use first person plural pronouns when they suggest something,

even when she suggests the other person, while men tend to use first person singular

pronoun, and when he is suggesting the other person, he will directly use the second

person pronoun.

Example: Women: We need to be in a hurry.

Men: You need to be quick.

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2.3.3 Syntactical usage

Though there are no specific rules that govern different gender to use different

grammar, we can observe these differences in almost every language.

2.3.3.1 Declarative Sentence

A declarative sentence (also known as a statement) makes a statement and ends

with a period. It's named appropriately because it declares or states something. As the

following example. These guys don't ask questions, make commands, or make

statements with emotion. They can be very simple or quite complex.

In this research man and woman also have their own declarative sentence. When

they want to get help from others, men and women express in different ways as the

following:

Women: I was wondering if you can help me.

Men: please give me a hand.

From the above example, we can see men tend to ask something directly, while women

tend to be politer. It related to the academic research that stated men are more aggressive

assertive, direct and powerful in communication traits. Besides, Coates (1998) stated

that men tend to speak directly because language seems like power for man so they can

show their masculinity through the language.

2.3.3.2 Imperative Sentence

Lakoff (1973) pointed out that compared with men, women are more likely to

use an interrogative sentence to express their idea, and they like to use tag questions,

because tag questions can make the tone less tense. Means that men are more assertive

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in their speech. Just as Lakoff (1973) said that women might answer a question with

rising tone, while men like to use falling tone to make a firm statement. According to

Lakoff (1973), women tent to do this because they are less sure about themselves and

their opinions than men. The different use of language also shows that women are more

likely to be short of confidence. From another aspect, we can say that women are politer

and considerate than men. Xia (2013) observed a group of boys and girls on one street

in Philadelphia, and the study found that the imperative sentences that the boys and

girls use were different. The boys used a lot of imperative sentences but the girls used

more "let's patterns".

Example: Boy: Give me an apple!

Girl: Would you give me an apple?

Boy: It's time to go.

Girl: Let's go.

2.3.3.3 Nonstandard Grammar

The use of nonstandard grammar as the opposite of standard grammar that

becomes the characteristic of women's speech features. Men say no regard to use

correctness of syntax. He would make his utterance by using nonstandard grammar.

While women pay more attention to use precise grammar. See the following example

Woman: We are going to go to the park today.

Men: We are gonna to the park today.

Nonstandard grammar also called as vernacular language which become some

of characteristic of men's speech. According to Holmes (2001:74) there are three

components of the meaning of term vernacular, the most basic refers to the fact that a

vernacular is an uncodified or unstandardized variety. So it also relates to the research in analyzing kind of men's speech in the woman character on this movie.

2.3.5 Interruption

The following is based on the research of Zimmerman and West on the interruptions men and women made in a conversation. West and Zimmerman (1983) provide a widely accepted definition of interruption as 'a device for exercising power and control in conversation' and 'violations of speakers' turn at talk.' (cited in Tannen 1994: 56).

Other researchers provide more detailed definitions based on location and function, such as Schegloff (1972), Bennet (1981), and Murray (1985). Rather than mistaking the first speaker's intention to relinquish a turn, for example, or enthusiastically overlapping in agreement with the first speaker, an interruption is an intended infringement on a person's right to speak. In mixed-sex pairs, West and Zimmerman found that interruptions were much more likely to come from men. In one study, 96 percent of interruptions were made by the man; in another, 75 percent. (Tannen, p.55-56).

Generally speaking, in a conversation involving both sexes, women often play the role of patient listeners. They do not interrupt others often, but encourage others to talk. However, men are eager to be heard, which pushes them to catch as many opportunities as possible. Men do not like to be silent. This makes them appear to be more active than women. In other words, in a conversation involving both sexes, women tend to be silent.

2.4 Previous Study

Ratih (2013) has investigated about *Woman and Man's Speech Syle Used* by the Main Characters in LOL (Laughing Out Loud) Movie. She used Adelaide Haas theory that found women and men language are mostly different. It happened because women like to maintain the relationship between each other while men like to say what they want to say. A study more focused on woman linguistic features in the movie is also done by Aulya (2014) Woman Linguistic Feature Ferformed By Margaret Thatcher In the Fim Iron Lady. She examined the woman speech style in the film Iron Lady. The result of her study conclude that there were 114 utterances spoken by woman character which can be classified into 8 (eight) woman's linguistic features. but in different research method and object of the each study. Dian Rosita (2008) analyzed the dialogue of Sex and the City drama TV series with the title An Analysis of Sexand the City TV Series's Dialogue Based on Ten Types of Women's Linguistic Features. It found what types and which types of women's linguistic features occur most frequently. Those previous studies have some result about the linguistic features that already shown in every object of the research.

Subon (2013), provided some insight and understanding about the differences in men and women's linguistics features in the Malaysian context which is made up of multi-racial society and rich in its varied cultures, customs, traditions, beliefs and religions. Many other studies that compare men and women speech features have been conducted by some researchers. Mei (2006) *The Gender Differences in Linguistic Features of Dyadic Synchronous Computer-mediated Communication* identified that 5 linguist features were used in the data analysis which include the choice of subject of

the directive sentences, the use of modal clusters in directives, the use of swears, the use of Cantonese final particles to show emotions and the use of minimal responses. It is found that 4 of the linguistic features show significant gender difference in the CMC data, while there is insufficient data to support or reject the remaining one. It is argued that the linguistic features of male and female users in the dyadic synchronous CMC is similar to that in face-to-face conversations, while some of the features may be affected by the communication mode.

2.5 Gone Girl Movie



Gone Girl movie is a 2014 American psychological thriller film directed by David Fincher. This movie talks about a famous writer Amy Elliott (Rosamund Pike) lives in complicated life with her husband Nick. Nick (Ben Affleck) has another love,

he has affair with his student, a beautiful young student, Andy. But Amy knew it all. By that condition therefore, makes the main character "Amy" in the movie changed. There is a mega-huge problem with Amy though, one that ends up seriously corrupting her marriage. According to Amy, Nick "didn't love me, me. Nick loved a girl who doesn't exist" (30.22). When she fell for Nick, Amy was masquerading as the girl she thought he wanted to be with, a figment of men's imaginations known as Cool Girl.

