

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The vital concepts for conducting research of Katniss Everdeen's Linguistic Features and Personal Identity Construction in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* are provided in this chapter. Those are background of the study, research problems, research objectives, significance of the study, scope, limitations and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

The term 'gender' becomes really essential since there was feminism movement in 1960. Chafe as cited in Paynter (2011: 1) stated that feminism movement started in 1960 gains women to ask their existence. It was later reinforced by the existence of the second wave of feminism in 1970. As the proof of the feminism importance, it is even legalized as one of the analytic approaches in Linguistic field (Litosseliti, 2010; Doucet and Mauthner, 2005). Ever since a specific research on male and female differences in way of speaking is presented (Haas, 1979), gender differences are afterward enlarged. In fact, gender differences become the enormous curiosity for numerous academicians, especially in academic scope (Geo-Jaja et al, 2009; Voyer and Voyer, 2014).

Moreover, various current studies are even developed on not only differences but also stereotypes of gender for diverse sources; for example, students (Cuddy et al, 2010; Favara, 2012), young children (Aina and Cameron, 2011), newspaper (Tartaglia and Rollero, 2015), films and television programs (Smith and Cook, 2008), sport (Kian, 2009; Wilde, 2007), picture (Paynter, 2011),

position in workplace (Heilman and Eagly, 2008). Several studies are also specifically done in leadership topics since it is the most popular issue in gender stereotype (Paustian-Underdahl et al, 2014; Crawford, 2000; Koenig et al, 2011; Duehr and Bono, 2006). Some researchers also directly come to the male cases: male identity (Wai-Ching et al, 2012), men and boys' roles (Marinova, 2003).

Furthermore, related to Linguistics, studies of gender differences in language use are produced in: conversation (Holmquist, 2008; Subon, 2013), movie (Voegeli, 2005), written text (Newman et al, 2008). In fact, lots of those studies are conducted generally. The researches are mainly yielded in academic settings. Those researchers also tend to study in ethnography researches. Therefore, the researcher establishes the fresh subject, the major character of a novel, under the qualitative content analysis design which has never been analyzed in the term of gender stereotypes. In addition, descriptive research design is also applied in order to be the guidance to analyze the data. It is a crucial need in Linguistic field to be analyzed further. This is significantly required since there are not any researchers interested in novel, especially in case of gender stereotypes.

The researcher supports the data of gender stereotype characteristics utilized by Katniss Everdeen in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* by examining her linguistic features and personal identity construction. This novel is adopted because the author, Suzanne Collins, implicitly intends to expose Katniss Everdeen much more than others. Katniss as the major character is illustrated as the one who strongly desires to construct her powerful identity although she is a

young woman. On the contrary, she speaks in the fewer frequencies than others. Hence, Katniss' linguistic features are truly interesting to be analyzed. Moreover, her personal identities are also fascinating to be accurately elaborated. These matters really attract the researcher's intention to conduct this thesis.

Numbers of researchers are commonly interested in investigating linguistic features in assorted settings: academic (Schleppegrell, 2001; Kuo et al, 2010; Russell, 2014; Sallinen and Braidwood, 2014), politic (Mothe and Tanguy, 2005). An examination of Linguistic features of female language was ever generally done (Pan, 2011). Meanwhile, this present study specifically inspects women's linguistic features which are firstly pioneered by Lakoff. Lakoff's theory firstly introduced in 1975 consists of ten items: (1) Lexical Hedges or fillers; (2) Tag Questions; (3) Raising intonation on declaratives; (4) 'Empty' adjectives; (5) Precise color terms; (6) Intensifiers; (7) 'Hypercorrect' grammar; (8) 'Superpolite' forms; (9) Avoidance of strong swear words; (10) Emphatic Stress.

Several studies of women's linguistic features have been done in the past until nowadays. Number (2) was studied by Cameron et al (1988) as well. In case of comparing male's and female's speech, Rasekh and Saeb (2015) investigated number (6) whereas White (2003) examined those ten points but it is in case of casual conversation. Furthermore, Nemati and Bayer (2007) conducted research of ten features in English and Persian movie scripts. They find that intensifiers, hedges and tag questions are commonly used. Again, Jakobsson's (2010) results strengthen that hedges and tag questions are repeatedly adopted in conversation of six female teacher candidates who study in the same university. Also, Pebrianti

(2013) reinforced by discovering that intensifiers are the most frequently used by Indonesian women bloggers.

To make an unbiased research, the researcher analyzes the data by comparing women's linguistic features and men's linguistic features. Unlike women's linguistic features which are explicitly stated by a linguist, Robin Lakoff, men do not have certain linguistic features. Few researches tend to compare women's language and men's language. Nevertheless, those studies still use ten features of women language as the standard to compare languages produced by female and male. One of them was done by Sandriani (2012). Sandriani (2012) compared male and female students. Related to women's linguistic features, male tends to produce less fillers and to disregard hypercorrect grammar. Moreover, men also tend to be more confident than women, to do interruptions, to challenge norms of language communication.

Other researches whose analysis is out of women's linguistic features are done in several cases: conversation (Wright, 2002) and magazines (Arvidsson, 2009). According to Wright, men are characterized as speaking sufficiently, interrupting more than women, being failed in bids. Meanwhile, Arvidsson (2009) inferred that male has more predicative function in their speech than female. Unlike those previous studies, the researcher does not repeatedly compare women's and men's utterances. This present study only takes woman's utterances. Hence, the researcher summarizes some male's linguistic features in order to fit to the data. The majority of studies tend to answer overused question, such as "What is the women's linguistic feature most frequently used?" or "What is the men's

linguistic feature most frequently used?” In sum, the comparison of women’s and men’s linguistic features for someone’s utterances in novel is an innovative analysis to be investigated. As a result, this research is a novelty which is necessitated to be achieved.

Identity construction also becomes significant in this study which bolsters the analysis. Great quantities of researches on identity construction were ever executed by several academicians in different areas: Facebook (Zhao, et al, 2008; Dobrowsky, 2012), e-mail (Ho, 2010), communities (Bucholtz and Hall, 2005; Batory, 2010; Karp and Helgø, 2009; Mango, 2010). A developed identity is studied under the name – national identity (Inaç and Ünal, 2013). Moreover, a recent study by Fatmawati (2015) examined different subject - minor character in the novel. Fatmawati (2015) actually adopts Bucholtz and Hall’s (2005) study. According to Bucholtz and Hall (2005), the concepts of identity construction are segregated into five principles: (1) Emergence, (2) Positionality, (3) Indexicality, (4) Relationality and (5) Partialness. Moalla (2013) ever examined number (4) whereas Fatmawati (2015) analyzed number (3). Indexicality principle can be identified of labels, stances, implicatures, styles, entire languages and others. Fatmawati (2015) investigated personal identity construction – one of the three identity classifications offered by Clarke (2008). She only focuses her analysis on labels and stances. This present study concentrates the analysis of personal identity construction by using indexicality principle proposed by Bucholtz and Hall (2005). Following Fatmawati (2015), this present investigation is done by examining the label and language use in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*.

Furthermore, this research focuses the language use on linguistic features. Overall, the researcher creates an innovative study which is tremendously beneficial in Linguistic field. To conclude, since those studies above frequently talk about the single idea of identity construction, this present study is a good series of research which connects identity construction with others – linguistic features and gender stereotypes.

A science fiction novel entitled *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins is the data source which is investigated in this study. Few scholars pay attention in this American novel. In term of language, Septiani (2013) compared the original novel in English with the translation version in Indonesian. In case of translation, Septiani (2013) investigated the linguistic forms of equivalence strategy among addition, deletion, and shift strategy. Moreover, the equivalency and non-equivalency are also considered. On the other hand, several studies are done in term of Literature. The most popular issue analyzed is political dystopian country (Sar and Murni, 2013). According to Sar and Murni (2013), political dystopian country is influenced by five main factors: (1) Totalitarian Government; (2) Political Repression; (3) Dehumanization; (4) Restrictions of Freedom; (5) Oppression which led to Rebellion. No linguistic aspect is analyzed by Sar and Murni (2013). Therefore, to enrich the existing studies on Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*, this present study analyzes the same novel with different focuses, those are, linguistic features and personal identity construction. This becomes the new topics in examining Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*.

All in all, this present research focuses on not only Katniss' deeds but also Katniss' linguistic features. Katniss' deeds are obtained by examining her personal identity construction which is focused on label both of by self and by others whereas her language use is concerned on linguistic features. In fact, the findings of Katniss' personal identity construction and linguistic features are referred to her gender identity based on gender stereotypes. It is therefore a novel concept in every aspect – linguistic features, personal identity construction, gender stereotype and *The Hunger Games* itself. Accordingly, this fresh research is vitally required to be yielded. It is an imperative study to be created.

1.2 Research Problems

This study provides several questions below which guide the researcher and become the main focus of the research.

1. Does Katniss Everdeen more frequently follow women's linguistic features? Why/why not?
2. What are Katniss Everdeen's personal identities through label?
3. Does Katniss Everdeen more frequently follow women's stereotype characteristics? Why/why not?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the problems of the previous subheading, this study is purposed:

1. To expose the fact that whether Katniss Everdeen more frequently follows women's linguistic features or not.
2. To elaborate Katniss Everdeen's personal identities through label.

3. To expose the fact that whether Katniss Everdeen more frequently follows women's stereotype characteristics or not.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be totally beneficial for either the writer or the reader. In another matter, this study is also hoped to give advantages in both practical and theoretical terms. The writer wishes this study be useful in theoretical framework of sociolinguistics field, especially for Linguistic Features and Personal Identity Construction materials, in order to other researchers can develop this case better later. In addition, this research can be also required to enlarge readers' knowledge about humans' stereotype characteristics which are grouped based on their gender.

Moreover, this present study can be practically valuable for the readers of Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. They can understand Katniss' characteristics related to gender stereotypes as well. It will be then helpful for them to conclude who Katniss Everdeen is exactly. Therefore, the readers can easily catch what Suzanne Collins intends in her novel.

Generally, this analysis is also practically worthwhile for the thesis reader. They can adopt the analyses of Linguistic Features, Personal Identity Construction and Gender Stereotypes in their real life since those three major analyses can be simply applied in the daily life. It can be deduced that this present study is truly worthy for the researcher herself and the thesis readers. It helps in case of not only practical but also theoretical framework.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

Because this study is conducted in two major analyses, linguistic features and personal identity construction, the researcher also creates two different focuses. Firstly, linguistic features are analyzed by taking the entire utterances of Katniss. Katniss' utterances without any exceptional interlocutor and the certain narration of the author are collected as the data. They are investigated by using Lakoff's theory – features of women's language. They are also analyzed by using men's linguistic features whose elements are summarized from the existing previous studies. Secondly, for personal identity construction, the researcher adopts indexicality principle of personal identity construction which was ever stated in the study of Bucholtz and Hall (2005). The analysis precisely concentrates on label. Label is actually one of the linguistic devices offered in indexicality principle. It is bounded on Katniss Everdeen's utterances and the other characters' utterances talking about Katniss without any exceptional interlocutor too. In addition, the description of the author in the novel related to Katniss is also taken as the data. Label for identity construction is bounded on gender identity only – men's and women's stereotype characteristics. The boundaries are not aimed at limiting this present study. However, it is not a big matter because it makes the researcher concentrate further on analysis.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Katniss Everdeen is the major character in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. She is a sixteen years-old girl who becomes the volunteer of her only sister, Prim, in The Hunger Games annual event. She also becomes the winner

with her lover, Peeta Mallark, in this event. www.kkoworld.com/kitablar/suzanna-kollinz-acliq-oyunlari-1-hisse-eng.pdf

Linguistic Features are some main characteristics of language used in certain context. In this case, linguistic features refer to women's language firstly suggested by Lakoff which consist of ten features. (Holmes, 1992: 314)

Personal Identity Construction is the way an individual establishes his/her identity which makes him/her be different among society. (Goffman in Clarke, 2008: 513)

Gender Stereotypes are the series of ideas focusing on traits which are considered to distinguish men and women. (Tartaglia and Rollero, 2015: 3)

Suzanne Collins is the author of *The Hunger Games*. She is not only a novelist but also a writer of children's television program and newspaper. She is also regarded as New York Times Bestselling Author. Several of her works are Year of The Jungle, Gregor The Overlander, Gregor and The Prophecy of Bane. <http://www.suzannecollinsbooks.com/>

The Hunger Games is the first sequel of trilogy - *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay*. This novel is regarded as International bestseller novel. It tells about a dystopian country, Panem, which has twelve districts under the rule of the most prosperous city – Capitol. Panem has an annual event, namely The Hunger Games, which must be followed by two teenagers, a girl and a boy, of each district. The twenty-four participants of the event must murder each other and an individual will be the winner. www.kkoworld.com/kitablar/suzanna-kollinz-acliq-oyunlari-1-hisse-eng.pdf