

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope limitation, and definition of key term.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a feature in daily life. As its function, language is the instrument to communicate or to interact to the people. Besides language as its medium, it is used to exchange ideas and interaction between the human beings. People exchange the ideas of information with other using language. So language is the best instrument for communicating. It is supported by Wardaugh (2006:1) a language is what the members of particular society speak Language is an important part in every communication. People can communicate well if they can deliver their message from their utterance. Language allows people to say things to others and expresses their communicative needs. Language and society may influence each other because as a human being, people cannot be separated with society and environment and they still need another people. Sometimes it is used merely to keep communication channels open so that if any need arises to say something of importance a suitable channel is available.

Every people have different ways of speaking, even he or she talk with the same topic but it does not mean that they have the same style in speak. Holmes (1992:10) says,

People may use different pronunciations, vocabulary, grammar or style of language for different purposes. They may use different dialects of language in different contexts. In addition some communities they will select different language according to the situation in which they are speaking.

Thus, Holmes (1992:9) says variety is therefore a broad term which includes different accents, different linguistic style, different dialect and even different language which contrast each other for social reason. Each utterance depends on the social and formality of the context. Those kinds of different style or language variation are concerned to social factors that appear in someone's speech. On other hand, situation plays an important role in determining one's style in speech while they are communicating.

As people know and realize, every language in every region and country are different. People have their own style in expressing their thought and mind through different language style. A quote from Mistrík (in Misikova, 2003:16) “Language style is a way of speech or a kind of utterance which is formed by means of conscious and intentional selection, systematic patterning and implementation of linguistic and extra-linguistic means with respect to the topic, situation, function, author's intention and content of utterance”. It means that those linguistic features have influenced why people do not always speak in the same way even though they speak the same language. Style can be used to control the social interaction.

The choice of style depends on some aspects, which may be replaced with term of social factors. According to Joos (1976:156), speech style means the form of language that the speaker uses and it is characterized by a scale of formality.

Joos divides these speech styles into five forms. They are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style and intimate style.

This study focuses on the speech styles which are used by the main character in Freedom Writer Movie. This movie is very interesting to be analyzed because there are some different races and cultural backgrounds which have different style in their speech. It also can give us some information about the social condition at that time which appears in their way to communicate each other.

Freedom Writer is a film based on true story. This movie tells about the struggle of a teacher in the New Port Beach, United States in reawakened her student to learn. In this story, Erin an idealistic women, come to Woodrow Wilson High School as an English teacher for a special class of child victims of racial gang fights. Erin has a good mission; she wants to provide better education for troubled kids. Even there are some teachers who are more experienced were refusing to teach them. By the diversity of their culture background, firstly they cannot understand each other because there is a gap among them. But on the first day she comes, she realized that the gang war going on in the city also carried over the classroom. In the classroom they sit in groups according to their respective races. No one wants to sit in different racial groups. Sometimes misunderstanding that occurred in the classroom can lead to fights between the races.

Erin tries to ask to her students to write a short of diary. In the diary, they can write whatever they want, feel, and experience. This method was successfull.

Everyday her students collect the diaries to Erin then they discuss it on the next day. From those diaries, Erin knew that she had to make the students aware that they are experiencing gang wars are not everything in the world. Through unique way of teaching, she is trying to make the students aware that their education will be able to achieve a better life.

Richard La Gravenese directed the film that stars Hillary Swank as Erin Gruwell, Scott Glenn, Imelda Staunton and Patrick Dempsey. This movie won Humanities Prize Feature Film Category and Image Award and 2008 Nominated Image Award Outstanding Writing in a Motion Picture (Theatrical and Television). So, this movie is appropriate to be analyzed by using the speech styles theory and determine what social factor that affects the characters utterances and also know about the effect of those speech styles which appears to the characters in this movie.

This study is very important for us because it can give us some additional information about linguistic especially in speech style used by the characters in this movie.

For example:

Erin	: Excuse me, may I please get some help in here
Margaret	: Erin?
	Erin, this is Brian Gelford. He teaches Junior English and the distinguished Honors Classes.
Brian	: Hy Erin Gruwell. Nice to meet you.
Erin	: Hi Nice to meet you.

The use of polite form *Excuse me, may I please get some help in here?* The example above can be classified as the characteristic of formal style. In

this conversation also shows that among the speaker has less intimacy. The use of excuse me, may I please get some help in here? Is a standard form in asking something. This situation requires formal way of speaking because this conversation took place in the school office.

Next, this study focuses on the speech style which is used by the characters in this movie. As we know there are some factors which influenced the participants on the use of speech style. This study is expected to finds out the phenomena and used some related theory such as Martin Joos Theory of speech style and the reason of the use of those styles that shown in *Freedom Writer* Movie.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What types of speech style used by the main character in Freedom Writer?
2. What the factors that influence main character in Freedom Writer speak in different style?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

2. To find out the speech style which is used by the main character in the Freedom Writer
3. To find out the factors that influence main character in Freedom Writer speak in different style

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study is written to give some information about linguistic especially about speech styles and another study which has correlation with the study of speech style. This study also expected to increase the knowledge and give some references for the reader especially of English Department Students.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This is sociolinguistics study focusing on speech style that is used differentiated according to degrees of formality: frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. The writer limits the subject of the study only on speech styles used by the main character in Freedom Writer.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

1. Speech style is the form of language that speaker uses which are usually measured along a formal- informal scale, which involves five speech style such as frozen, formal, consultative, casual and intimate (Joos, 1976: 153).
2. Language style is characteristic mode of expression of an individual speaker or refers to language variation, which reflects change in situational factors, such as addressee setting task or topic (Holmes, 1992:76)
3. Freedom Writer is a film based on the true story about the struggle of a teacher in the New Port Beach United Stated.

4. Main Character is the most important people in film, TV programme, or a stage show ([wiki.answer.com/what is main character](http://wiki.answer.com/what-is-main-character))