CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the study

Human life is not far from communication, the communication is used in form language that called as language. A language is a coding system and a means by which information that may be transmitted or shared between two or more communicators for purposes of command, instruction or play. "In the other explanation, said that a language is an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use of by a group of humans as a means of carrying on the affairs of theirs socially" (Francis, 1958: 13).

Based on the above definition, it can be known that language is a part of human systematical life. The subject matter of linguistics is a language it is a social human behavior. Social human behaviors finally shape society; society is any group of people who are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes.

Since language is an important thing, the communication should be understood very well to avoid misunderstanding. Communication is a way of interaction, sending and receiving messages or information through signals such as verbal and nonverbal from a person to other persons such as eye contact, voice tone, and gestures. It is also a way of exchanging thoughts, feeling, and emotions. However, there is a difference in communication between men and women, which may lead sometimes to misunderstanding. In fact, men and women do not

communicate in the same way because they interpret the same messages differently.

Many linguists study about the linguistic behavior between men and women. They have found that men and women used their different language with their own characteristics. *Women and men do not speak in exactly the same way as each other in the community* (Holmes, 1995: 164). Both of men and women have their own characteristic and behavior in the society so it can make them become different in some aspect, especially in the way they use a language. There are many factors that caused the difference of language that used by men and women. Men and women have different role and status in the society. The way of their thought and then represent it into a language is also different. Holmes in her sociolinguistics research found that the sex difference in a language is one aspect of linguistic difference in the society reflecting social status or power difference. Both men and women use the different language in order to show their power and place in the society. Those are difference in the choice of word, vocabulary, and grammar used.

Robin Lakoff is the writer of the book *Language and Women's place*. Her book becomes the reference for many linguists who want to study about women's language. Lakoff said that men and women have different speech function. *Women experience linguistic discrimination in two ways: in the way they are taught to use language, and in the way general language use treats them* (Lakoff 1975: 46). Women have complicated place in using a language. As Lakoff said that sometimes women language shows their powerlessness and weakness.

Women have to use a language in order to show their femininity rather than masculinity. Women sometimes use certain features of speech as their language choices. Lakoff analyzed that there are ten types of speech features that commonly used by women than men that based on her intuition and observation. Those speech features are lexical hedges fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise colors terms), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' form, avoidance of strong words, and emphatic stress. Those speech features are commonly used by women in their communiction.

One of the ways to study about women language is the dialogues in the movie. Margaret Thatcher is the main character of The Iron Lady in the movie. Movie is the reflection of the real condition in a society particulary women language. Margaret Thatcher is the longest serving Prime Minister in the United Kingdom of the 20th century. This study will analyze women speech features that is used by the main character in the movie. The movie is interesting because it is based on the life of Margaret. The Iron Lady is a movie of the British biographical film. Most of the scene in this movie is about the struggle of Margaret who becomes the prime minister in the United Kingdom for four times. The Iron Lady wins many awards, like in Academy Award, Golden Globe and Emmy Award. By doing this research, the writer will find the women's speech features that is used by the main character. The data will look at the utterances in some settings in this movie, for instance she gave speeches, when she talked with her husband, talked with children and family. The language used in many ceremonial scene like when

she tried to solve some problems in UK. The languages classified into ten women's speech features according to Lakoff's theory. The writer will deeply analyze ten types of women speech features used by main character.

Lakoff's theory of women's language shows that women tend to use language of powerlessness and weakness however this research is going to analyze the language features of woman leader who is being respected by many British people at that time. The writer will analyze how the iron lady like Margaret used ten types of women speech features. This research will see weather the iron lady used the speech features shown in her aversive, powerless, and weakness. Lakoff's theory has been chosen in this study because the theory is more complete and specific than other theories. The writer asumes that Lakoff's theory is suitable to investigate deeply especially the main character.

The following is the one of the example of analyzing data:

(The conversation among Carol and Margaret).

Carol   :No one is saying that.

Margaret   :If I can't go out to buy a pint of milk then what is the world Coming to. *Really Carol,* please don't fuss about it. You've always been like this, fuss fuss fuss. You must find something better to do with your time. It's most unattractive in a woman. When I was your age the last thing I wanted to do was fuss around my mother.

In the dialogues between Margaret and her daughter Carol is having a little debate. Carol is afraid of her Mom because Margaret went outside alone in the morning. Carol wanted to remind her Mother not to go alone. On the other hand, Margaret dislike the way Carol treated her. Margaret wanted her daughter Carol knew her serious utterence that Carol not to fuss about her condition, so Margaret

used the intensifiers *really* that has function to make the addressee took seriously about what is said by the speaker. Lakoff said intensifiers is one of woman speech features because subsituting an intensifier like so for absolute superlative like *very, really, utterly* seem to be way of backing out of committing oneself strongly to an opinion.

1.2   Statements of Problems

1. What women's speech features are used by main character in Iron Lady Movie?

2. What are the dominant women's speech features used by the main character in Iron Lady Movie?

1.3   Objectives of the Study

1. To describe what are women's speech features used by the main character.

2. To describe the dominant women's speech features used by the main character.

1.4   Significance of the Study

By conducting this research, the writer hopes that this study will help readers to be familiarities with aspect of sociolinguistics especially women speech features. It is also hoped that the readers will know ten speech features that applied in the movie. This is also can be used as reference to other researchers who want to study more deeper about women speech features.

1.5   Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research is sociolinguistic study, which focuses on women speech features that are used by main character that is Margaret Thatcher in The Iron Lady movie. To Avoid this research becomes too broad, the researcher concern on ten types of women speech features according to Lakoff. They are lexical hedges fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise colors terms), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' form, avoidance of strong words, and emphatic stress. The data is taken from the utterances that are used by main character.

1.6   Definition of Key Terms

1. **Language**   : Language as a system of arbitrary symbols used for human communication (Hatch, 1992:1)

2. **Women language**   : Women's language has afoundation to show attitude which reflects women is marginal subject to the serious concern of life (Lakoff, 1975 ; 45).

3. **Women's Speech Features :** Some certain features more commonly used by women than men in the way they are speaking. Those features are divided into ten features include lexical hedges fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise colors terms), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' form, avoidance of strong words, and emphatic stress.

4. **Main Character** **:** The most important people in a film, TV programme, or a stage show. (*wiki.answer.com/.../what_is_main character*)