

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of study, statement of problems, objective of study, scope and limitation, significance of study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

One of human's basic needs as social beings is the need to communicate. The communication in used is called as language. Language is the instrument to communication or to interact to the people. People exchange the ideas of information with other using language. Without communication they never know what the other human need. They use words to tell someone about something, to express their intentions and feelings with others (Boulton, 1960: p.3-7). One who cannot communicate with others will be caged in his or her own world. One who can communicate well will be able to explore the world. For human beings they need to communicate is prominent and the use of words is essential.

The deaf and the dumb may use sign language and gestures to communicate. Their language will be different with normal people. While normal people use language to their communication, the deaf use sign language. Sign language that they use can help them to share their feeling with other people in daily conversation.

In our daily communication people almost do a natural conversation. When they talk each other is never be plant, and always in spontaneous speech.

Language which is spontaneous is the sense of unplanned, and which is composed in real time in response to immediate situational demands (Michael, 1983: p.33). This book characterized of most spoken language has been doing in everyday conversation. Human unconsciously do a natural conversation in everyday, they unplanned the text and almost do a spontaneous speech. The opposed of natural language is artificial or planned. The types of this language almost do in written language. Although in daily conversation it can be do when making movie. Each character in movie will have their script, which they should be read.

The participant of a conversation is considered as one factor which influences the production of speech. The participants of speech are varied. They can have differences based on social status, age and sex or gender. Because the participants of communication are different gender, it is believe that the utterances produced by women are different from those produced by a man. Holmes (2008) suggested that women use more standard speech form than men because they are more status-conscious than men. Men prefer vernacular forms because they carry macho connotation or masculinity and toughness. It is natural if women and men have different linguistic features because they have different goal in their conversation.

According to Holmes (2008), the linguistic forms used by women and men contrast. It is claimed that women are more linguistically polite than men. Looking at features which is call Women's Language or WL (and which are largely based on Lakoff 1975). These ten features are listed below: 1. Hedges, e.g.

sort of, kind of, I guess ; 2. (Super) polite forms, e.g. *would you please . . . ; I'd really appreciate it if. . .* ; 3. Tag questions. ; 4. Speaking in italics, e.g. emphatic *so* and *very*, intonational emphasis equivalent to underlining words in written language ; 5. Empty adjectives, e.g. *divine, charming, sweet, adorable* ; 6. Hypercorrect grammar and pronunciation ; 7. Lack of a sense of humour, e.g. poor at telling jokes ; 8. Direct quotations ; 9. Special vocabulary, e.g. specialised colour terms ; 10. Question intonation in declarative contexts (Jennifer, 2004: p.108).

The use of women linguistic features is also to show the women position in society. Women as a guardian in the world should be look perfectly, not only in their appearance but also their speech. According to Lakoff, women have their way of speaking, which different from man. It is a way of speaking which reflected and produce a subordinate position in society (Eckert&McConnell-Ginet, 2003: p.1).

The characteristic of women speech may emerge in a natural (unplanned) and planned conversation. One of the examples of natural conversation is stand-up comedy; although speaker has a script they will improve and use their personal speaking style without changing the topic. Example of planned conversation happen in a movie (dialogue), dialogue for actress has been written in script. Each character has their characterization based on the script.

According to Schwarz's definition about stand-up comedy, is someone who speech in front of the audience and talk something funny. They speak directly to their audience. Language that they use is almost being spontaneous

language. The first concerns features of speech as would occur in unscripted, informal talk (Ross, 2003: p.99). Because of that they cannot be controlled what they have been said. Ross in her book *The Language of Humour* mention the features of spontaneous speech, there will be more filler, like 'sort of', ellipsis (shortened forms of words), redundancy and back-tracking (the repetition of words), and sympathetic circularity (phrase like 'isn't that right?').

Planned language is dealing with conversation in movie. Drama is a composition in prose from that present a story entirely told in dialogue and action and written with the intention of its eventual performance before the audience (Itsna, 2013: p.5). This study aims at examining what linguistics features characterized women speech when she talks in natural or planned conversation. Sarah Silverman is chosen as the source of data in natural language process because she became a women stand-up comedy that considered portraying women linguistic features through the communication within it.

Precious is a main character in a Precious movie. This movie is chosen as the source of data in planned language. As an actress women language here is affected. The linguistics features can be recognized from the utterances of Sarah as a speaker to her audience, and Precious conversation with other characters. In stand-up comedy Sarah invite their audience to know what she is talking about, to build the comprehension her audience she talking about hot issue at the time. During the conversation, speaker sometimes uses women linguistic features no matter who the participants are. What makes it interesting is to know whether the use of women linguistic features is different then women talk in natural or

planned conversation. As the writer found in her pre-observation, Sarah and Precious used different linguistic features.

- Sarah Stand-up comedy

SARAH SILVERMAN : “**You now** I just break my heart, I see this commercial on television”

- Precious movie

Precious : Well, I like you, too. (1341)

But you can't handle me. (1342)

You can't handle none of this. (1343)

You know, I never knew what you was until this day. (1344)

Not even after all the things you did. (1345)

Maybe I was too stupid, or **maybe** I just didn't want to. (1346)

You ain't gonna see me no more. (1347)

Bye! (1348)

Mary : I didn't want him to hurt my baby. (1349)

From the brief example of utterances above, we can see the differences between Sarah and Precious. Both of them show the women language features in communication. When Sarah said “**You now** I just break my heart...” this word is one of the characteristics of women linguistic features. While showing up the insecurity of Sarah's feeling.

The other reasons for choosing Sarah Silverman in standup comedy and Precious movie to be analyzed in this study is because Sarah Silverman is one of

the best women standup comedians. American stand-up comedian Sarah Silverman was born on December 1, 1970, in Bedford, New Hampshire. After dropping out of New York University, Silverman focused on the stand-up comedy circuit and received her big break in 1993 as a writer and performer on *Saturday Night Live*. *Saturday Night Live* since its inception in 1975, 'SNL' has launched the careers of many of the brightest comedy performers of their generation. The program has won 45 Emmy Awards and in 2014 holds the title for the most nominated television show in Emmy history with 187 nominations. After that stint, she worked many years as a writer, comedian and actress. Her 2005 film, *Jesus Is Magic*, released and highlighted her one-woman comedy show. Two years later, she starred in *The Sarah Silverman Show*. Silverman continues to write and act on TV and in film.

Precious is a main character of precious movie. She is a young girl that grows up in broken family. Director Lee Daniels's *Precious*: Based on the Novel *Push* by Sapphire is one of the most celebrated films of the year in 2006 – and one of the few to address vitally important social issues across a wide variety of audiences. It is a vibrant, honest, and resoundingly hopeful film about the human capacity to grow and overcome even the most seemingly insurmountable circumstances. Therefore, it is interesting to conduct a research about linguistic features of Sarah Silverman and *Precious* movie as the subject of the research.

In previous research has been done with stand-up comedy are focus on Indonesian comic. Most of them choose male as the object for their analysis. Sari (2012) and Ardiana (2014) used Raditya Dika as an object of their analysis. They

analyzed the spontaneous speech of Raditya Dika speech. Ricky (2004) and Santy (2005) analyzed the semantic study of flouting maxim and semantic script in humor. Studies about *women's language features* have been conducted in same focus. Research about women speech features was done by Fitria (2014) and women's linguistic features in movie has been conducted by Umdatun (2014).

Didin Fitria Andhira in her thesis *A Study Of Women's Speech Features Of A Main Character in Iron Lady Movie Used by Phyllida Lloyd* find out nine features of women's linguistic features. There are lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. But there is one speech features which is not used by Margaret, that is specialized vocabulary (precise colors term).

Therefore, the writer is interested in raising the issue again but in a different way. If the previous studies were mainly focusing on movie, this research will give the same nuance and give an adding object of women's linguistic features used in stand-up comedy and movie performance that show women speech. The writer decides to take the stand-up performance and speech conversation as the data source of this study because the writer finds women character who do not care with the rules of women's linguistic features. For the second object the writer decides to take the women conversation in *Precious* movie. Compare the women linguistic feature in natural and planned language communication. Find out the characteristic of women language in different object and situation is never been done before.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study the writer formulates the problems as follows;

1. What are women's linguistic features used by Sarah Silverman in the stand-up comedy?
2. What are women's linguistic features used by Precious in Precious movie?
3. Who is the most frequently used women linguistic features in stand-up comedy and movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In writing and composing this thesis, the writer has some kinds of purpose that become objective of the studies as follows;

1. To find out the women's linguistic features that is used by Sarah Silverman in her stand-up comedy.
2. To find out the women's linguistic features that is used by Precious in Precious movie.
3. To find out which one who more frequently used women linguistic feature.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This thesis is basically a study of women language. The writer limits the scope of discussion by analyzing the humor especially the words that is used in stand-up comedy in order to know how the speaker parodies the target text and what the speaker wants to satirize through his humor and linguistic features that occur in parody that show the identity of women language. In second movie the

writes focus to the main character Precious conversation and in every situation when she speaks. There are ten women's linguistic features that the writer used as the objects of the research. The writer uses a descriptive qualitative approach. By limiting the study, it is easier for the writer to focus on the data, identify it and then analyze it.

1.5 Significant of the Study

By conducting this research, the writer hopes that this study will help readers to be familiarities with aspects of sociolinguistics especially women speech features. Explore the reader knowledge while women speech in natural and plant language use. 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 deeper about women speech features.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to give a clear description of the thesis and to avoid misunderstanding the terms in this study. The writer tried to define the key terms as follows:

Language and gender : The relation between gender and language use which involves a clear discussion of gender and of the resource that the linguistic system offers for the construction of social meaning. (Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, 2003)

Women's Language : A language that avoids direct and forceful statement, and relies on conforms that convey hesitation and uncertainty.

Women's Linguistic Features : several aspects of speech difference between women and men which indicate the characteristic of women's speech which include hedging, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjective, specialized vocabularies (precise color terms), intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress (Holmes, 1992, p:314).

Stand-up Comedy : Stand-up comedy is the term for a special genre of comedy in which the performer, who is called the stand-up comedian (Schwarz, 2010).