

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Language is one of the important aspects in communication. Without it we would probably have difficulties delivering our message. Language makes everything easier. Moreover, we live in the world with many countries, many cultures and, of course, many languages on it. Generally speaking, someone's speech can be influenced by many factors, such as social factors. Social factors include age, gender, ethnic group, and social class.

Gender, rather than sex, will be the key point of this thesis. "Sex" refers to a biological distinction, whereas 'gender' is the term used to describe socially constructed categories based on sex'. (Coates 1993:3) In this thesis I deal with the different varieties of language which are used by men in their speech. When women speak, there is a difference in diction. Another difference is that women usually use lexical hedges; while men do not. In sociolinguistics we learn about different types of language used by men and by women; furthermore, there is a specific term for the type of language spoken by women, namely women's language. There is no such term as men's language. Still, I believe it would be out of the ordinary and challenging if we could find the anomalies of language use. To show the anomalies of language use, I have chosen television series Queer as Folk as the source of data. Queer As Folk is a Showtime Networks television

series. It is about a homosexual community in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition, I choose the American version of Queer As Folk since it has become a great, number one television series in America. In Queer as Folk there are five main characters. They are Brian Kinney, Michael Novotny, Emmett Honeycutt, Ted Schmidt and Justin Taylor. Each of them has his own characteristics. In general, in homosexual relationship, a gay can become a dominant. His partner can become a subordinate one. The dominant gay has man characteristics. However, even though the gay whose role is as a subordinate may have womanish characteristics, their appearance is not always like a woman. In addition, their characteristics may influence the way they talk. Based on the general assumption about homosexual, I am interested in analysing whether the gay people adopt the so-called women's language in their speech. In Queer as Folk series, we can find the use of language which violates the theory of women's language. For that reason, I feel challenged to find out what causes the anomalies of language use in Queer as Folk.

In writing this thesis, I will use Sociolinguistics as the approach. Sociolinguistics is a study about the relationship between language and society. No doubt, people are social beings and they need to socialise. It is interesting to observe people from a sociolinguistic point of view because we can identify their background and find out their characteristics. Moreover, language and gender will be the topic of this thesis. Generally speaking, there are absolutely two genders, male and female. In addition, women have a specific characteristic of language, women's language. Hence, we can assume that men use men's language. In analysing the data, I will use theory of women's language by Robin Lakoff. There are ten features of women's language. Knowing about language and gender can make us aware that male and

female use different specific varieties of language. In addition, this thesis will be significant for English learners to know about the anomalies of language use.

In collecting the data, I use Queer as Folk American version DVD complete season one and complete season two. The data are in the forms of utterances and dialogues spoken by some of the characters of Queer as Folk. I also browse the Internet in order to gather the information about the television series, which can support my analysis. The theories specifically used to analyse the data are taken from several text books. I also browse the Internet to add some information about the theory.

Statement of the Problem

The problems which I will analyse in my research are:

1. What expressions show the anomalies of language use in Queer as Folk?
2. What factors cause the anomalies of language use in Queer as Folk?

Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. to reveal the anomalies of language use which take place in Queer as Folk.
2. to find out the factors which cause the anomalies of language use in Queer As Folk.

Methods of Research

In collecting the data, first, I observe the Queer as Folk television series. Second, I write the dialogues and the utterances which show the anomalies of language use. In addition, the backgrounds of the characters are needed to support the

analysis for the reason that it is closely related to the anomalies of language use. Therefore, I compile the background of each character. Then, after gathering the data, I analyse them and find what causes the anomalies of language use.

Organisation of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter, Introduction, contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Methods of Research, and Organisation of the Thesis. Next, Theoretical Framework is presented in Chapter Two. Then, Chapter Three is the discussion of my analysis. The last chapter, Chapter Four, is Conclusion. It contains my comments on the findings. At the end of the thesis, are Bibliography, which lists all textbooks and online information which are used in my thesis as references, and Appendices, which presents all the data of my analysis in the form of table.