

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In daily life, people use language to communicate. Language is “...considered to be an exclusively human mode of communication...” (Language). That is why, language has become one of the basic needs for people.

It is believed that gender, between male and female, plays an important role in using the language. So, both language and gender are closely related. Concerning language and gender, women speak differently from men. In general, women tend to use polite language while a lot of men tend to use impolite or even rude language. It is also said that, for women “They use neutral language for business but mostly feminine language when talking to friends” (Annotated Bibliography: Language, Gender, and Writing). Women may use the word terrific in a board meeting, but they may use the word divine when talking to their female friend. They utter two different words that have the same meaning. In this context, the participant is the social factor for women to speak differently. It will be more explained in chapter two.

There are some linguists who are interested in analyzing women's language. Some of them are Janet Holmes, Deborah Tannen and Dell Hymes. Robin Lakoff is one of the linguists who are interested in and focuses on women's language. She is a professor of linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley. In her book, Language and Woman's Place, Lakoff introduces ten features of women's language, namely, "lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress" (Holmes 286). Lakoff's theory portrays the characteristics of women's language and from the theory above; women are expected to conform to Lakoff's characteristics of women's language.

Men are expected to speak like men and women speak like women. But men may use a feminine style in speaking and women may use a masculine style. "The participants, setting, function, and topic" (Holmes 8) are the social factors for men and women to choose their speech style. The social factors play an important role in using different speech style.

In analyzing the data, I focus on showing the violations and conformations of Lakoff's characteristics of women's speech in two films. I choose to discuss "The Use of Women's Speech by the Main Female Characters in Miss Congeniality 2 and Taking Lives" as the topic of my thesis.

By using films, I can get clearer information about the character, setting, and events. Taking data from films takes less time than the other sources, such as novels and advertisements.

I use the films Miss Congeniality 2 and Taking Lives because the main characters in these films have the same profession. They are FBI agents. Most of the time, they are surrounded by male. In the first movie, Miss Congeniality 2, Gracie Hart is an FBI agent who is also the runner-up of Miss United States pageant. The story is about her investigation with her team in Las Vegas to rescue her best friend, Cheryl Frazier, who is kidnapped. In the second film, Taking Lives, Illeana Scott is a successful FBI agent who goes to Montreal to help out the case of a serial killer named Martin Asher.

In their speeches, the two main female characters of the films, Hart and Scott, conform to Lakoff's characteristics of women's speech. However, the police environments force them to violate the characteristics of female's speech because they are surrounded by male colleagues who usually use rude language.

For my analysis, I use Sociolinguistics as an approach. "Sociolinguistics is the study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context, on the way language is used" (Sociolinguistics). I use Lakoff's characteristics of women's language to analyze the data and this theory will be presented in detail in Chapter Two.

The result of this analysis is expected to be beneficial for English learners in realizing the different practice of language use by different speakers in different contexts. There are social factors which make women speak differently. They may conform to or violate Lakoff's characteristics of women's language.

It contains 686 words.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The problems that I want to analyze in my research are:

1. Does the utterance conform to or violate women's speech?
2. What kind of women's speech is involved in the characters' utterances?
3. What social factors influence the characters to use a particular type of women's speech?

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

Following the statement of the problems, the purposes of the study are:

1. To find out if the characters' utterance conforms to or violates women's speech.
2. To show which characteristic of women's speech is involved in the utterance.
3. To show which social factors influence the characters to use that type of women's speech.

## **1.4 Methods of Research**

First, I watch the films, Miss Congeniality 2 and Taking Lives. Second, I collect the necessary data for my analysis. Third, I select the data according to the ten features of women's speech proposed by Lakoff. Finally, I analyze the data by using some theories from text books and Internet references.

### **1.5 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Theoretical Framework, which concerns with the linguistic theory and approach used in writing this thesis. Chapter Three is the Discussion, which contains the presentation of the findings, and the interpretation of the data. Chapter Four is the Conclusion, in which I give comments on my findings and analysis. Finally, this thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices.