

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Language is a medium of communication between one person and another. In the modern era, language is needed to build relationships. In a relationship people try to avoid misunderstandings in their communication. That is why they always try to use proper language in speaking with others, by using standard language. Through their use of language, people can show their identity and personality to others.

Language is used by both males and females in their daily communication in delivering the messages of their utterances. Many people do not realize that there is a relationship between language and gender. Research in linguistic study has found relationship between language and gender which shows different usage of language used by men and women. Gender itself is defined as “the division into male and female” (Longman).

Concerning language and gender, Jim Vandergriff presents the following information: Since early 1582, men and women have different ways of speaking in vocabulary and conversation topics. In beginning 1970s, the idea of 'Women's American English' is investigated seriously by Robin Lakoff, Anne Bodine, Ruth

Brend, and Nancy Conklin. Many researchers, Lakoff and Kramer, for example, have already asserted the existence of women's language, but none of them offer concrete evidence to support their claims (Vandergriff).

Tannen states that to understand the cultural information, it is signed by language, men and women rely on different cultural norms. Female's culture uses language to build equal relationships, while male's culture uses language to build hierarchical relationships (Tannen).

People's utterances are not always in accordance with their typical gender language. Men may speak with a feminine speech style and women may use a masculine speech style. I have paid special attention to some utterances that show deviations from women's language, because, for me, regular utterances are not challenging enough to investigate. I have decided to analyze the contrasting styles of language which are used by the female leading character in a film called G.I. Jane. I choose this film because it provides the examples of language that I wish to analyze.

Concerning this, I would like to find out the anomalies of Tannen's theory dealing with cross-gender communication in this film. In addition, I would like to find out the reasons behind these anomalies. As a result, I choose to discuss violation of Deborah Tannen's theory of six contrast in cross-gender communication seen in G.I. Jane.

I choose G.I. Jane because it provides the examples of language that I wish to analyze. In my opinion, a film can give sufficient description of the events, character, setting, plot, or other elements of it. Therefore, I do not need to imagine all those

elements because the film provides them for the viewers. On top of that, watching a film need less time than reading a novel.

G.I. Jane is a film about a woman soldier, Jordan O'Neil. She is sent to the Navy training. When she is in the training, she is treated differently by the other soldiers because she is a woman. One day, she can prove to others that she is also able to pass the training like men do. She is even appointed leader of the mission. In the end, she is accepted to be part of the Navy team. Women cannot be underestimated because of their weak nature. This film wants to show that women can be as strong as men.

Due to the fact that women's language violations have been influenced by some social factors, the linguistic area to which the study I am going to do belongs to Sociolinguistics. Holmes states that "Sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used" (Holmes 1).

It is expected that the result of this study will help people in understanding the film better and also can help English learners in realizing the use of language which is used by different speakers of different gender in different contexts.

Statement of the Problem

There are two problems that I am going to analyze in my thesis, namely:

1. What are the violations of Tannen's theory found in G.I. Jane?
2. Why do these violations occur?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to find out:

1. to show the violations of Tannen's theory found in G.I. Jane.
2. to show the reasons behind the violation.

Methods of Research

In writing my thesis, I will begin by watching G.I. Jane, which is my data source. While watching the film, I take notes of the female major characters' utterances. Then, I analyze the utterances containing the violation of Tannen's theory. After getting the valid data, I classify the data into Tannen's six contrasts. The next step is to compare Tannen's six contrasts to what I have found in the classified data then I write the research report.

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 the theoretical framework, which is concerned with the linguistic theory and the approach

used in writing the thesis. Chapter Three is the discussion, which consists of the presentation of the findings and interpretation of the data. Chapter Four is the Conclusion, containing my comments on my findings and analysis. Finally, this thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices.