

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The topic of my thesis is *the analysis of the typical language used by male and female major characters and its violation in the movie 'Titanic'*.

Language is important to communicate with other people. Sometimes people are not aware of the fact that there is a sort of a relationship between language and gender. By studying language and gender one, it will find it evident that language can be used as a gender identity. 'Early anthropological studies on gendered language focused on the different language used by men and women. Gendered language in industrial societies was not taken as a serious topic of study until the 1960s. This topic has been known since the publication of Robin Lakoff's book, Language and Women's Place, in 1975 (gltq.2006). In an article entitled Is There a Women's Language? Jim Vandergriff states that women in early 1582 have been assumed to speak differently from men. Before the early 1970s, the idea of a "Women's American English" was seriously investigated by Robin Lakoff and friends (faculty.knox.edu. 2006).

In the topic of Language and Gender, it is said that the language used by males and that of females is different. Basically, males are more free to use their language than females are. On the other hand, it is not easy for females to express their ideas within their language (Holmes, 2001: 158). Females have some rules which control their attitude and language, especially in a patriarchal society. According to Holmes, females use more standard forms than males do because females are more status-conscious than males (2001: 157). They are more aware of the fact that the way they speak indicates their social background or social status. The society is inclined to expect females to behave better than males; therefore, they should speak more standard than males (Holmes, 2001:158).

For showing males' solidarity, masculinity, and toughness, males usually use vernacular more often (Holmes, 2001: 154). Females' topics of conversation are concerned with personal relationships, experiences, problems and feelings. However, males do not talk about their emotion; instead they talk about sports, women, machines, authority, competition (Holmes, 2001:299). Furthermore, female is less direct than male. In addition, females pay more attention to details. In general, females are indecisive, more co-operative, nag, ask more questions, and support each other. (Holmes, 2001: 297)

In reality, it is discovered that sometimes males speak like females do and vice versa. According to Janet Holmes, males may speak with feminine style and females may follow masculine style. These deviations can be caused by social factors; among others are participants, setting, function, and the topic (Holmes, 2001: 8).

I choose a movie as the data source for the reason that a movie can provide detailed information, such as dialogue, context, intonation, situation, events, setting, and also characters. When watching a movie, the audience does not need to use as much imagination as they do when they read a book or novel.

The movie that I choose to discuss is entitled *Titanic*. There are two versions of the legendary movie *Titanic*, and I choose the most recent version of *Titanic*, directed by James Cameron. This movie tells about the sinking of a big ship called *Titanic* when sailing from England to America in 1912 because it crashed in to an iceberg.

The setting of place of *Titanic* is in England. England is a patriarchal country. Patriarchal refers to a system, which is ruled or controlled by men. (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English: 1995). 'Much early feminist's thought presupposed that there was a more or less simple correlation between males and power and females and powerlessness. (Lakoff, 1975; Spender, 1980 in linguisticspoliteness.eclipse.2005).

According to Lakoff, there are ten features used by females to express the ideas through language and there are some differences between males and females in using language in a patriarchal country. Male and female have different language in the patriarchal society as the position of females in society is lower than that of males. Therefore, females should be more aware of the fact that their way of speaking might reveal their social background or social status. Moreover, females try to be the role model of a good or correct behavior (Holmes, 2001:158).

I am interested in analyzing the typical language in the movie used by males, through Cal and Jack, and the females through Rose and Ruth. They are the major characters of the movie *Titanic*. In this movie, I find that the male and female characters use typical language; on the other hand, I also notice that there are times when the female characters are not consistent to use the typical language for females, nor are the male characters. In other words, they have violated a convention in using language.

This kind of topic is included in the area of Sociolinguistics. According to Janet Holmes, Sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. (2001: 1)

Statement of the Problem

The problems analyzed in this thesis are formulated as follows:

1. What utterances indicate the typical language used by the male and female characters in the movie *Titanic*?
2. What utterances show the violation of the language used by the four major characters based on gender?
3. What are the factors that influence the violation?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the purpose of the thesis is:

1. To present the utterances that show the typical language used by the four major characters in the movie *Titanic*.

2. To present the utterances that show the violation of the language used by the four major characters based on gender.
3. To present the factors which influence the violation.

Methods of Research

The method of research used in this thesis follows this procedure. First of all, I collect the data in the form of the utterances used by the four major characters, Cal, Jack, Rose, and Ruth, in the movie *'Titanic'* to show the typical language used by male and female. I also use some references from the library as well as from the Internet. Second, I select and classify the data. Then they are analyzed. Finally, I write a research report.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which comprises Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, the Theoretical Framework is presented. The Discussion is presented in Chapter Three. The following chapter, Chapter Four, contains the Conclusion, in which what has been analysed and discussed in the previous chapter is concluded. At the end of the thesis, there are Appendices, in which the whole data and the sources are listed and Bibliography in which the list of references is presented.