CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

I.   Background of the Study

Some linguists did not study language and sex deeply until Robin Lakoff had done some research and explained that language and sex was related to each other and create the theory of women's language. The topic of language and sex has become a serious topic which has to do with the society. (Wolfson 163)

Basically, men and women have different way of uttering their expressions. Women have some special qualities, which indicate their inferior status. When they are talking about colours, they will use, or example <u>aquamarine</u> instead of <u>blue</u>. They do this for three reasons which are related closely to the society's expectations. Firstly, they want to show their politeness; secondly, to make their social status more admitted because women hold inferior status in the society; thirdly, the society tends to expect women to have good behavior (Holmes 167-174). On the other hand, men are likely to use vernacular forms, which is the opposite of the standard form. Men use this to show their toughness (Holmes 174-175).

Because of their inferior status, speech style which is used by women is considered deviant by the society. The society has a doubt of the quality of the

1

women on the language. Generally, speech style which is used by men or women is basically the same. The only differences are that women tend to be more conservative, which means using the correct one while men tend to be more innovating, which means more casual in the language's using (Trudgill 90). As a result, men's language is considered 'the language', which means their language is not mind for the courtesy but the intention of their language. (Wolson 163). According to Lakoff, language has its expression of the status social of the speaker. The way language is spoken and the way women speak already show their inferior status (Wolson 164). In practice, however, women and men cannot be distinguished based on their linguistic characteristics. There are some social factors such as the setting, the characteristics of the person they are talking to, the purpose of the conversation, the topic, their role in the society, personal belief, their networks, and their social level, which can make women use masculine speech styles, while men can use feminine speech styles (Holmes 180)

Social network is also considered a great influence for people in using their speech style. This is stated by some researchers who believe that social network is more dominant than social class background. People often communicate with their friends and begin to compare with their speech style and make them equal. While, people are not really aware of their social class because it is not really visible (Holmes 179).

At first, when I knew about women's language, I was interested in studying further about this topic. In reality, women are not using their typical language anymore. In many situations, I have seen and heard a lot of violations in daily life.

2

Moreover, I believe it happens because there are some social factors which influence women to prefer not to use their typical language. For example, a woman who works in a place dominated by men.

I am interested in analyzing the violations of women's language because as a woman I feel challenged to analyze my gender, especially the violation of women's language. In many occasions, women do some violations in their utterances and I want to know the reasons for doing the violation.

The area of my topic is Sociolinguistics, to be precise, Language and Gender. According to a book entitled *Introduction to Linguistics,* Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society. It deals with the reasons why we sometimes do not speak in the same way in different social contexts. For example, a teenage girl, when talking to her girlfriends she does not use polite forms; whereas, when talking to their parents or older people, they use more polite language to show their good behavior, men also do the same thing but they still create informal atmosphere. Consequently, there is a close relationship between the reasons why women break their typical language with a particular circumstance.

My source of data is a film entitled <u>A Few Good Men</u>. I want to observe the violations in conversations from this movie. The reason for choosing this source of data is because in this film I can find many violations of women's language by the female major character, Joanne Galloway, who is a navy lawyer and a self-assertive woman. She is surrounded by males in her profession. The movie is about Daniel Kafee, who is a confident navy lawyer. He is joined with Joanne

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Galloway as a team in solving a murder case. The accused are Private Louden and Downey. Jo and Kafee are going to defend them on the court and find the real accused. On their investigation, they are faced with the issues of loyalty and honor in military,

I prefer a film to a novel as my source of data because in my opinion, films give more description about the situations of the conversation which include the face of the character and the tone of the character's utterances.

It is important for me to do this research because most people are not really familiar with women's language. Therefore, in this thesis I want to show women's utterances which violate the norms of women's language and explain why they can make such violations. I hope the readers, especially women readers, will learn something from my thesis and get some explanations about the reasons for violation of women's language in particular situation.

II. Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, I want to analyze:

1. Which of the utterances violate the typical women's language?

2. Which of the norms of women's language is violated?

3. Why does the character commit such violations in terms of women's language?

III.   Purpose of the Study

In this thesis, I want to show:

1. The women's character utterances which violate the typical women's language.

2. The norms of women's language that are violated.

3. The reason why the character commits such violations in terms of women's language.

IV.   Methods of Research

The steps I take in gathering the data are as follows: firstly, I start finding about language and gender theories by Robin Lakoff, Jennifer Coates and Peter Trudgill from textbooks and other sources. Secondly, I find some data in the film entitled A Few Good Men that are relevant to the topic of my thesis. And finally, I analyze of the film that I have watched to identify which utterances show violation of women's language and why they violate the women's language norms.

V.   Organization of the Thesis

My thesis starts with Chapter I, which contains Background of the Study, Statements of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Methods of

5

Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter II contains the theories about Language and Gender. Chapter III contains the analysis of violation of women's language in <u>A Few Good Men</u>. Chapter IV contains the conclusion from the analysis that I have made about the violation of women's language. This thesis ends with the Bibliography.