CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the past, it was common knowledge that women had different responsibilities in domestic affairs or in their homes. It was unusual for women to have a job outside their homes. Women usually worked at home to take care of their children, cleaned their houses and did other housework. They had to spend much time at home and that influenced their language. Yet, now women have different responsibilities. Many women nowadays have jobs to get a better life. Men sometimes are also pleased if their wives get a job. It makes women have the same responsibilities as their husbands or as other men. They have responsibilities not only at home but also with their work or job. This means that the kind of language they use is also different. They are influenced by their setting, public life, friends, surroundings, their personalities and also men.

Generally, women do not have a job like speaking in a small group in a private place after they have finished working at home. But it is also usual for working women. Women like having a savings-club in their houses. Yet now, women like doing their savings-club in public, for example, café, restaurant or

night club. So, it makes women different in using register of language. They tend to use strong swear words, non superpolite forms, incorrect grammar, and also use language like men do. They could possibly talk about something taboo in a public place, or somewhere else.

This language phenomenon is interesting to be analyzed. Therefore, I take an interest in learning something about the phenomenon called women's language. It makes me choose to discuss a topic about the violations of women's linguistic features. I find many data in a film series, Sex and the City. I take two seasons of this film series to analyze as the data. Therefore, the title of my thesis is "The Violations of Women's Linguistic Features in Sex and the City Season One and Season Two". Many theories prove that women should be more polite and careful in their utterances to indicate her being feminine. Yet, I find that some women violate these theories. In reality, such an assumption does not seem to be purely correct. It is often found that women also use rude words or sentences that do not sound polite, or in fact are rude to be heard.

It is generally known that women's language is different from that of men. I take two seasons of Sex and the City for my analysis because there are so many violations that I can obtain from the series. Also, I can look for the development of their use of language, to notice if it changes or not. The central characters of the movie are Carrie Bradshaw, Samantha Jones, Charlotte York and Miranda Hobbes. Sometimes they use the rude words because they have to deal with certain situations and make more interruptions than men. This does not match with their image as metropolitan women. Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte are career women. They have been influenced by their surroundings. Carrie is a writer and

she writes about <u>Sex and the City</u>. Sex is something taboo to be discussed but she treats it as something usual to write about to the public in New York. Samantha is a public relations officer in a café. She relates with the people who come in the café. Charlotte is also a career woman. She collects art objects. She meets a lot of clients and other people in doing her job. And the last one is Miranda. She is an aggressive woman, and she is influenced by her surroundings in using language, as she is a lawyer. In addition, I discuss not only these central characters but also people surrounding them.

The significance of my topic is to prove that the theories of women's linguistic features are not always applicable in women's conversation nowadays because I find out that women often violate these linguistic features in their conversation. Accordingly, I hope I can find out the reason why these women violate such women's linguistic features by doing this analysis.

The approach I use is Sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics studies the relation between linguistic form and social and psychological context; language and gender; discourse strategies (e.g. indirectness and politeness); discourse genres. I choose this approach because, in analyzing my data, I have to know how these women engage in conversations and build relationships with the speakers.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. Which utterances show the violation of women's language in <u>Sex and the City</u>?

2. What type of features are violated by the main characters in the <u>Sex and the City</u>?

3.   What are the factors that make the main characters violate the features?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1.   To find the utterances of violation of women's language in <u>Sex and the City</u>.

2.   To know what features are violated by women.

3.   To find out the factors that make the main characters violate the features.

1.4 Methods of Research

There are several steps that I take in gathering data for my methods of research. First, I consult a number of books related to women's language. The primary text used is Janet Holmes, <u>*An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.*</u> Secondly, I apply the theory of women's language and its violation by means of the film series <u>Sex and the City</u>. In particular, I watch the television series and find some conversations that violate women's language. Then I write down the conversations and relate them to the theories. After that, I analyze the reasons why the central characters use language in such a way.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter, Introduction, includes Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Methods of Research and Organization of the Thesis. In the second chapter, I present the Theoretical Framework, which is the explanation about the sociolinguistics study and the approaches that I use in the thesis. In the third

chapter, I discuss the analysis of the data that I obtain. I analyze the reason why women and men use such language. Then in the fourth chapter, I conclude the result of my analysis and compare them to the theories that I choose.