

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, clarification of key terms, and organization of paper.

1.1. Background of Research

There are many great works in literature which are created by creative hands. No doubt that everybody knows Shakespeare with his drama masterpieces. Many critical analyses were written by scholars to find out the values of Shakespeare's works. Indeed, literature has always been dealing with value.

Gosford Park movie is one of the masterpiece made in 21st century that was created by creative hand, Robert Altman. The movie is well-known for its detailed characteristic overviews. It tells the social class phenomenon happen in one place. Though there are many movies made in the theme of social class, this is rather different as David (2001:1) says that the film "smells" of truth or that it might presents the slights of the truth unfold. It is because, as he says, the film shows something so fruitful or something valuable. The movie portrays the condition of society in 1930 in England. There who are called *The Upstairs* that they are rudely we can say the rich and the servants who, in this movie, were

called *valet* which means the rich's assistants who always serve the materials needed by their master. The movie tells a rich family, Sir William and Lady Sylvia who have a party and invite every rich people from England including Ivan Novello, a movie star who becomes part of the *upstairs* community with hard work. The rich people come with their own valets. However, the movie portrays the conditions of two different social classes who are having different activities in one building.

Even so, there is a big wall that forces the valets to make contact with the upstairs as little as possible for doing that is considered to be impolite. The valets, then, should do their activities in the basement, which barely under the *upstairs* who are in the second floor. Thus, the valets should not interfere their master when he or she is having some conversations with other rich people. This condition forces the *valet* to be the subordinate community.

Socially, it reflects the phenomena happened in that time. It is like part of history that is recorded in a few slights that only takes the essentials that deals with the class. Regarding this, Wright, (2003:2) states:

“...class is often central to the question, “How are people objectively located in distributions of material inequality.” In this case, class is defined in terms of material standards of living, usually indexed by income or, possibly, wealth. Class, in this agenda, is a gradational concept; the standard image is of rungs on a ladder, and the names for locations are accordingly such things as upper class, upper middle class, middle class, lower middle class, lower class, under class.”

The movie has similar context with theory of the class mentioned above.

The upper class is the guests—William's family—that later called as *the upstairs*.

As with the upstairs, the lower class is, then, represented by the valets and the servants who are working for William that later called as *the downstairs*.

Their different class automatically has different ways of using the language. The language that is used by both parties is completely different either in manner, pronunciations, vocabularies, or dialect. The language they use reflects their identity, as Holmes (2005:200) says that the speakers emphasize certain aspects of their social identities and different dimensions of social meaning. Thus, surely the upstairs and the servants use different kind of language use to show their own identities.

This movie is really worth to appreciate for we can learn things which are dealing with language. The two different classes with their own social backgrounds are met in a place where the “collision” of the two cannot be avoided is an unusual phenomenon that is worth to study especially in the matters of language.

Discussing the study of language in this movie, either linguistic or literature, the researcher have not find any thesis related to it. Thus, the researcher intends to analyze the language in this movie that will be seen from sociological context with sociolinguistic theories.

Discussing the description above, the researcher finds several researches that had been written about this. One of them is Ni Made Suryati. She observed the phonological and lexical varieties of *Lio* language in East Nusa Tenggara. There is also Diah Henny Puspitasari (2008) with her thesis entitled “Language

Style Analysis On Anton Chekhov's "The Boor" Play". She emphasized the language variety from its style which include levels of language style and in which situation the language styles are used. Meanwhile, Yeti Faridatul Ulfah (2010) wrote a thesis about language varieties entitled "Register Analysis in English Movie Advertisements of *www.21-Cineplex.com*".

The study then will be focused on the language varieties used by the two parties that each character reflects the real social phenomenon happened in that time. For that reason, this research will be entitled "**Language Varieties Used by Two Different Social Classes in Gosford Park Movie**".

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on the description above, the research will elaborate the language use with its variations uttered by both the servants and the *upstairs*. Automatically, it shows the social context provided on that movie that consists of two completely different standard societies that are seen from various perspectives such as sex, gender, social, works, and so on.

The various perspectives show that the research will result in complex answers. This situation will surely make the study wider and unfocused. Realizing that, here the researcher restricts the research only in the field of language variations in order to focus the research. In limiting the scope of the study, the researcher manifests the frame of the study into two questions as follows:

1. What kinds of language varieties are used by both the *upstairs* and the servants?
2. What factors cause the different use of language varieties by both parties?

1.3. Purposes and Significances of Research

The research tries to explore the language phenomena happened where two highly different social classes are met in one place. It is quite interesting that there are many language use differences between both parties. Language differences have close relationship with the language varieties, and thus the purposes of the research are as follows: The purposes of the research are:

1. To find out kinds of language varieties used by both *the upstairs* and the servants in the movie
2. To find out factors that cause the different use of language varieties by both parties

1.3.1. The significance of the research

Movie is one of media entertainment for people. It reflects the phenomena happened in society, including language. There are many different language varieties in society that need to be observed. Academically, this research will provide information for the subsequent researchers who are going to dig deeper of language

variety uses in the frame of sociological context in which their data are taken from the movie.

Practically, this could enrich the information and references for university students who are majoring English in the applications of sociolinguistics theory. As learning a theory will be more understandable if it is supported by practice, learning sociolinguistics, then, should be followed in to the next step, that is practice. One of the sociolinguistics practices is to observe certain language varieties in certain media, in this case a movie.

1.4. Definition of Key Terms

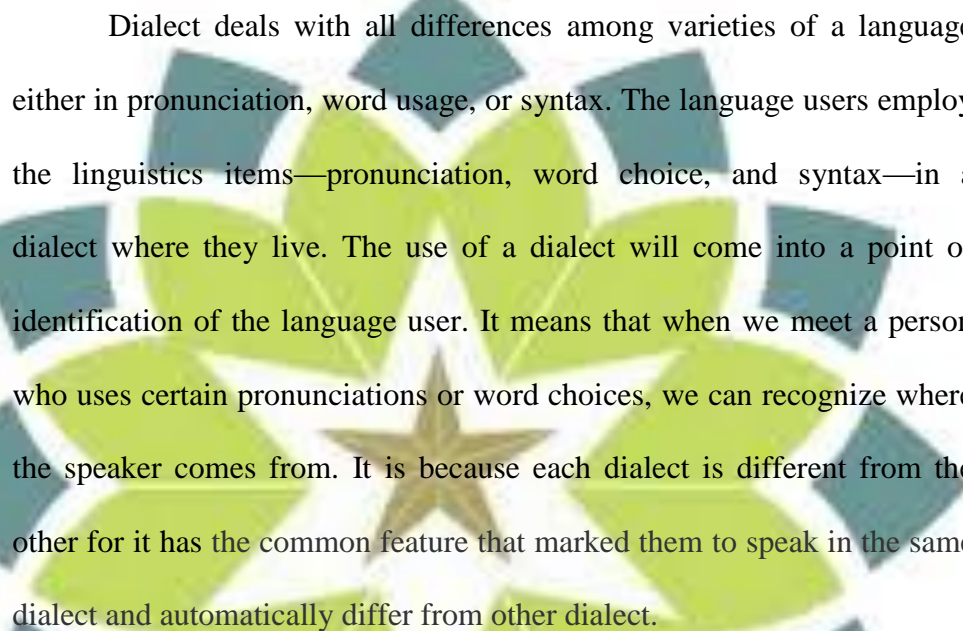
1.4.1. Language Varieties

Language varieties are the different ways of human language to express the same meaning. The varieties themselves are around different levels of linguistics structure; the levels of phonetic, phonology, syntac, and semantic (word choice). Language variety is a specific set of ‘linguistics items’ or human’s speech patterns of sounds, words, and grammatical features that can be associated with some external factors--geographical area or a social group.

Regarding this, Hudson (1980: 24) states that a language variety is a set of items with similar social distribution.

1.4.2. Dialect

Dialect is a local, non-prestigious variety of a real language (local, informal). It is part of regional language variety as it is based on a region or area of residence of speakers which commonly called a dialect area, regional dialects or geographical dialect.



Dialect deals with all differences among varieties of a language either in pronunciation, word usage, or syntax. The language users employ the linguistics items—pronunciation, word choice, and syntax—in a dialect where they live. The use of a dialect will come into a point of identification of the language user. It means that when we meet a person who uses certain pronunciations or word choices, we can recognize where the speaker comes from. It is because each dialect is different from the other for it has the common feature that marked them to speak in the same dialect and automatically differ from other dialect.

1.4.3. Register

Register is kind of variety which focuses on the terms of occupational or social groups such as farmers, doctors, singers, etc, the terms are different each other in the aspects of vocabulary, intonation, syntax, and morphology.

The speaker uses the different ways of conveying his or her ideas in different occasions and social circumstances. When communication

occurs, the speaker may choose the different variants of a particular variable.

In explaining register, Halliday (1978: 33) divides the parameters of register into three categories; they are field, mode and tone. Field means that the speaker uses the variation that is determined his or her purposes and subject matter of the communication. Mode deals with the channel which means that the language user uses the certain commonly used variation in certain aspect, for example mode of academic writing. Meanwhile, tone is about the intonation of whom the speaker speaks to. (according to which, variation is determined by the person to whom the communication is addressed). Thus, in communicating, the speaker employs particular features of language and also places him or herself at a particular position.

