

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter, the researcher explains the background of study, statement of problems, research objectives, research significance, theoretical review, and previous studies that become a reference in the work of this research.

1.1 Background of Study

Sociolinguistics is a linguistic study that focuses on the use of language in a social sphere. One of the things that make humans different is how the diversity of languages they use. Basically, each region has different language uses. Whether the differences in dialect, vocabulary, etc. According to Fishman (1975), sociolinguistic is the study of the characteristics of language varieties, the characteristics of their functions, and the characteristics of their speakers as these three constantly interact, change, and change one another among a speech community. Because humans are social beings, language is the most important thing in life.

A language has systems and subsystems that are supported by all speakers of that language. According to Hickerson (1980), sociolinguistics is a developing subfield of linguistics that takes speech variation as its focus, viewing variation, or its social context. Sociolinguistics thinks about with the correlation between such social factors and linguistics variation. Generally, the occurrence of a variety of languages is not only caused by speakers who are not homogeneous but also because social interactions are very diverse. Every activity requires or causes the diversity of languages. This diversity will increase if the language is used by very many speakers, as well as in very large areas.

One of the studies in sociolinguistics is about gender. In sociolinguistics and other social sciences, gender refers to sexual identity about culture and society. How words are used can both reflect and reinforce social attitudes toward gender.

In the United State, the knowledge base study of language and gender was initiated by linguistics academician Robin Lakoff in her book *Language and Woman's Place* (1975). According to Baron (2000, p. 188) interpreting that gender is a part of self-concept that involves identifying an individual as a man or woman. March (1990) claims that,

Gender refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women that are created in our families, our societies and our cultures. The concept of gender also includes the expectations held about the characteristics, aptitudes and likely behaviors of both women and men (femininity and masculinity). Gender roles and expectations are learned. They can change over time and they vary within and between cultures (March, 1990 p. 45).

In this case, it can be interpreted that gender is an individual difference between men and women based on their psychological side. How the self-concept of men and women produces differences in grammar and speaking style (Lakoff: 1975).

According to Lakoff (1975 cited in Romaine, 2003), men and women have differences in the speech function. As it is said that women have forms of language that look like they are weak and sometimes inconsistent, while men have languages that look straightforward and lead. The researcher uses the Lakoff theory because the theory owned by Lakoff is relevant to the study material to be studied by the researcher. Lakoff (1975) argues that women and men in the language have different styles. Male language more assertive, mature and men like to talk openly with the right vocabulary. Instead, the language used by women does not assertive, does not openly (to use the words figuratively), and be careful when presented something, and often using words that are gentle and politely or through gestures. Besides, Lakoff (as cited in Mu`minin, 2013) that if women feel less convinced about something, they will blame themselves indicating that they have no confidence in themselves.

This research focuses on the women's language in the film *The Danish Girl* on the character Gerda Wegener whose position is the wife of a husband who is a transgender. This research provides insight into how to use the women's language based on the Lakoff theory in her *language and woman's place* book. The

researcher takes the figure of Gerda Wegener as the focus of this research discussion.

In the film *The Danish Girl* based on this true story, Gerda Wegener has the role of the wife of Einar Wegener. Throughout the storyline, Gerda was told that she seems to love Einar sincerely and until the time Einar found his true identity, Gerda continued to support him even though Gerda herself felt sad and needed someone to lean on and where her complaints were. Until finally Gerda met with an old friend Einar named Hans and asked Hans for help to overcome the problems she has. According to Rusell (2015),

In *The Danish Girl*, Wegener's wife, Gerda, a talented artist, is played by 26-year-old Swede Alicia Vikander, who very nearly steals the show as her partner's devoted supporter, in real life the story is not dissimilar. Gerda married Einar in 1904 and went on to become the nation's most prominent exponent of art deco, pioneering the bending of gender boundaries and rethinking the female gaze (Rusell, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/sep/28/gerda-einar-wegener-danish-girl-trans-painter/>, 23 December 2019).

The researcher takes the role of Gerda Wegener as the object of research in the women's language because the role of Gerda which is sufficient in the object of the research of women's language theorized Lakoff. Besides, how the language behavior in Gerda Wegener sometimes seems out of line with what she thinks or what she wants.

This research uses the object of research from the film *The Danish Girl* (2015) which focuses on the character Gerda Wegener. *The Danish Girl* is a film that inspired transgender people for the first time to voices their bravery. Einar Wegener is a male character who first transgender but failed and eventually died. Gerda Wegener as the female character who became the wife of Einar Wegener that initially made her husband do things that were feminism such as wearing her husband's dress to be the object of Gerda's painting. The facts are taken from the character of Gerda Wegener to study how the women's language used in Gerda. As one of the triggers for Einar Wegener to become a woman, the researcher discovers how Gerda Wegener became disappointed and happy in accepting her transgender husband.

1.2 Statement of Problem

In women's language sometimes there are several terms that are used when they speak. The language used by women has different meanings and different emotional levels according to the intonation used. The use of female language can be analyzed according to existing theories. One of the theories about women's language is Lakoff theory. The use of women's language in this research which has an object in the film provides some of the terms used and gives the functions of the use of the terms used by Gerda Wegener's character. The terms and functions used by Gerda Wegener can be analyzed with the full Lakoff theory.

Based on the explanation above, this research discusses the use of women's language by Gerda Wegener. Therefore the researcher must focus on the following questions:

1. What kinds of women's language that are used by Gerda Wegener in The Danish Girl film?
2. What are the functions of the women's language that are used by Gerda Wegener in The Danish Girl film?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on research questions above, this research aims to:

1. To find out the kinds of women's language used by Gerda Wegener in The Danish Girl film.
2. To find out the functions of the women's language used by Gerda Wegener in The Danish Girl film.

1.4 Research Significance

This research has many advantages that can make us more know of the women's language in The Danish Girl film. The theoretical benefit of this research is to provide knowledge about the process of women's language in women. Because most research so far many objects used are an adolescent girls

who is still inconsistent. Academically, this research expects to be able to contribute to subject linguistic especially in the sociolinguistic analysis women's language process. This research gives information for the other researcher about the women's language especially a concern in The Danish Girl film. The theory used in this research is the theory of Robin Tolmach Lakoff.

Practically, the benefits of this research are to add insight to students and the community how important it is to know what women's language is. This research also provides benefits to the community, especially students to better preserve how many kinds of women's language, because the knowledge of the women's language will make them know that the women's language is kind of different from the man's language. Also, this research is also useful for English literature students who want to take a concentration on sociolinguistic studies especially in the field of women's language because this research gives them some insight into the usage of women's language in movie character.

In the end, the researcher hopes that this research will become one of the objects of study that is useful and can be used as a basis for students, especially in the field of linguistics in studying sociolinguistics in women's language.

1.5 Theoretical Review

Sociolinguistics is a sub-branch of linguistics consisting of pragmatic, psycholinguistic, and sociolinguistic. Sociolinguistics itself is the study of how language occurs in a social area both within a group and individually. Sociolinguistics itself has many meanings and terms used to explain how language occurs in such a society. One of the many terms that exist in sociolinguistics is women's language which is more focused on the study of the language used by women. This research based on linguistics studies that focus on Lakoff theory, namely women's language. The focus of the study examined in this research is on the female character in the film Danish Girl. How the use of the women's language is explained and examined in detail and then provides an explanation of the function of the language use based on the theory of Lakoff.

Sometimes, women generally have several languages that tend to be difficult to understand and have several vocabularies that are different from men. The language spoken by women has many meanings and terms that sometimes have meaning in each of their utterances. Although not all women have a language that is sometimes quite complicated, but most of women tend to use language that more sentimental or more emotional than men. Lakoff describes woman language in several terms to describe parts of women's language. According to Lakoff, there are ten categories that describe women's language. Among them are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, „empty“ adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, „superpolite“ forms, avoidance of strong swear, and the last „emphatic“ stress. In the ten theories from Lakoff, it has been explained how the use of language in women who tend to be different from men who are more synonymous with decisive and more lead.

The object of the study examined is the dialogue of the female character from the Danish girl film in which the dialogue of the female character is Gerda Wegener. The researcher sorts out the categories of dialogue that adjust to the Lakoff theory then in each of these categories will be explained how the function of the types of woman's language itself. In the explanation, it will be explained how the description and analysis in each category are presented in order to more easily understand the essence of this research.

1.6 Previous Study

The researcher has identified several previous studies that have similarities object, topics, and research method. This previous research serves to be a reference for relevant studies, which can help the researcher to continue writing.

The first previous study is from Aini (2016) with the title of the research *Women Language Used by The Main Characters of "Mockingjay" Movie*. In this study, the focus of the study is on the use of women's language used in mockingjay movie. This study uses male and female characters as the object of study analysis. In this study, the researcher provides a study of how the use of

women's language in female and male characters in the film *Mockingjay*. The researcher uses utterances on the characters contained in the film as data used to analyze women's language. Researcher used Lakoff's theory in analyzing the women's language used by the characters in the film. In this study, researcher found that male characters also use features of women's language because it is based on situations and conditions. In the male character, the use that is often used is the use of rising intonation because sometimes the male character also feels not too sure of his own decision. The data used by researcher is the film "*Mockingjay*" part one and part two. The researcher then observes the data through the word, word phrase, and sentence on the characters of the *Mockingjay* film related to the theory used.

The second previous study is from Anas (2017) entitled *Linguistics Features Wanita Dalam Serial Film New Girl: Kajian Sociolinguistik*. This study provides a topic about what women's linguistics features are presented in the *New Girl* film and the study's researcher also shows the women's linguistic features used by the characters in the *New Girl* film. This study takes data from the utterances of the main characters in four episodes of the *New Girl* movie series, then the researcher classifies the data based on the women's linguistic features used on the two figures as the focus of the object of study.

The third is from Murti (2018) entitled *An Analysis of Women's Language Features Used by Mia in The Princess Diaries Movie*. In this study, the researcher only focuses on the women's language features used by Mia characters in the film *Princess Diaries*. In this study, researcher used Lakoff's theory to examine data using women's language features and Pearson's theory to examine data from women's language functions. Researcher then analyzes the data that is owned through utterances on Mia's character. The data used is the dialogue spoken by Mia in the film and then transcribed.

The fourth previous study, namely from Herdiana (2018), with the title of the study *The Characteristics of Male and Female Language Used in La La Land 2016 Movie*. In this study, researcher used two data sources. The first data is obtained from the *La La Land* movie script. Then the second data source is from

books, essays, articles, and several other sources related to research. This study focuses on how differences in meaning in language that correspond to gender differences in character, then what factors make these differences occur, and characteristics of these differences. Researcher revealed that the use of women's language in female characters is to create an atmosphere of intimacy and make connections more than male characters. While the purpose of the male character in the film is to better know its whereabouts and get status. The technique in collecting data in this study was watching a movie and then reading the movie script.

The fifth previous study from Amalia (2019), entitled *Women's Language Features Used by Hillary Clinton in Formal and Informal Situations*. In this topic, the researcher analyzes how the different women's language used by Hillary Clinton in her speech in formal and informal situations. The data used in this research is Hillary Clinton's most famous speech video with the same topic of discussion obtained from the YouTube platform. Researcher collected data that was used as material for analysis by translating Hillary Clinton utterances from videos collected into text which were then categorized according to Lakoff's theory used by researcher. Then the researcher interprets the data obtained in accordance with Lakoff's theory of analysis. In the use of women's language in formal and informal situations, researcher explained that there are some similarities in the use of women's language spoken by Hillary Clinton. Some aspects of differences in language use by Hillary Clinton are due to differences in the formal and informal situation itself.

The sixth previous study is from Rubbyanti (2017) entitled *Women's Language in Sense and Sensibility BBC Miniseries: A Sociolinguistic Study*. On this topic, the researcher analyzed how the features of the women's language, the functions of women's language, and social characteristics were described through how the use of women's language by main female characters in the sense and sensibility of BBC miniseries. The data used was taken from utterances obtained from the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that show the features and functions of the women's language. The results of this study found that there were

nine women's language features used, namely lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Then there are five uses of the women's language function. Finally, there are three characteristics of the society which are reflected in the women's language used.

The last previous study is from Dina (2017) entitled *Gender Feature in Women and Men's Skin Care Advertisements*. In this study, researcher discussed how gender features are used in skincare advertisements for women and men. Researcher argues that female advertising not only uses female features but also uses male features and vice versa. This study uses the theory of Lakoff and Mulac in analyzing the data. From the data and theory used, the researcher found that in advertisements, women and men have several differences in the use of gender features. A significant difference is the use of adjectives. The adjectives used in male advertisements are more neutral such as cool and strong, whereas in female advertisements the use of adjectives is more subtle such as soft and beautiful.

From the seven studies above, this research has a different object of analysis. The object of the study discussed is a film from 2015, namely the Danish Girl film using the utterances of the character Gerda Wegener. The theory that used is from Lakoff's theory which discusses women's language in general. Previous research has focused more on the use of women's language in women and their differences with men. This study further emphasizes the use of women's language and the function of the women's language used in female characters, namely Gerda Wegener.