

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Women's Language

Women's language indicates the characteristic of women's behavior. Because someone's language shows their role in the society, women should have certain speech feature to be shown in their society. According to Lakoff (1975: 6) women experience linguistic discrimination in the way they are taught to use language, and in the way general language treats them. Both of them are related with the function or the role of women in their society. So women have to choose their best language when they interact with other people.

According to Holmes, women's linguistic behavior can be seen mostly when women used more standard forms than men. In many speech communities, when women use more of a linguistic form than men, it is generally the standard form which overtly prestigious form that women favour (Holmes 1995 : 170). Holmes adds that women used more standard form because of four reasons, they are appeals to social class and its related status, refers to women's role in society, relates to women's status as a subordinate group, and relates with the function of speech expressing masculinity.

Women use more standard form because they are more status-conscious than men. Standard speech forms are associated with high social status, so women use them as a way of claiming such status. Holmes also said that women are

actually lack of status in the society, so they try to acquire it by using standard speech forms. Holmes in his research found that women who work in public places or services tend to use more standard form than women who stayed at home. Those women who work outside are habitually interacted with other people who use standard forms too, so it is had effect on their own usage.

The second reason they use more standard forms is women have role as guardian of social's values. The fact that women use more standard forms than men points to the way society tend to expect better behavior from women than from men (Holmes 1995 : 72). Standard forms are commonly associated with more formal and less personal interactions so the society expects women to use them because women are serving as models for children's speech. women are also designated the role of modeling correct behavior in the community.

Then women's use of more standard forms is related with their place to be the subordinate group. People who are subordinate must be polite, they must avoid offending men so they must speak politely and carefully. By using more standard speech, women are looking after their need to be valued by the society and avoiding offence to othres (Holmes 1995 : 173). It is also suggested that women use it in order to be more promising to the people whom they are talking. The last reason of the using of standard form is because standard forms are associated with female values and femininity. In the other hand, women don't use vernacular forms because they don't want the society looks their masculinity than their femininity.

2.1.2 Women's Speech Features

The women's speech features here are based on Lakoff's theory. Lakoff is an American Sociolinguist who had investigated the difference between men and women language. In her book entitled "*Language and Woman's Place*", she wrote about the women's speech features. Her finding became the first trigger for the other sociolinguists to do the same research on language and gender. Lakoff characterized women's speech features as follow

2.1.2.1 Lexical Hedges or Filler

Lakoff say that hedging is one of characteristic of woman's language. It expresses a lack of confidence and reflects of woman's insecurity. Hedges are linguistic forms such as *I think, I'm sure, you know, sort of and perhaps*. These words express the speaker's certainty or uncertainty in a conversation. Poynton (1989: 71) say that "hedge is variety of means by which one can say something a little short of indicating that something categorally is, or is not, the case". By hedges, refers to the frequent use of such phrases as sort a or sort of, like, you know, well, kind a, kind of, I guess, and, it seems like.

2.1.2.2 Tag Questions

Tag question is a syntactic device listed by Lakoff, which may express uncertainty, for Example: "Her dress is very old fashion, isn't it?". Tag question is used when the speaker is stating a claim, but lacks full confidence about that claim which conveyed to other people. According to Lakoff, tag question might be used by female speakers to ask confirmation whether the hearers agree about what they have just said or not. A tag question does not force agreement on the addressee.

Sometimes we find a tag question is used in cases in which the speaker knows the addressee well what the answer must be, and doesn't need confirmation, for example: "It is pretty cold right here, isn't it?".

2.1.2.3 Rising Intonation on Declaratives

Related to the use of syntactic rule, Lakoff found a widespread difference perceptible in women's intonational patterns. There is a peculiar sentence intonation pattern found in English only among women which has the form of declarative answer to a question, and is used as such, but has the rising inflection typical of yes no question, as well as being especially hesitant. The effect is as though one were seeking confirmation, though at the same time the speaker may be the only one who has the requisite information (Lakoff 1975:17)

- a) When will dinner be ready?
- b) Oh . . . around six o'clock?

Sentence (a) is put in the position of having to provide confirmation, and (b) is unsure because it is as though that at six o'clock, if that's OK with (a), if (a) agree. Here it is found that the unwillingness to assert an opinion carried to an extreme. Those sorts of speech pattern are taken to reflect something real about character and play a part in not taking a woman seriously or trusting her with any real responsibilities, since "she can't make up her mind" and "isn't sure of herself."

Lakoff adds that such declarative features are probably part of general fact that women's speech sound much more polite than men's. One aspects of politeness is as when women are leaving a decision open, not imposing other's

mind, or views, or claims on anyone else. In addition, tag question is also a polite statement, in that it does not force agreement or belief on the addressee.

2.1.2.4 'Empty' Adjective

There is a group of adjectives which have, besides their specific and literal meanings, another use, that of indicating the speaker's approbation or admiration. It is called 'empty adjectives, which only convey an emotional reaction rather than specific information. Some of these adjectives are neutral as to sex of speaker: either men or women may use them. But another set seems, in its figurative use, to be largely confined to women's speech. representative list of both speech are neutral and women's only.

Neutral	Women only
Great	Adorable
Terrific	Charming
Cool	Sweet
Neat	Lovely
	Divine

Lakoff argued that for a man to stray into women's column will damage his reputation, than women are freely to use the neutral words. A woman use women's words without risks. Besides that, woman has a choice between the

neutral words and women's words but men are not. Women may be suggesting very different things about her own personality and her view of the the subject matter by her choice of words of neutral or women's words (Lakoff 1975:12).

2.1.2.5 Precise Color-Term

Women's language shows up in all level of the grammar of English (Lakoff 1975:8). We find differences in the choice and frequency of lexical items, as like in the situations in which certain syntactic rules are performed, in intonational and other super segmental patterns. Lakoff gives the example of the lexical difference when women make more precise in naming colors, as like mauve, plum, beige, ecru, lavender, magenta, aquamarine, etc are unremarkable in a woman's active vocabulary, but most men don't use it. When women use the words like "lavender" or "mauve", men considered such a question trivial and irrelevant with the real world.

The discrimination of color is relevant for women rather than for men happened since women are not expected to make decision on important matters, such as what kinds of job to hold, they are relegated the noncrucial decisions as a sop. Deciding whether to name a color "lavender" or "mauve" is one such sop (Lakoff:1975:9). When man say the name of color that usually used by women, one might will conclude he was imitating a woman sarcastically or as a homosexual or an interior decorator.

2.1.2.6 Intensifiers

The kinds of intensifiers that indicate more characteristic of women's language are so, just, very, and quite. Lakoff argued that intensive "so" is more

frequent in women's than men's language, although men can also use it. We have an attempt to hedge on one's strong feelings, as though to say: I feel strongly about this but I dare not make it clear how strong. To say, "I like him very much, "would be to say precisely that you like him to a great extent. To say, "I like him so much" weasels on that intensity: again, a device you'd use if you felt it unseemly to show you had strong emotions, or to make strong assertions, but felt you had to say something along those lines anyway (Lakoff 1975:55). Substituting an intensifier like so for absolute superlative (like, very, really, utterly) seems to be way of backing out of committing oneself strongly to an opinion.

2.1.2.7 **Hypercorrect grammar**

Hypercorrect grammar is the consistent use of standard verb forms. Women are not supposed to talk rough. It has been found that from a very young age, little boys drop their ing's much more do little girls: boys say "singin", "goin", and so on, while girls are less appropriate to use it. Similarly little boys are less appropriate than little girls to be scolded for saying "ain't" or at least they are scolded less severely, because "ain't" is more appropriate to remain in their vocabularies than in their sister. Generally women are viewed as being the preserves of literary and culture, Jespersen as cited in Lakoff remarks that women are more prone to neologism than men and hence more likely to be originators of linguistic change. (Lakoff 1975:55)

2.1.2.8 **"Superpolite" Form**

Lakoff said that women tend to be more polite than men, not just in these ways, using affective in order to show support for another speaker and asking

question to involve someone in the conversation. Women are supposed use more “superpolite forms” than men, that is the use of indirect requests (saying please and thank you). For example: “Please close the door”. As we know, politeness is really related to women’s behavior as their part of identity.

2.1.2.9 Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

Swear word is commonly used by men. Swearing is not only related to gender but also social class. Therefore, there is deference between women and men in using swear words. Lakoff (in Fasold, 1990: 103) points out that for most part, women are not expected to use strong expletives, such as “damn” or “shit”, but they are encouraged to substitute weaker ones like “oh dear”, “goodness”, or “oh fudge”. The choice of particle is to show how strong one allows oneself to feel about something, so that the strength of an emotion conveyed in a sentence corresponds to the strength of the particle.

2.1.2.10 Emphatic Stress

Emphatic stress is a typical of special stress that is given by the speaker to some word in a sentence, usually to single out, compare, correct or clarify things. Women like to use words which are used to emphasize the utterance or strengthen the meaning of an utterance. Women like to use emphatic stress to strengthen the strength of an assertion, for example “He is really handsome!” and “It was a brilliant performance.” The word brilliant is one example of emphatic stress that used to strengthen the meaning of the utterance.

2.1.3 Previous Study

There are some studies supporting this research that have relation to women's speech features theory, First is a study about *women speech features that used in Sex and The City movie*, by Futika Permatasari (2009). She analyzed the speech features that used by all women character in this movie. The writer analyzed this movie used Lakoff's theory. She found that the characters in Sex and The City movie are lack of confident and showed their powerlessness. This study is related with modern women since this movie is about social life in this era. The women's characters are also almost same with many women in this era whom like to have party and socialize with other modern people.

Second study is *women speech style in "desperate housewives" TV series*, by Nuri Februarini (2008). In Nuri study analyzed about women and men characters speech style using speech style theory. She used eight types of women's speech features as seen through Lakoff's theory then elaborated it by the classification, the frequencies, and the reason of the using of women speech style. She emphasized her study only on the women speech style and conventional strategies but this study will have deeper analysis of ten types of women's speech features used by characters in the movie.

Meanwhile, this study analysis about the Women's Speech Features in *The Iron Lady* movie. The previous study is extremely different with the recent writer research. The recent research uses movie with the title *The Iron Lady*. The writer the main character. The writer focuses on ten types women's speech features by using Lakoff Theory. The writer takes The Iron Lady because reflects

the real condition and society in British with the language that used by the women characters.