

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is one of the ways how to communicate with the other people. As we know that human life is not far from communication. It is caused communication is a way of interaction, sending and receiving messages or information. It is also a way of exchanging thought, feeling, and emotions. Communication itself can not work without a language. As Francis (1958:13) said that “a language is an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use of by a group of humans as a means of carrying on the affairs of theirs socially”. It means that language is one of parts human systematical life especially in communication.

Sometimes there is miscommunication in woman and man’s conversation, although they speak in the same language, for example in English. This is caused by several factors and one of the factors is gender factor.

According to Jendra (2010:51), “Language is sometimes believed to be varied in accordance with the gender, namely men’s language variety and women’s language variety”. As Newman, Groom, Handelman & Pennebaker (2008:212), said that “language is an inherently social phenomenon and can provide insight into how men and women approach their social worlds”. Based on

Newman, Groom, Handelman & Pennebaker statement above, it can be concluded that men and women have different way in communication. It knows in the reality that women talk more with one another than man do.

According to Holmes in *An Introducing to Sociolinguistic* (1992:164), “Women and men do not speak in exactly the same way as each other in any community”. The linguistic forms used by women and men contrast to different degrees in all speech. Between men and women have their own characteristic and behavior in the society, so it can make them become different in some aspects, especially in the way they use language in their communication. There are some differences between man and woman speech, for example, when men talked to men, the content categories of such talk focused on competition and teasing, sports, aggression, and doing things. On the other hand, when women talked to women, the equivalent categories were the self, feelings, their relation with other, home, and family. In the way they speak also different, women usually use more polite forms and more compliments than men. As Brend (cited in Wardhaugh, 2006:321) claims that the intonation patterns of men and women vary somewhat, women using certain patterns associated with surprise and politeness more often than men.

Besides differences in the way of men and women speech, men and women also have different speech function. As Lakoff (1975:39) stated that “women experience linguistic discrimination in two ways: in the way they are taught to use language, and in the way general language use treats them”. Both tend to relegate women to certain subservient functions and certain lexical items

mean one thing applied to man, another to women. So, women have complicated place in using language.

Some linguists have suggested that women use more standard speech forms than men. Descriptions that women's speech display more variety in intonation than men's, women use euphemisms more than men, women make more use of expressive adjectives, use intonation indicating uncertainty, more indirect and polite, better grammar and fewer colloquialisms, and tend to be collaborative rather than competitive, are among the most often cited differences between the two varieties (Jendra, 2010:52). In Lakoff (1975) research, there are ten types of speech features that commonly used by women such as lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Ten types of women's speech features are claimed to be used more often by women than men in their communication.

One of the ways to know about women's speech is by watching movie where the main character of the movie is a woman who has special character or special utterance in her speech. Then, it can be found some women's speech features that used by the character.

This research focus on a study of women's speech features based on Lakoff's theory which used by the main characters in "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" movie as the object of the study. It was co-produced by *Walden Media* and *Walt Disney Pictures* and distributed by

Buena Vista Pictures. This movie released on December 9, 2005, and adapted from the first published and second chronological novel in C.S. Lewis's children's epic fantasy series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chronicles_of_Narnia:_The_Lion,_the_Witch_and_the_Wardrobe).

This movie tells about four Pevensie children. They are Peter Pevensie, Susan Pevensie, Edmund Pevensie and Lucy Pevensie. Pevensie children are endangered by a Second World War. They are evacuated to the country home of Professor Digory Kirke who is not accustomed to having children. While Pevensies are playing hide-and-seek, one of the Pevensie children named Lucy, discovers a wardrobe and enters a wintry fantasy world called Narnia. Then, she tells to her sibling about that, but they do not believe it. One day, Pevensies were playing cricket and the ball break the glass of the window. So, they run away from Mrs. Macready, professor's housekeeper, and retreat to the wardrobe and enter Narnia. In the Narnia, they meet with The Lion and The Witch.

The writer decides to pick the dialogues in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* movie as the corpus of her study because the main characters of this movie is a woman, they are Susan Pevensie, Lucy Pevensie, and The Witch. The writer assumes that the female characters will certainly use the linguistic features defined by Robin Lakoff. Besides, this movie has become popular to positive reviews and was highly successful at the box office grossing. It also won various awards, for example in Movie Guide Awards for Best Film for Families and Epiphany Prize. Therefore, by choosing the

dialogues of the movie which have been known by a lot of people, it can make the reader will be interesting to read and can attract curiosity about women's speech features.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, there are two sets of questions that are generated to guide this study:

1. What types of women's speech features are used by the main characters in "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" movie?
2. Which type of women's speech features used by the main characters in "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" movie occurs most frequently?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Concerning to the statements of the problem, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the types of women's speech features used by the main characters in "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" movie.
2. To find out the type of women's speech features which occurs most frequently by the main characters in "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The first significance of this study is hopefully can encourage the reader to know about sociolinguistic especially studies about women's language and women's speech features by watching the movie. The second significance is expected to give more useful information for ordinary researcher who is interested in studying and analyzing the phenomena of language in society, or language and gender in particular. The last significance of this research hopefully can help the readers especially for the English Department Students in *UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya* to conduct the research about this movie with another aspect in the different field.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This research focuses on Sociolinguistics especially on women's speech features that used by the main characters in "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" as analyzed trough Lakoff's theory.

The scope of this study is concerned on ten types of women's speech features according to Lakoff. They are lexical hedges fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, precise colors terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. This study is limited in the use of utterances made by the main characters in the "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" movie.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding, some key terms used in this study are defined:

1. Women's language is at least as much a characterization of a widespread cultural ideology (or, in Lakoff's terms, a stereotype) of how women ought to speak as it is a description of the actual linguistic practices of real women (Lakoff, 1975).
2. Women's speech features are features of speech that commonly uttered by women than by men in the way they are speaking. The features are divided into ten include lexical hedges fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, precise colors terms, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' form, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress (Lakoff 1975).
3. "*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*" movie is a 2005 fantasy adventure film directed by Andrew Adamson. It was co-produced by *Walden Media* and *Walt Disney Pictures* and distributed by *Buena Vista Pictures*. This movie adapted from the first published and second chronological novel in C.S. Lewis's children's epic fantasy series, this movie was released on December 9, 2005, in both Europe and North America to positive reviews and was highly successful at the box office grossing more than \$745 million worldwide, making it 2005's third most successful film. It won the 2005 Academy Award for Best Makeup and various other awards. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chronicles_of_Narnia:_The_Lion,_the_Witch_and_the_Wardrobe).