

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background, the statement of problem that this study seek to answer, research objective, research objective, research significant and definition of key term.

1. 1 Background

Woman and man are two different human kinds who have different characteristic. As human being, woman has her own characteristic which man not have. Man and woman have different features which make them in several aspects. According to Elgin (1993:63), one clear example which differentiates men and women is that women tend to pitch their voice higher than men and strike against them in almost every language interaction whereas men have lower tone in their speaking.

Lately some sociolinguistic have found other features which reflect the differences between woman and man. They found that man and woman have different ways of speaking. Man and woman have different language features although they speak the same language. Otto Jespersen (1992, cited in Permatasari, 2010: 16) found that there are several aspects of language different between man and woman. Those aspects are different in the choice of word, vocabulary, and grammar used.

Lakoff (1972, cited in Eckert, 2003:52), said that a way of speaking that reflects and produces a subordinate position in society. Women claimed to have less confidence to talk than men because they are powerless. Lakoff (cited in Cameron, 1990:222) also said that women have the complicated place in language, because they are to speak like lady, means gently and politely. Women's language show their powerlessness and weakness. If they refused to speak like a lady, they will be ridiculed as unfeminine, but if they speak politely and gently, they will be called as people who cannot speak about serious problem and think clearly. In contrast, men are generally more tolerated, more freedom, rude and mischievous than women in conversation. This implies that women are more subordinate than men. Thus, they are more aware of the fact that their social status is obviously seen by the way they speak.

According to Lakoff (cited in Cameron, 1990, 223:233), there are ten elements of speech features that women use, as identified by Lakoff, her finding are based on intuition and observation. They are considered as representation of women expression of uncertainty and lack confidence. Those speech features are *lexical hedging or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise color term), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect grammar, 'super polite' form, avoidance of strong swear word, and emphatic stress*. Those ten types of women's speech features are claimed to be used more often by women than by men in their communication.

Communication can be defined as a device used by women or men for making connection to each other. It is used for sharing or conveying information

among people. Recently, communication has been extended to be used by people in the entire of the world. They make conversation and talk to each others to share information. Communication, it can be found not only in oral text but also in written text such as a journal.

In English Department of Adab and Humanities faculty UIN SGD Bandung, making the journal is a task which must do by the student to fill the assignment of the final examination, especially in American Literature course and Morphology course. According to Mariah Webster Online Dictionary, journal is personal record of occurrences, experiences, and reflections kept on a regular basis; a diary. Making journal in English department UIN Bandung has goals to make the students remember what they do, what they listen and what they understand in the class.

Female student's journal being an interesting journal because as Brinzadien (2006 cited in Macrae, 2006:11) said that women devote more brain cells to talking than men because women have an eight – lane superhighway (which means that they devote more brain cells for communication, emotion and memory) while men have a small country road (which means that they have smaller areas responsible for communication, emotion and memory). However in certain situation women are also claimed to have less confidence to talk than men because women are powerless.

From those reason this study focuses on analyzing the journal using woman's speech features, proposed by Lakoff's framework (1975) as a tool of

analysis. In addition, there is also a possibility that women's speech features will appear in the journal because it represent of human experiences which posting in written text form. Moreover, the important reason because it is language, which give more data to be analyzed using theory of women's speech features

. There have been some studies which applying Lakoff framework such as Kuriha (2009), Permatasari (2010) and Pebrianti (2013). First, the study entitled *A study on woman's language in English and Japanese Societies*, was conducted by Kuriha (2009). It focuses on the change of female language, especially the study of female features in English and Japanese societies referring to the references. Kuriha (2009) was interested in comparing between features of woman's language in English society and features of woman's language in Japanese.

Second, study related to woman's language features conducted by Permatasari (2010) who observed *Woman Speech Features Used by the Character Sex and City Movie*. This study focused on how the four characters of Sex and City movie namely Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte, and Samantha use woman's speech features in several setting, such as restaurant, library, apartment Mexican resort and street. In analyzing the data, she used descriptive qualitative method. Moreover, Permatasari (2010) proved that the character of Sex and City movie used women' speech features which reflect uncertainty and lack the confidence because women tend to have trouble in starting conversation and avoiding saying definite things in their statement.

Last, Pebrianti (2013) studied about *Woman Language Features Used by Indonesian Female Blogger*. She analyzed the blog's posting by Indonesian female. It was conducted to find what types and which types of women's linguistic features occur most frequently and she also analyzed the possible reasons that may affect the use of woman language features done by Indonesian female blogger.

Although Kuriha (2009), Permatasari (2010) and Pebrianti (2013) have discovered women's language features within the same framework by Lakoff (1975), they had different aspects in investigating their studies. Kuriha (2009) tried to examine how the phenomenon of women's language features in Western Countries occurs in Japanese society and Permatasari (2010) tried to seek the phenomenon of women's language features only in English society which figure out by the actress in the movie. Whereas, Pebrianti (2013) tried to examine women's language features that are observed in Indonesian female blogger

Different from those three previous study which observed women's language features proposed by Lakoff's framework (1975). This present study will discuss about student's journal of English Department UIN SGD Bandung uses Lakoff's theory focusing on nine types women's speech features. It tries to investigate the phenomena of women's speech features in writing journal with its type and how it is used in women's writing about their experience then analyzing what the speech features are mainly used by the student.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Base on the Background of the study the statement of problem in this study is as follows:

1. How are women's speech features used by female students of English Department UIN SGD Bandung in writing journal?
2. What the speech features are mainly used by the female student in writing journal?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research problem above, the aims of this study are:

1. To find out how female's student of English Department UIN SGD Bandung use women's language features in writing journal.
2. To investigate the speech features are mainly used by English Department's student of UIN SGD Bandung

1.4 Research Scope

This research focused on the woman's language features used by English Department student in writing journal, particularly those who have a rule of writing. This study employed journal which has been written by some female student of English Department UIN SGD Bandung. The journal tells about the student activities during followed that course in one semester. The phenomena of woman language features were achieved through Robin Tolmach Lakoff's in women's language features. Although Lakoff's framework included ten features, this study only focused on nine features that relate to written text, there are *lexical*

hedges or fillers, tag question, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise color terms), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'super polite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress

1.5 Research Significance

The result of this research is expected to give contributions as follows:

- The result of this study is expected to give practical contribution for the Sociolinguistics lecturers to be a source and empirical data in teaching about language and gender especially about women's speech features, they can use this research as the example how women's speech features are used by the writer in writing journal. In addition, they also can know about the use of women's speech features in writing journal.
- It is hoped that this research can become a reference for linguistic students to learn more about women's speech features. In addition, it is hoped that the result of this research can give information about Lakoff's theory of women's speech features when they are studying about language and gender.
- This research is hoped to be able to give contribution and foundation for future research who are interested in women's speech features to be analyzed more deeply. In addition, this research can become comparison for the future research especially in analyzing women's speech feature.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

Several terms need to be clarified in order to avoid misconception and to comprehend the same notion in investigating the statement of problem as follows:

1. Gender : the social elaboration of biological sex whereas sex is biological categorization between men and women based primarily on their reproductive potential (Eckert, 2010:10)
2. Woman's language features: several aspect of language used by woman to differentiate between woman and man's characteristic. It includes: *lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonations on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise color terms), intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'super polite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.*(Lakoff, 1975 cited in Holmes, 2001:286)
3. Journal: personal record of occurrences, experiences, and reflections kept on a regular basis; a diary (Mariam Webster Onlijne Dictionary) but journal here is writing like daily record of students when they followed American Literature and Morphology course.

