

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents important concepts in conducting this research under the title Men and Women Language Features of The Judges in Masterchef Australia 2021. The first part of this chapter is background of research which aimed to explain the information related to the topic and the reason why the topic is chosen. Then, there are the research questions and research objectives which aimed to help the researcher draw the problem formulation. The next part is research significants which explained the benefits of this research. Then, the last is definition of key terms to define the key words appears in this research to avoid misunderstanding.

1.1 Background

As social beings, humans need language to deliver their thoughts, ideas, and emotions. Language is an essential tool for humans in doing interaction among them (Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 1). Language helps people to spread information and knowledge among them. With language, humans build interaction and convey their idea, opinion, and feeling to each other. Language is an important part in our social life. It shows that language is a crucial instrument for people in doing a communication among them and also used to build an interaction (Bloomfield in Nabilah, 2019, p. 1). By using language, people can run communication effectively and can understand each other. From the roles of language in our life it can be seen that language is very closely or intimately tied to human life, and is a familiar experience that determines its essence is difficult (Widdowson, 1996, p.17). Therefore, the use of language is cannot be separated to humans in our daily lives.

As human being, the user of language are universal. It could be man, woman, adults, children, and so forth. In sociolinguistics, there is a language division based on a person's gender since men and women show a different way in producing and using language. In their daily conversations, men and women use language differently. The difference of gender in using language is only one of the aspects of more pervasive linguistic differences that is exist in our societies and it is reflect people's social status or power differences (Holmes, 1992, p.166). This means that each individual has the characteristics of their respective languages to represent their social status and position in the societies. Gender is something we cannot avoid, it is the part of the way how the society is organized around us. The categories of gender in our societies make it hard for people to live with nongendered way or to behave in a gendered behavior (Eckert, P. and McConnell-Ginet, 2003, p. 50). Therefore, it can be said that gender is an important component of someone's identity. What is means with the term gender here is different with sex. Sex is determined biologically whereas gender is a societal construct (but still strongly based in sex) (Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 315). Moreover, gender is the term used to define socially formed classifications based on sex, while sex refers to a biological distinction (Coates, 2013, p. 4). Sex is what is usually categorized as either female or male and gender is referring to the behaviours, physical appearance, and acts. Most of the societies used the terms in referring the character related to two genders, masculine and feminine. This means, it can be said that the gender category is simple binary opposition (Coates, 2013, p.4). Therefore the term used in this paper is gender since it discusses people's habits, specifically in doing conversation.

Men and women are two different human kinds who have their own social characteristics which differentiate each other. An example that can be seen clearly about the difference between men and women is that women in their talks, they tend to pitch the voices higher than men, which works against them in almost every verbal interaction, whereas men have lower tone when they talk (Elgin, 1993, p.63). Another example that differentiate men and women on their social behaviour are belief that men use more swear words than women, women are tend to be more polite than men, and so on (Coates, 2013, p. 86). From the evidence, gender is one of the factors which influences the language in societies.

Lately, linguists have found other aspects which reflect the differences between men and women. They found that men and women have different way in speaking. The investigation of the differences between the speech of men and women began from time to time until the 1970s. A linguist, Robin Lakoff in 1975 was the first who introduced women's language to distinguish the different speech of men and women. Lakoff proposed theories related to the existence of women's language. Lakoff's book titled *Language and Women's Place* has served as the basis theory for many other research related to the subject of women's language. Men and women have different characteristics of language although they speak the same language. They shows a number of differences in term of choice and frequency of lexical items in the situations in which certain syntactic rules are performed in intonational and other suprasegmental patterns (Lakoff, 1975, p.8). Men and women habitually show certain characteristics that distingusih them from one another. Gender plays a role in language variance, particularly in word choices (Wardhaugh, 2006, p.320). In a nutshell, when men and women communicate, they use different ways of producing

words. In term of features, there are some differences between men and women language which frequently found in everyday life. Holmes explained that women's language usually deals with politeness and conveying feelings. They also tend to uses more question marks and hedges in their speech. While men's language is usually associated with slang and uses more direct language rather than the women do (Holmes, 2001, p. 154). To limit the problem of discussion so that it is no too broad, the gender differences in term of language which discussed in this present study is focus on linguistic form, with the words, phrases, and sentences as the highest unit of structure.

Men and women language can easily be found in everyday communication. Likewise on any writing and show that we found everyday such as movie, television show, readings, and so on. By using the development of technology, people can access any popular topics whether it is in the form of spectacles, readings, or information. One of the popular medias today where people can get entertained is television show. On television show, there are various kinds of obstacles that people can easily access them anywhere. Some of the popular television show today are competition show, such as cooking competitions, talent search competitions, and so on. Among the various kinds of popular television show, a phenomenon of language was found there.

In conducting this research, the object will be used is a television show titled Masterchef Australia. Masterchef Australia is a competitive cooking game show produced by Shine Australia and screens on Network 10. The show presented a number of contestants and three judges, which mostly consist of male and female judges. The researcher choose Masterchef Australia since english is required to conduct this research and it was the best of all Masterchef programs according to IMDb.com with a rating of 8.2/10, more than any

other Masterchef programs. On the other hand, Masterchef Australia program used in this research is the 13th season which premiered on 19 April 2021 on Network Ten due to reason that it is the latest season of Masterchef Australia today. The object is chosen to discuss because a phenomenon of language and gender was found in the male and female judges' speech on Masterchef Australia 2021.

There have been several studies covering the phenomenon of men and women's language and the features conducted by other researchers. First, a research conducted by Monica Leoni Daraninggar Murti in 2018. The research used the theory of Lakoff about women's language features to identify the language features of women that are used by the female character in a movie under the title 'The Princess Diaries'. From the research, eight of ten features related to the language features of women were discovered in the movie. These are 30 lexical hedges or fillers, 25 intensifiers, 9 hypercorrect grammar, 10 superpolite forms, 5 emphatic stress, 3 rising intonations, 1 empty adjective, and 4 tag questions. While the precise colour terms feature and avoidance of strong swear words feature were not found in 'The Princess Diaries' movie. The research also did not find any scene where the main character was talking about fashion or colors. The character also replaced the feature of avoidance of strong swear words with other sentences or phrases that also can show her strong emotion. In addition to the language features of women, the research also discovered that the use of each feature used by the character was various. The research discovered the functions of each feature based on the theory about language features proposed by Judy Pearson (1985) which to get response, to start a discussion, to express uncertainty, to soften the utterances, and to express opinions or feelings. From the research, it is found that the functions of hedges or fillers are to start a discussion and to

express the uncertainty in an utterance. Then, the function of tag questions was to get response and to show or xpress opinions and feelings. Then, the features of hypercorrect grammar and superpolite forms functioned as the tool to soften the utterances. The next feature, rising intonations, functioned to express the character's uncertainty. Then, the features of Intensifiers, Empty adjectives, and Emphatic Stress have the functions to express the character's opinions and feelings toward something.

Second previous research is a research conducted by Intan Maya Hapsari in 2014 which analyzes the male and female authors' language features in two short stories under the title *The Yellow Wallpaper* and *A Rose for Emily*. In the research, the differences related to the language features used by the male and female authors in those short stories were also analyzed. In conducting the analysis the research is based on the Sociolinguistics of Men and Women's language representation theory presented by Robin Lakoff in 1975. The researcher on the research also classified the finding data based on the theory of Lakoff about linguistic features and analyzed the data based on the ten categories of women's language features and also the four categories of men's language features. Then the research provided the finding data with describing and explaining the context of the data that have selected which were in the form of word, phrases, and statements. From the analysis of the research, it is found that there are two out of four men's language features used by the male author in the story 'A Rose for Emily', those are the features of Commands and Interruptions. While, from the female author it is found three out of ten women's language features used by the female author in the short story *The Yellow Wallpaper*. The features are Intensifier, Lexical Hedges, and Empty Adjective. From the research has conducted, this shows the support for the view that both men and women

exhibit different linguistic behaviors according to their social interaction. The language used by women was found to be tentative in that the female author used hedges more often than the male author. However, several features of women's language features did not appear in *The Yellow Wallpaper* short story. For example, Hypercorrect Grammar. This seems to be happened because *The Yellow Wallpaper* short story is written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman which she wrote the story as the personal experience of the author, that is why she as a female mostly used informal language in the writing of her short story.

The third previous research is a research conducted by Agnes Setyowati H, Alika Putri Badari, and Ni Made Widisanti in 2019 which analyzes the language features and its functions in women's speech in the talkshow *United States of Women Summit*. The object of the research is Michelle Obama's speech in a talkshow video for the *United States of Women Summit* which attended by two famous figures, Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey. The talkshow video is titled *First Lady Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey Hold a Conversation on the Next Generation of Women*. The video was uploaded in the official site of The White House. The researcher used Lakoff's theory of female speech features to analyze the data. In the research, the data was in the form of transcription text which taken from <http://obamawhitehouse.archive.gov>. According to the results of the analysis has been conducted, it is discovered that Michelle Obama used seven kinds of the female language features on her speech. The seven kinds of female language features found are tag question, empty adjective, raising intonation on declaratives, avoidance of strong swear words, intensifier, lexical hedges, and emphatic stress. Then the functions of each features which discovered on the research are in order to serve as booster device and hedges device. In the research, it is found two data included into Empty Adjective features and each of the data

found appears with the functions to strengthen the utterances of the speakers or also known as booster devices. Then, there was one data that included to Tag Question and functioned to weaken the utterances of the speaker. Then the third, there was two pieces of Raising Intonation feature and it used as booster devices and hedges devices. One data of Avoidance of Strong Swear Word feature was also found and functioned as a weaker of the utterances of the speaker or also known as hedges device. Six pieces data of Emphatic Stress were found and all of the used served as strengthening for the speech of the speaker or as booster devices. Three data of Lexical Hedges found and all of the data found served as weakened the speaker's speech or hedges device since the speaker shows the unsure about the speech. The last feature is Intensifier which was found three data and all of the data found functioned as a booster device in the utterance. For the next result, the research was not found some female language features, there are hypercorrect grammar, precise color terms, and superpolite forms on Michelle Obama's speech. The research also discovered that Michelle Obama used two types of male speech features, there are command and directives and also minimal responses. There was three pieces of data which include the minimal response feature found in Michelle Obama's speech. Then there was one language feature of men which was a command and directives feature found in the speech Michelle Obama. From the findings, it is prove that Michelle Obama as a woman is not unwilling to use the language features of men in her formal activities.

From the previous studies mentioned above, all of the studies use the theory of Lakoff about language features. None of them use the language features theory of Coates. Therefore, in this present research, in addition for the theory of Lakoff, the researcher will also used the theory proposed by Coates (2013) since the researcher believe that the theory

about seven language features of Coates could present explanation about the language features used by men and women with a clear depiction. Coates states that, in conversational practice, men and women typically use different approaches. Coates concentrates on seven kinds of features which usually used in conversational practice. The features are hedge, minimal responses, questions, tag question, swearing and taboo language, command and directives, and compliments (Coates, 2013, p.86). Besides of the theory used, the object of research used in the present research is different with the previous researches. The researches before used movie script, seminar speech, and short stories as the objects, where the language has been prepared well in advance. Whereas, in conducting this research, the language from natural conversation such as the television show titled Masterchef Australia will be used.

Based on the phenomenon related to language that exist in the society and considering the previous researches, in this present study, the researcher aimed to find the kinds of language features used by the male and female judges in Masterchef Australia 2021 and their intentions with using the theory about seven language features by Coates (2013).

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background presented above, the researcher formulates the questions mentioned below:

- 1.2.1. What are kinds of language features used by the male and female judges in Masterchef Australia 2021?
- 1.2.2. What are the intentions of the male and female judges in using certain language features in Masterchef Australia 2021?

1.3 Research Objectives

In accordance with the formulation of the questions, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1.3.1. To investigate the kinds of language features used by the male and female judges in Masterchef Australia 2021.
- 1.3.2. To investigate the intentions of the male and female judges in using certain language features in Masterchef Australia 2021.

1.4 Research Significance

The researcher hope that this research can provides advantages in the form of practical and theoretical significance.

- 1.4.1. For the theoretical significance, the researcher expects that this research can enrich the knowledge of linguistics research especially in language and gender analysis and sociolinguistics field. It can also be a source of information about men and women language features derived by Coates.
- 1.4.2. For the practival significance, the reseacrher expects this research can be useful and advantageous for the readers, especially for English Department students who intended to use Sociolinguistics and aspect for their future study. By having practice through this study the readers can be easier to interpret what other people intent to. It might also help the students of English Departement to understand deeper in studying the language of men and women in term of language features used in daily conversation.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Several terms need to be defined in order to avoid misconception and to understand the same concept when investigating the statement of problem as follows:

1. Men Language

The language distinction in terms of gender was mentioned by Robin Lakoff (1973). She stated that in the societies, there is an inherent difference between the language used by women and men. Men language is considered to be the actual language where women language is considered to be a derivative of the language. As stated from Lakoff (1973, p.50), it is interesting to note that men's language is more used by women, but women's language is not adopted by men. The language used by men has certain characteristics which are not commonly used by women in their talking. In term of linguistic features, men language has four feature. Those are interruptions, commands, insults, and resistance (Lakoff in Hapsari, 2014, p.27). In using language, men tend to be talking about getting things done, while women's language tend to be about making connections to other people. They also talk more about things and facts than women do. Men use language in a competitive manner that reflects their general interest to achieve and preserve status. It is in line with the claim that men language is the language that represents the characteristics of men. Those characteristics are for example, the use of non standard forms, directiveness, and the more talk about money, sports, etc (Haas, 1979, p.623).

2. Women Language

Women Language is a term which was first proposed by Robin Tolmach Lakoff (1973) in her writing under the title 'Language and Society: Language and Women's Place'. What is meant by women's language is a language that is characterized by providing the concepts that are not relevant to the real world of men. It is designed to define women's personal identity (Lakoff, 1973, p.48). Women's language is also said to be related to the features such as hedges, tag questions, rising intonation, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress (Lakoff in Murti, 2018, p.7). Women's language is the language which represents female characteristic. For example, such as emphasizing, gentle and polite in conveying their feelings rather than information about the topic (Holmes, 2001, p.284). Different from men, women tend to use different choice and frequency of lexical items, in the situations in which certain syntactic rules are performed, in intonational and other suprasegmental patterns (Lakoff, 1975, p.8). Therefore, women's language is typically reflects a preference for equality and harmony and tend to be more cooperative. Typically, women are also better communicators and discuss more about people, relationships, and feelings. When women concentrate more on speaking, they employ the language that is most commonly associated with the standard forms and over prestige forms (Archibald, J. Aronoff. O'Grady, W. & Ress-Miller, 2010).

3. Language Feature

Language features refers to the several aspect of language that people utilize when communicating with others. Language features is the features of language

that support meaning (for example, vocabulary, punctuation, sentence structure, noun group or phrase, and figurative language). Choices in language features and structures of the text together define a type of text and shape its meaning. It is used to communicate content and information effectively. These choices are vary according to the purpose of a text, its audience and mode or medium of production. In term of kinds, some linguists have different classifications. According to Coates (2013, p.86), language features which commonly used by people in the conversation are minimal responses, questions, hedges, tag questions, commands and directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments. While, Lakoff focuses on the linguistic features used by women, she mentioned ten language features of women's language such as rising intonation, hedges, tag questions, precise color terms, empty adjectives, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress (Lakoff in Murti, 2018, p.7).

4. Masterchef Australia 2021

Masterchef Australia is a competitive cooking reality show from Australia which based on the original British Masterchef. It is produced by Australian production companies, Endemol Shine Australia and aired on Network 10. It airs five times a week from Sunday to Thursday. It was first released on April 27, 2009 and broadcast a new season every year. Until 2021, Masterchef Australia has reached the thirteenth season. The thirteenth season of the Australian cooking show Masterchef Australia first premiered on April 19, 2021 on Network 10. Andy Allen,

Melissa Leong, and Jock Zonfrillo attended the show as judges for Masterchef Australia 2021.

