

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. They are background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an important thing in human life. It cannot be separated from humans because they always use language to communicate with others. Communication can occur both verbally and non-verbally, such as by signs, symbols, writings, gestures that can be used to express feeling and thoughts.

Language can be obtained since new born period until infancy period. This period is commonly known as language acquisition stage which is in psycholinguistics field. In this stage, babies usually hear sounds of language from people around them at very young age. Then, they begin to acquire their first language.

In learning first language, for example, for children who are born in English-speaking countries and taught English by people around them, English is their first language. In the first year of life, they will listen carefully to people who are talking around them, especially from parents who usually are the closest people to them. However, they hear sounds not only from their parents, but also

from other people around them. Those sounds will be the foundation for children to produce sounds and then to learn language to communicate with other people.

Adults and even older children use a particular speech style to talk to younger children that has distinctive characteristics with standard speech which has been termed as 'parentese', 'motherese' or child-directed speech (CDS) (Singh, Morgan & Best, 1978). Without they realize it, mother, father, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, uncle, aunty, caregiver or even older children use parentese when talking to younger children. People keep talking parentese to young children because they still cannot understand the complete linguistic contents addressed to them.

In this parentese study, the writer analyzes parentese in English used not only by the parents, but also other people who even are not parents when talking to children. The writer would like to describe parentese that people usually use when talking to children to be introduced to the readers, especially, they who do not know about it.

By this study, the writer intends to show that parentese is necessary to learn because it is a unique speech and has several functions that might facilitate children's language acquisition. It can be seen from the characteristics of parentese that differs from standard speech which is commonly known as adult-directed speech. Also, the writer would like to show whether parentese may serves special functions in interaction among people and children since most of people tend to use parentese when talking to children and children also prefer to hear parentese speech than other speech (Fernald, 1985). Moreover, it is the precise

time to teach children to begin their first language acquisition by talking parentese speech.

Nanny 911 is a reality show from United States. This reality show is loosely based on the British TV program, *Little Angels*. It tells about the American families that have problems to manage their children, so they call *Nanny 911* to solve their problems. It has four seasons that consist of 51 episodes. The writer chose Delaney family which is 26th episode in season 2 that was published on March 10th, 2006. The members of Delaney family are Janice, the mother, and Kerry, the father. They have a three-year-old girl named Julia and an eighteen-month-old girl named Zoey. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanny_911). This episode was chosen because this study concerns about speech directed to young children that usually the most prominent characteristics of parentese mostly found in talking to younger children who are still in process of learning their native language and this family has a girl who could be the right choice to analyze the speech directed to her.

Nanny 911 was chosen because this program contains the interactions between parents with their children. Moreover, this program is created to help parents in controlling their children's bad behavior that can educate people who watch this program when regulating children's behavior. In their interaction, parents and nanny have the dominant utterances addressed to children which provide examples of parentese that will be analyzed in this study. While the children have dominant responses that they tend to do action rather than speaking.

Moreover, because it is a reality show, so the conversations of this program are reality.

Another reason is that it is a famous program in America that have many viewers and good ratings. It can be proven from the episodes of this program that has four seasons which has been aired since 2004 until 2009. So, it means that there are many requests to extend the episodes of this program from the viewers. It is also an educated program that can help many people in controlling their children's behavior. Besides, *Nanny 911* has been broadcasted or adapted in many countries, included in Indonesia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanny_911). In addition, the writer only focuses on the utterances which contain of parentese speech produced by characters when talking to Zoey, a child character, in Delaney family episode.

There is a related study that has been conducted by other writer. It is conducted by Fernald in 1985. She analyses speech directed to children which uses a term of motherese specifically based on prosodic aspects. Moreover, in conducting her analysis, she takes the data from 48 infants by direct observation. So, the difference between Fernald's studies with this study are the writer analyses speech directed to children in the term of parentese and takes the data from people's utterances when talking to children in Delaney family episode of *Nanny 911* reality show.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Through this research, the writer emerges these following questions:

1. What are the characteristics of parentese found in *Nanny 911* reality show episode Delaney family?
2. What are the functions of parentese used in *Nanny 911* reality show episode Delaney family?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the statements of the problem, the purposes of the study are:

1. To describe the characteristics of parentese found in *Nanny 911* reality show episode Delaney family.
2. To explain the functions of parentese used in *Nanny 911* reality show episode Delaney family.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significances of this study are to give some contributions both theoretically and practically on the field of psycholinguistics particularly on the analysis of parentese.

Theoretically, this study is expected to give understanding about parentese and further information about the characteristics of parentese. This study is also expected to enrich the readers' knowledge about the functions of parentese when talking to children, in the case "Delaney family episode of *Nanny 911*" reality show. Besides, it can be a reference to help other writers who want to conduct similar research. Furthermore, practically, the result of this study hopefully can help the readers to get further information about parentese, so it can be used when

having daily interactions with children because it has good functions for both people who talk to children and even for the children.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study deals with Psycholinguistics field in the theory of parentese which only focuses on non-prosodic aspects. It covers the theory of characteristics of parentese based on Steinberg et al, (2001) and the functions of parentese proposed by Fernald (1989). The limitation of this study is the parentese speech in Delaney family episode of *Nanny 911* reality show that is addressed to Zoey, an eighteen-month-old child.