

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background and academic rationale of conducting the study which gives the reasons of choosing this topic. Based on the background of the study, it also determines the research questions and objectives of the study which should be closely related to the research questions. This chapter also explains significances of the study which provide contributions of the study for theoretical and practical aspects. It informs and convinces the readers that the study is worth to do. Moreover, another part is giving a limitation of the study to be conducted which are elaborated in details in sub-chapter of scope of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

In daily life, language has significant role for people to communicate with each other. It is because language is a tool of communication, and then people cannot be separated with language. According to Wardaugh (2002:3) language is a system of arbitrary verbal symbol which is used by the members of a speech community a mean of communication to interact and express their ideas, feeling and thoughts. The statement means that language has important role in social life for communication. People can express their opinion, idea, feeling, suggestion, and give advice or statement or others in order to make an easier communication to each other.

There are two types of language that are used by people for communication, they are spoken and written language. A spoken language is a way of communication which is formed in the sound, such as conversation, speech, debate and etc. While written language is an utterance which is formed in the written form, such as letter, journals, article and etc. Basically, both of them have the same function to interact with someone else, but the difference is only the form of communication. The success of the communication is depends on the organization of the utterances or sentences.

In using language, people should organize word by word become a good sentence. The words are carefully chosen and designed with good linguistic tools to make the texts good to both the hearers and the readers. One of the linguistic devices which have a role of the language is a discourse marker. The discourse marker cannot be separated from a language. It is because discourse marker has a significance role in the language to help people organizing the sentence. In other words, people use discourse marker to associate, coordinate, and manage to convey what they say or write.

According to Schifffrin (1987), discourse markers are linguistic elements that index different relations and coherence between units of talk. In the communication, sometimes the speaker and the hearer use marked or connective for connections among the unit of discourse. The form of discourse markers are words and phrases used in speaking and writing to signpost discourse. In other words, the discourse markers are also found in the spoken and written interaction. By using discourse markers, it will help people bring their thoughts together clearly.

This study is set out to explore one discourse marker in spoken discourse, namely *like*. It is because *like* has recently gained considerable importance in spoken practices, has nowadays become one of the most frequent discourse particles in spoken communication with up to one occurrence of *like* every twenty words in spontaneous speech (Tagliamonte, 2005). Also based on Gabrys's (2016), *like* as a discourse marker turns out to be extremely useful in oral discourse which has the wide range of pragmatic functions it fulfills. From those statements show that discourse marker *like* is frequently used in spoken practices, such as in casual conversation, speeches, story telling, etc. Consequently, this research studies about discourse marker used in spoken discourse, i.e. discourse marker *like*.

Discourse marker *like* is one of the most multifunctional discourse markers (Gabrys, 2016). From the statement, discourse marker *like* does not only have one function, but also have several functions. It is the uniqueness of *like* as discourse marker compared with others. Müller (2005) also provides a comprehensive account of the functions fulfilled by *like* as a discourse marker. There are six functions of discourse marker *like* in spoken interaction. In addition, Paltridge (2012) also describes the position of discourse marker. It can be at the initial, middle or end of an utterance. *Like* as discourse marker also can be used by speaker or writer at the the initial, middle or end of their utterance. The syntactic position also can identify the function of discourse marker *like*. It can be seen from the result of this study that the effect of syntactic position related to its functions of discourse marker *like*. Consequently, this current study also analyzes the position of *like* as discourse marker used by presidential candidates.

The use of discourse marker *like* in spoken discourse can be seen through the debate. Consequently, this study analyzes the use of discourse marker *like* by speakers in debate as spoken interaction. The U.S Presidential Debate 2020 was chosen by researcher for this study. The debate becomes trending news for the United States of America in this years. The debate showed the power of the candidates for the next president of America. It can be seen from the way the speakers or the candidates used discourse marker *like* in their utterances.

The U.S Presidential Debate 2020 is a debate of presidential candidates from Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Bidden. It will be the 59th quadrennial presidential election. During presidential election campaigns in the United States of America, it has become customary for the Republican and Democratic Party candidates to engage in a debate. The debate was conducted twice. However, this study only chooses the first debate to be analyzed in particular the use discourse marker *like* by the presidential candidates. The first debate took place on September 29, 2020 in Cleveland, Ohio. The debate was moderated by Fox News host Chris Wallace and it runs for 90 minutes. In 90 minutes, the debate discussed about Mr. Trump's and Mr. Biden's records, the Supreme Court, the Coronavirus pandemic, the economy, race and violence in cities and the integrity of the election. Those have 15 minutes to discuss each topic. It shows that the candidates have many chances to talk when the host give time to them. As a result, in the first debate consists of many discourse marker *like* when the presidential candidates talked. So, it can be a reason of the writer to analyze of discourse marker *like* in the first U.S Presidential Debate.

There are similar studies about the use of discourse marker *like* were previously conducted by some researchers such as Amador Moreno (2012), Huang (2011), Diskin (2017), Fuller (2003), and Lilleås Sandal (2016). There is similarity between those studies and this current study. Those studies analyzed discourse marker *like* and they can be references of this study. From the background of the study and previous studies conducted, therefore, this study is worth to be conducted.

1.2 Statement of Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, this study is intended to answer the following questions:

1. What are the functions of discourse marker *like* used by presidential candidates?
2. How are the syntactic positions of discourse marker *like* related to its functions in the presidential debate?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the statement of the research problem above, the objectives of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To explain the functions of discourse marker *like* used by presidential candidates.
2. To explain the syntactic positions of discourse marker *like* related to its functions in the presidential debate.

1.4 Significance of The Study

The result of this study is expected to offer both theoretical and practical significances. Theoretically, the result of this research can give contribution and information in linguistic research to the readers about the use of discourse marker *like* by presidential candidates. While practically, the result of this study can be used as reference for readers who want to conduct a research about discourse markers, especially about the use discourse marker *like*.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is in the Discourse Analysis field, which focuses on the discourse markers. It discusses the use of discourse marker *like* by presidential candidates. This study analyzes the utterances of presidential candidates between Donald Trump and Joe Bidden. The limitation of this study is the use of discourse marker *like* by presidential candidates, based on theory of Müller (2005) and the syntactic position of discourse marker proposed by Paltridge (2012).