

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study which involves the following points: background of the study, statements of research problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Each of sub chapter conveys different information which is important to be explained.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every individual has his/her own speech characteristics called idiolect. Coulthard and Johnson (2010) argue that idiolect is a variety of language developed by individual speaker as his/her speech characteristics which is slightly different usages in pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and style. In addition, idiolects of speaker's idiosyncrasies are more closely related to linguistics systems. In the other word, speaker's speech characteristics are not only based on the use of a few idiosyncratic phrases but also involve a wide range of core of linguistics systems (Barlow, 2013).

Take for example, the use of stereotypical expression "*You Know*" as speaker's characteristics and habitual in spoken language. Stereotypical expressions are not completely categorized as speaker's specific characteristics, however the frequent use of stereotypical expressions are indicated as habitual of speaker's speech which is sometimes influenced by aspect of several region,

social, and multilingual varieties. Based on the theory of idiolect, the existence of idiolect is evidenced by consistency and distinctiveness the use of own speech characteristics.

Nowadays, the important thing of the speaker speech is not only about confidence considered as believable, accurate, and knowledgeable speaker but also creating great speech characteristics. Moreover, the number of articles mentions that every speaker produces his/her own idiolect which has dramatically risen in the headlines since 2009 (Khoury, 2017). Therefore, the writer chooses the study about idiolect which is not just a social issue being discussed, however it can be part of speaker speech adhering tightly in an individual speech as his/her own idiolect. Therefore, every speaker can be free to choose his/her the colors of voice, choice of words, language style, sentence order, etc. (Coulmas, 1997).

The study about idiolect is interesting however it is still limited. The writer previously found the study related to idiolect analysis based on core of linguistics systems and not on peripheral idiosyncrasies. The study was conducted by Barlow (2013), the study examined idiolect used by five white house press secretaries. In addition, five white house press secretary's idiolect focused on lexical or syntactical characteristics by using bigram and trigram. As the result of his study, the most frequent bigram "of the" could be an indicator of different preferences in the use of constructions used by different speakers especially five white house press secretaries.

This study examines the characteristics of idiolect such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and style by using the theory proposed by Coulthard and Johnson (2010) which is different from the previous study that only concerned on the lexical and syntax. Moreover, it explains the factors that influence idiolect to happen in *Oprah Winfrey Show* by using the theory proposed by Coulthard and Johnson (2010) those are family, age, regional, and occupation.

An American TV talk show entitled *Oprah Winfrey Show* is chosen to reveal idiolect used by Oprah Winfrey and Edward Lawson as a proof every person has his/her own speech characteristics. Oprah Winfrey's idiolect was found in *Oprah Winfrey Show* aired in 1987 and 2009, while Edward Lawson's idiolect was found in *Oprah Winfrey Show* aired in 1987 and 1990. Both Oprah's and Edward's idiolect were aired twice in two episodes of *Oprah Winfrey Show* as the evidence of consistency and stability of idiolect used by them.

To sum up, the writer chooses this study because idiolect is important part of language variation indicating personal speech characteristics which distinguish him/her from other speakers. Although each speaker has his/her own idiolect, he/she can understand the use of different language uttered by others. Furthermore, an analysis of idiolects in *Oprah Winfrey Show* can indicate that every person has his/her own idiolect as the proof that speakers' speeches are never homogeneous (Barlow, 2013). Thus, the writer gives the title of this study as "*An Analysis of Idiolect in Oprah Winfrey Show*".

1.2 Statements of the Research Problems

Based on background of the study, there are two statements of research problem which can be noticed, those are:

1. What are the characteristics of idiolect found in *Oprah Winfrey Show*?
2. What factors influence idiolects to happen in *Oprah Winfrey Show*?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem, this is the major objectives of the study:

1. To explain the characteristics of idiolect found in *Oprah Winfrey Show*.
2. To explain the factors influence idiolects to happen in *Oprah Winfrey Show*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study offers some important insights into theoretical significance and practical significance. In the theoretical significance, the study is useful for other researchers who intend to analyze idiolect. Moreover, it can contribute to data sociolinguistics studies.

Practically, this study aims to build awareness among societies that a speaker has their own idiolect. Thus, when the speakers practically produce their own language style, the others must be open-minded because it is what we call as “Language Variation”. In additional, this study is important to build confidence among speakers showing their own personal speech. Then, their personal speech characteristics can be called as an individual variant of a dialect in society.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of this Study

The scope of this study is idiolect in the sociolinguistics field. The writer analyzes the characteristics and factors which influence idiolect to happen in *Oprah Winfrey Show* by using the theory proposed by Coulthard and Johnson (2010).

The writer limits the study in the utterances containing idiolect which are used by Oprah Winfrey (American Media Proprietor, Talk Show Host and Actress) and Edward C. Lawson (African American Civil Right Activist) in *Oprah Winfrey Show* to reveal their own speech characteristics or idiolect.