

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This beginning section wraps five sub-chapters of introduction. Those are background of the study, statement of research problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Gender issue is one of the most interesting issues to talk about. This is because it could not be separated from human's life. The study of gender and language can be started by investigating the way males and females differ in using language. However, there are numerous studies about language and gender in some different fields such as Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Pragmatics, Sociolinguistics, and so on. Subsequently, this study utilizes Sociolinguistics in doing the analysis.

Sociolinguistics is employed as the main field of this study in examining language and gender. This is because by using Sociolinguistics, the differences of society can be seen through the gender, age, job, and so on. As what Sumarsono (2002) in Force (2011) stated, there are some group differences socially which are caused by gender, age, and profession. As an illustration, different profession will create a group based on the job that they have. Then, that group will have their own jargon which is related to their job, such as: lawyer, technician, singer, etc. Thus, this one of linguistics field is compatible to be used as an umbrella of this

study since it will give broaden perspective on analyzing the society's effect on language.

Correspondingly, gender is used in order to know the differences of them in using language. Further, the dissimilarities between males and females in using language can be seen through several linguistic aspects, such as vocabulary, syntax, pronunciation, and intonation. In terms of pronunciation, As Shuy (1969) mentioned, most males produced “-ing” in a wrong way, but only some females did not pronounce right. Therefore, it can be inferred that female's pronunciation is better than male's. Besides, in America, when a person speaks and uses the [n] ending instead of [ŋ] ending, s/he will be considered as a part of upper-class society (Holmes, 2013).

The language which is utilized by males and females might be shaped according to their surroundings. As Holmes (2013) stated that males tend to use vernacular language to show their relation with people, while females use more of standard language to show politeness and to indicate their social class. Thus, it can be inferred that in some cases, most males tend to use vernacular language to demonstrate their relation with the addressee, while most females use standard language since most females are inclined to save their face by uttering polite words. However, this case is not always happen the same way. Somehow, people react based on the situation that they face.

Consequently, the differences of male and female in using language can be seen through the storyline of a movie. As a matter of fact, it is worth observing whether the gendered behavior in the film mirrors the language differences in

across gender lines (Schofield and Mehr, 2016). Hence, the real-life setting in society sometimes can be depicted through a storyline in a movie. The dialogues in a movie can reflect the real situation in society, as well as the setting and the characterization of particular gender (Mazidah, 2013). In this manner, a musical romantic drama movie entitled *A Star Is Born* (2018) is chosen to be analyzed. In particular, the main characters in this movie, Ally and Jack, are taken as the object of the analysis.

A Star Is Born (2018) is an American movie which was released in 05 October 2018. It is the third remake of the original 1937 film with the same title, after the 1954 and 1976. In detail, this movie tells about the love life of Ally and Jack. They are a couple who is struggling and surviving to be reputable singers in the Hollywood industry. Moreover, this movie was chosen by National Board of Review and American Film Institute as one of the Top 10 Films of 2018. It also had been nominated many times and won several categories in some prestigious awards as like the 91st Academy Awards (www.oscars.org) and the 76th Golden Globe Awards (www.goldenglobes.com). With this in mind, it shows that *A Star Is Born* (2018) is a highly appreciated movie.

A number of studies related to the differences of language use by both males and females were previously conducted by some researchers such as Ishikawa (2015), Sardabi and Afghari (2015), Dewi (2016), Dina and Ariyanti (2017), Sari (2017), and Wahyuningsih (2018). From those earlier studies, none of them utilized movie as their object of analysis. Therefore, in view of analyzing male and female in using language from different point of view, this study is

needed to be conducted. By using the high technology like movie in doing the analysis, it can help people to see male and female differences through a controlled condition. Also, it can enrich the studies which related to the language and gender comprehensively. Based on those reason, this study is decent to be done since it gives a new perspective on the study of language and gender.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Related to the background and rationale above, the study tries to investigate the following problems:

1. What are the language features of male and female's lead characters in *A Star Is Born* movie?
2. How do social factors underlie the differences of the language features used by male and female's lead characters in *A Star Is Born* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research problem above, the objectives of the study are arranged as follow:

1. To find out the features of male's and female's language which is used by lead characters in *A Star Is Born* movie?
2. To describe the social factors which underlie the differences of the language features used by male and female's lead characters in *A Star Is Born* movie.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to offer both theoretical and practical contributions. Theoretically, this study is expected to give contribution and information in linguistic research by enriching the studies which related to the language and gender differences. Practically, this research is expected to enhance knowledge and comprehension of people about male and female differences in the language use. Further, this research can be employed as the additional reference both for reader and next researchers who are eager to do similar research in the future.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is in the field of Sociolinguistics which focuses on language and gender. It identifies gender differences in the language use in spoken discourse, especially in one of the American movie entitled *A Star Is Born*. This study analyzes the utterances of the lead male and female characters in the movie, Ally Maine and Jackson Maine. Also, this study is limited on the selected conversations which contain the features of male and female differences in using language based on Lakoff (1973) and Xia (2013) that performed by main characters in the movie and the social factors proposed by Holmes (2013), to reveal the social factors which underlie the occurrence of the utterances between main characters.