

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Research

The science that deals with language and social life are sociolinguistics. Based on Wardhaugh (2015), sociolinguistics is a science that discusses how language is in human daily life as seen in social media, social norms, regulations, and laws. According to Wardhaugh (2015), society is a group of people who are members of an association that has the same goal. While language is a communication system in a group that is divided into written, spoken, and sign forms. In sociolinguistics, there is also an area that discusses language and gender.

Humans in the world are born into two sexes, namely male and female. According to Mansour Fasih, this difference can be seen in the physical differences, each of which has a distinctive body part. As in women, there are breasts and vagina, can breastfeed and give birth. Meanwhile, men have penises, beards, and mustaches, and have Adam's apples (1996). While the understanding of gender according to Jary and Jary in Salviana and Soedarwo in *Pengertian Gender dan Sosialisasi Gender*, there are two notions of gender, first, the word gender is usually used to explain between men and women based on the biological form of the body. Second, gender is more defined in terms of the division of 'masculinity and femininity' based on socially inherent attributes (2010).

In addition to the physical differences between men and women, there are also differences in the use of language. In other words, men and women each have

language characteristics. One of the most significant is the choice of vocabulary in speaking.

Language and gender are related to each other because the gender roles of women and men have differences such as differences in the choice of vocabulary when speaking, intonation, and others. This is contained in the language features proposed by Robin Lakoff (1973). Based on Ghafarpour in Syukra, language and gender focus on language variations related to gender and social norms (2018). Lakoff in Holmes stated that women were using language which reinforced their subordinate social status (1992). Language and gender between men and women differ based on the way they socialize and acculturate (Wardough, 2006). Therefore, women as the weak side in conveying their opinions when speaking, often use several language features.

According a feminist who is also a linguist, Lakoff (1973), argues that language features are part of the characteristics of women's language. Women often use language features compared to men, because women are not braver than men, weak, and not confident in expressing their opinions. Some of the language features that are often used are tag questions, lexical hedges or fillers, and rising intonations.

Based on Lakoff in *Language and Women's Place* (1973), there are ten language features possessed by women. Namely, lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonations or declarative, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words and empathic stress.

One way to study language features in women is through a movie. A movie is a play on the screen that usually depicts people's daily lives based on reality. Recently, there is a paid platform to watch a lot of movies and tv series, namely Netflix, a company that provides streaming media services. This time the author will take a well-known title from the platform to be used as research data, a movie entitled *Enola Homes*. This movie is released in September 2020.

*Enola Homes* tell the story of a 16-year-old teenager who has the same name as the film's title. Enola lives alone with her mother named Eudoria, while her father has died and her brothers always travel. One day on Enola's 16th birthday, she was left by her mother alone at home. Her mother's departure made her brothers return home to meet Enola. Enola and her brother, Sherlock, agree to find their mother. However, Sherlock disagrees with his other brother, Mycroft. Mycroft as Enola's trustee decides to send her to a girls' school to have a formal education. Feeling disturbed by her older siblings, Enola decides to run away from home. On her way to London to meet her mother, Enola meets a Viscount named Tewksbury, whom they both run away from home.

The author chooses this movie because the author wants to analyze spoken language. The results of this study will show the various features of the women's language spoken by Enola in the *Enola Holmes* movie. By knowing the features of the language, people will understand how to choose vocabulary when speaking. Therefore, the authors decided to use *Enola Holmes* as a source of data in this study. One of the language features found in this movie is emphatic stress. the example is:

- a. Enola: the first thing you need to know..."

She raises her voice as stressed at the word "first" to declare a statement to her question at the beginning of the movie.

Based on the example above, the author has found one language feature used by Enola at the opening of the movie. Therefore, the writer is interested in continuing to analyze the main character of Enola by using other language features and explaining the function of these features.

## **1.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **1.2.1 Sociolinguistics**

The science that deals with language and social life is sociolinguistics. Based on Wardhaugh (2015), sociolinguistics is a science that discusses how language is in human daily life as seen in social media, social norms, regulations, and laws. According to Wardhaugh (2015), society is a group of people who are members of an association that has the same goal. While language is a communication system in a group that is divided into written, spoken, and sign forms.

Based on Wardhaugh (1998, p. 10) One of the things that are very possible in the relationship between language and society is the social structure that influences the structure of language or human behavior.

### **1.2.2 Language and Gender**

Based on Ghafarpour in Syukra, language and gender focus on language variations related to gender and social norms (2018). Lakoff in Holmes stated that women were using language which reinforced their subordinate social

status (1992). Language and gender between men and women differ based on the way they socialize and acculturate (Wardhaugh, 2006).

Referring to Trudgill in Wardhaugh (2015) states that:

“several possible explanations for women using forms associated with the prestige standard more frequently than men. He suggests that women may be more status-conscious because they are less secure and have less well-developed social networks than men. Their social position is usually inferior to men and they are usually subordinate to them” (Wardhaugh, 2015, 208).

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that there are differences in language characteristics between men and women. Because women's status is not as strong as men's, therefore women more often use certain language features so that their words and speech are conveyed properly.

### **1.2.3 Language Features**

According to Lakoff (1973), women's language is based on the attitude of women in a society that women are marginal in life affairs, which prioritizes men. Language features are part of the women's language character proposed by Lakoff (1973). The author uses Lakoff's theory of language features to identify the language of women in the Enola Holmes movie. According to Lakoff (1973), there are ten features of women's language written in his book *Language and Women's Place*. Here are the language features:

#### **a. Lexical Hedges or Fillers**

According to Lakoff (1973), she found differences between women and men in the use of word particles, as found in the use of lexical hedges or fillers. Lexical hedges are one part of linguistic features, such as the use of the words "sort of, kind of, and possibly" and the use of meaningless pause fillers such as

"um, uh, you see, well, I mean". However, the function of fillers in a sentence does not mean only meaningless pauses but also a form of pause that is useful when the speaker is thinking while talking to the other person. Hedges are used to showing uncertainty in expressing an opinion.

#### b. Tag Question

According to Lakoff (1973) in *Language and Woman's Place*, there is a syntactic rule that is commonly used by women, at least once during a conversation, which is rarely done by men. The syntax rule is the question tag. The tag question is used between sentences that have a yes or no answer, where the question asked is a doubt and uncertainty, so the question tag user uses words like "isn't it, am I, aren't you" to make the sentence sound convincing. However, sometimes the tag question can also be used for declarative sentences that do not require an answer of approval or must be believed by other parties.

#### b. Rising Intonation on Declarative

Related to the previous syntactic rules, there is a pattern of intonation in women. Referring to Lakoff (1973) there is a strange intonation pattern in English native speakers. Which is a form of the declarative statement of a question, which makes the speaker's speech sound convincing to the other person.

#### c. Empty Adjectives

According to Lakoff (1973), there is a group of words used to convey admiration and approval among the speakers. Some words are neutral (can be used by both men and women) and some are feminine. However, usually, the

use of empty adjectives is more often used by women. Some examples of neutral words are "great, awful, and cool" while words that are usually only used by women are "adorable, charming, and cute." Women usually use empty adjectives or vocabularies that sound feminine as their expressions but are exaggerated.

d. Precise Color Terms

One of the language features that distinguish men and women is in the choice of vocabulary that describes a color. According to Lakoff (1973), men and women have lexical differences, if you imagine that they do not have differences such as in describing the color of a wall that has a purplish-pink shade, then women will call it "the wall is mauve." Meanwhile, if it is a man who describes it like that, it will sound very strange. Other color descriptions by women include "aquamarine, turquoise, and lavender."

e. Intensifiers

Lakoff said (quoted in Asri, 2018) that intensifiers are more commonly used by women. Intensifiers are used by women when they want to emphasize their statements such as the use of the words "so, very, and really."

f. Hypercorrect Grammar

According to Lakoff quoted in Holmes (2013) as saying that hypercorrect is consistent in the use of grammar, choosing the right vocabulary, and proper pronunciation. The use of hypercorrect is usually used by women to avoid abusive and vulgar language.

g. Superpolite Forms

Referring to Holmes (2013, 308) that one of the characteristics of women's language is a positive politeness device that expresses solidarity. Lakoff (1973) states that women are more comfortable using polite language than men. Superpolite is usually found in indirect request speech.

h. Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

According to Holmes (2013, 283) swear words can be used to express annoyance, anger, and offense. Usually, swear words sound unfriendly. This language feature is commonly used by men. Examples of using swear words by women are usually softer than men, such as "oh dear, oh god, oh fudge" while men usually use harsher words such as "shit, damn, hell" (Lakoff, 1973).

i. Emphatic Stress

Based on Lakoff (1973) quoted from Asri (2018, 17) women like to talk in italics and will look more feminine. Speaking in italics is one way to express uncertainty and certain statements can be a contradiction of the actual speech.

Quoted from Asri (2018) gives the following example:

"Another function of the use of italics is to strengthen an utterance. For example, using emphatic stress is to strengthen the meaning of an utterance, "it was a *BRILLIANT* performance." Another example is, "she wanted me to talk like *THIS*." In this example, the speaker means 'but I didn't want to be that kind of woman', and the italics show the contradiction." (Asri, 2018, 17).

#### 1.2.4 Functions of Women's Language Features

Holmes (2013, p. 330) identifies the function of language features proposed by Lakoff (1973) which is divided into two groups. Namely hedging devices and



boosting devices. Hedging devices indicate a lack of confidence when speaking and weaken an assertion, while boosting devices are used to strengthen opinions in speech or to intensify the force of an assertion if the other person is still unsure so that boosting advice can be an extra guarantee (Holmes, 2013). Hedging devices consist of:

- a. Lexical hedges
- b. Tag question
- c. Rising intonation on declarative
- d. Super polite form
- e. Euphemism

Boosting devices consist of:

- a. Intensifiers
- b. Stress emphatic

Holmes in her research (1990, p. 185) on epistemic modalities, believes that the theory of female language features claimed by Robin Lakoff is a linguistic device that can be used to express equality or certainty about a position.

### 1.3 Review of Previous Studies

In this section, the author will review several previous studies related to the object of this research. These studies are taken from journal articles and theses of undergraduate students which can be found on the internet and in university repositories in Indonesia.

The first research is a thesis by Ega Maharani Putri (2020), in *An Analysis of Women's Linguistics Features Used by Three Hijabi Beauty Influencers on*

*YouTube*. This study aims to discuss the women's language features used by three hijab beauty influencers, namely Dina Totkia, Amena Khan, and Manal Chinutay. In this study, the author uses three theories, namely the theory of women's language features proposed by Lakoff (1973), the function theory of the use of linguistic features proposed by Holmes (2013), and the theory of context (Holmes, 2013). The author of this study uses three stages in the analysis, namely data collection with the observational method with non-participant observation. In the data analysis stage, she used Lakoff's theory of women's language features (1973) and function theory of women's linguistics features. The last is to present the results of the research using a descriptive method. Of the ten features of women's language proposed by Lakoff (1973), the author only found seven language features used by the three influencers above, namely precise colour terms, empty adjectives, lexical hedges or fillers, intensifiers, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and empathic stress. The most frequently used women's language features are lexical hedges or fillers and intensifiers. The linguistics feature function commonly found in this research is hedging devices. Based on the conclusion of the authors of this study, language features such as lexical hedges and language feature functions of hedging devices are used because they lack confidence and uncertainty in their utterances. The strength of this study is the author presents quite complex data on each point of the women's language features that she finds. There are 20 identifying data in addition to displaying data in the form of descriptions, it also displays data in tabular form along with percentage figures from the data that has been collected. So, for anyone who reads this research, it will be easier when they want to find only part of the data. The weakness of this research is, that for other researchers like me

it is quite long to read. In my opinion, the author does not need to display the appendix again at the end of his research because the data displayed in the results are quite clear.

The second study is a journal written by Rahma Putri Ramadhani (2019). The title is "*The Correlation Language and Gender as Women's Language in the Main Characters in the Confession of a Shopaholic's Movie.*" This study focuses on the correlation of language and gender with women's language features in the main character Rebecca Bloomwood in the movie *Confession of Shopaholic*. The main objective of this research is to examine the features of female language used by the main female characters and to find the correlation between female language features and gender. The theory used in this research is the theory of female language features by Robin Lakoff. The methodology used to explain the results of the data in this study is qualitative. The data is taken from the conversations spoken in the movie by the female main character. In this study, the authors found ten women's language features, such as lexical hedges or fillers, precise colour terms, avoiding strong swear words, empty adjectives, tag questions, intensifiers, emphatic stress, hypercorrect grammar, and super polite form. The correlation between women's language features and gender found by the author in her research is because the main female character in this film often feels uncertain of her words, and lacks self-confidence. The strength of this research is the way the author presents the data. The author displays the data not only in script form but also in the form of screenshots on movie playback. This will be of interest to other researchers and could be an innovation. the weakness is the same as the research above, the author does not display the results of the data in the form of data grouping tables.

The third study is a journal written by Yosep Sanjaya (2018), entitled *The Women's Language Features in Moana Movie*. This study aims to identify the features of women's language applied by women and find the context of the situation that affects women's language, in the Moana movie. The source of data in this study is the Moana movie, which was produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios. Moana is the 56th animated film by Disney. The theory used to analyse the data is the theory proposed by Lakoff (1973). The data collection method used by the author is the documentary method and direct observation of the movie which is used as the technique of research. The method that the author used was descriptive qualitative. Of the ten types of language features proposed by Lakoff (1973), there are seven features identified by the author, namely lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite form, and emphatic stress. Quite a lot of women's language features are found in this film. Several situations affect the language of women in this film, such as the field of discourse (what?), the tenor of discourse (who), and the mode of discourse (type of language used). The strength of the results of this study is that apart from discussing the language features proposed by Lakoff (1973), it also discusses the context of the situation that affects women's language. However, the data displayed on each language feature is too little, namely, only one data per each language feature studied, and the author of this journal article also only displays three language features of the seven language features that he found in the movie that was the object of his research.

The fourth study is a thesis written by Sekar Lantik Pemikat (2018), entitled *Women Language Features of Eilis Lacey In the Brooklyn Movie Script*.

This study is the same as the research above, which aims to identify the women's language used by the character Eilis Lacey in the Brooklyn movie script. The data used by researchers in this paper is the Brooklyn movie script. The analytical method is used by the researcher in qualitative research and uses the theory of Lakoff (1973). While the data collection technique is data reduction in which the researcher reduces data that is not relevant to the research, and also data display. The research instrument is using the Human instrument which is based on experience and real situations. In her research, the author found eight women's language features used by Eilis Lacey's character in the Brooklyn movie script, namely lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, intensifiers, super polite form, emphatic stress, empty adjectives, and hypercorrect grammar. In this study, the author mentions that the character of Eilis Lacey shows insecurity and doubt in her utterance. Therefore, these characters often use the language features above, especially rising intonation. Compared to the journal articles that have been reviewed previously, this research which is a thesis shows more features of women's language. From a total of ten language features proposed by Lakoff (1973), the writer of this thesis managed to find eight language features used by Eilis Lacey's character. In addition, the author of this thesis also makes the results of the data in the form of tables, making it easier for the readers of his writings to find the data needed. The weakness of this study is that although the author displays a table of female language features used by Eilis Lacey, in the elaboration of the results of the data analysis, the author does not write down all the data results she finds and writes it down in the percentage table. This may cast doubt on other researchers who read her writings.

The last study is a journal article written by Tika Oktapiani (2017). The title is "*Women's Language Features Found in Female Characters Utterances in The Devil Wears Prada Movie.*" This study focuses on examining the women's language features used by the female characters in the film *The Devil Wears Prada* based on Lakoff's theory. In addition, the author also identifies the language functions contained in the film based on Jakobsen's theory. This research uses the descriptive qualitative method. For data collection techniques, the writer watches the film repeatedly, reads the script, and identifies the parts which are women's language features. From a total of ten language features proposed by Lakoff, in this study, the authors found 9 features of women's language features, namely lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, precious colour terms, intensifiers, super polite form, avoidance of strong swear words, and empathic stress. In his research, the writer found that intensifiers are features of female language that are used most often in this film, which is ten times. The language functions found by the researcher are expressive function, directive function, and metalinguistic function. The strength of this research is, in general, that other researchers use the theory of Language Feature Functions by Holmes, in contrast to other researchers, the authors of this study use Jakobsen's theory which suggests six language functions. The language functions are expressive, directive functions, referential functions, metalinguistic functions, poetic functions, and phatic functions. This strength can be an attraction for other researchers. However, the weakness of this study is that the author does not display the data in the form of grouped tables.

Based on the research that has been reviewed above, the writer is interested in examining the features of women's language and the function of linguistic features. The conclusion is that the above research contributes to future researchers who are also interested in examining the features of women's language. However, of course, the data sources studied must be different, but the methods used to analyse can be the same, namely using Lakoff's theory (1973) and Holmes's theory (2013).

#### **1.4 Research Question**

This study focuses on the analysis of women's language features in the utterance of the main character of the Netflix movie *Enola Holmes*, namely Enola. Related to this research, the writer focuses on the following questions:

1. What are the women's language features used by Enola Holmes in her utterances in the movie *Enola Holmes*?
2. What are the functions of language features used by Enola Holmes in her utterances in the movie *Enola Holmes*?

#### **1.5 Objectives of The Research**

According to the research questions above, the writer formulates the objectives related to the study, they are:

1. To identify and analyze the women's language features used by Enola Holmes in her utterances in the movie *Enola Holmes*.
2. To explain the function of women's language features used by Enola Holmes in her utterances in the movie *Enola Holmes*.
3. Holmes in her utterances in the movie *Enola Holmes*.

## 1.6 Scope of the Research

This research is limited to the use of women's language features used by female characters in a movie. Due to the many movies that feature women as the main characters, the author chose a film that was quite famous one year ago, and no one has researched the women's language feature in this film, namely the Enola Holmes film which aired on Netflix in September 2020. In addition to analyzing the women's language features proposed by Lakoff (1973) in the movie, the author will also identify what functions of women's language features are found in the utterances of the main character of the movie using Holmes theory (2013)

