

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is one of the important aspects of human life. Trudgill (2000, p.15) reveals that there are two aspects of language behaviour that is very important from a social point of view. They are in establishing social relationships, and the role played by language in conveying information about the speaker. However, like all aspects of human life, languages are subject to change. Languages experience the changes because of certain aspect that influences it. This influence will construct a variety of language.

In England, English has many varieties. It comes in many different regional and social varieties. It is known as the dialect. The dialect of English that has the highest social status is the dialect which is widely known as Standard English. Meanwhile, non-standard English is the dialect that is regarded as less prestige than Standard English and has different phonological, grammatical and lexical features from Standard English (Trudgill 1994, pp.1-5). These differences are influenced by several factors, it could be social or historical factors. For example, from the historical factor, Kellet (as cited in Edensor, 2009) mentions, “People from neighbouring ridings came to work in the West Riding during the Industrial Revolution. Due to this geographical history, there are more dialect features in the West Riding than in the North and East”.

England also has many dialect areas. It is divided based on the similarities and differences in speech. One of the English dialects in England that is well-known is Yorkshire dialect. The Yorkshire dialect refers to the Northern English language varieties spoken in Yorkshire. The location of Yorkshire in England can be seen from the picture below.



Figure 1. England Map (Pictures of England.com, 2001-2017)



Figure 2. Yorkshire and its Riding (East Riding of Yorkshire council, 2011).

The Yorkshire dialect is regarded as the dialect that is different from other dialects. It is not as stigmatized as other dialects. It is mentioned that Yorkshire is regarded as the most-intelligence dialect, beating Received Pronunciation. Studies have shown that Yorkshire dialect is generally popular and is associated with common sense, loyalty and reliability (Batty, 2008).

Based on this explanation, the study of Yorkshire dialect is chosen as the main discussion in this research, specifically on grammatical features of Yorkshire dialect. One of literary works that consists of the data related to this English dialect is *Yorksher Puddin'*, a collection of most popular dialect stories by John Hartley (1876). There are some features that are found in the work which are regarded as the features of non-Standard English in Yorkshire. For example, from the

grammatical features, there is a sentence in dialect which consist of subject and predicate like “tha knows...” In Standard English, the sentence means “you know...” Azar (2011, p.158) mentioned that a singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb, which is known as subject-verb agreement. However, in the sentence that is found in the work, there is no subject-verb agreement. Therefore, the work by John Hartley is suitable to be used in investigating the features of Yorkshire dialect because it contains Yorkshire dialect with its features that are relevant to this research.

Petyt (1985, p.3) mentions that Yorkshire is one of the most “identity-conscious” people within Britain. People of Yorkshire are so proud of being Yorkshiremen. This identity is called “Yorkshireness” by Marshall. Marshall (2011, p.128) reveals that one of the figures who has an important role in constructing this ‘Yorkshireness’ is the dialect writer John Hartley. Unlike the other works, the work of John Hartley is written in dialect. Through his work, he is mentioned as a key role in introducing Yorkshire culture during the Victorian and Edwardian periods. He was known as having a special insight into the lives and social conditions of the working and lower-middle classes of West Riding of Yorkshire in his works.

Written in dialect, *Yorksher Puddin’* is regarded as the work that contains more features of dialect that are written in it. This idea is also proposed by Cooper (2013, p.88) who pointed out that the Yorkshire varieties that are represented in the literary dialect data are less varied than in the dialect literature. Therefore, the

dialect literature, *Yorksher Puddin'* (1876) is chosen as a source of data for the research.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the explanation above, the following research questions are formulated:

1. What are morphological features of West Yorkshire Dialect as found in the collection of Yorkshire stories *Yorksher Puddin'*?
2. What are syntactical features of West Yorkshire dialect as found in the collection of Yorkshire stories *Yorksher Puddin'*?

1.3 Objective of the Research

There must be objectives to achieve as a research. This research is aimed at investigating the language features of Yorkshire dialect. It is, in particular, trying to identify the grammatical features of Yorkshire dialect that is found in the collection of short stories *Yorksher Puddin'* written by John Hartley (1876). It is also intended to analyze the differences of linguistics features between Yorkshire dialect and Standard English.

1.4 Scope of the Research

Language varies due to phonology, grammatical and lexical differences. Based on the identification of the problem above, this research is focused on the grammatical features of Yorkshire dialect which are found in *Yorksher Puddin'* as the main problem to be identified in this research. Not all of the stories are taken as

the source of data. For the research, the data are taken from five short stories; Frozen to Death, Pill Jim's Progress wi' John's Bunion, Moravian Knight's Entertainment, Sperrit Rappin', and Ther's a Mule i' th' Garden. Since the source of the data is in the form of written text, the research is limited only on grammatical features of the dialect. It will be difficult to investigate the phonology features because it needs the pronunciation data that is not available in the book.

1.5 Methods of the Research

1.5.1 Collecting the Data

The data are gathered by firstly, searching for the literary works that consist of Yorkshire dialect. After several works are found, it is identified which is the most suitable work for the study. The collection of dialect stories *Yorksher Puddin'* by John Hartley (1876) is chosen as the source of data. From 41 stories in the work, five stories are chosen as the sample of the population. Finally, the data are collected by reading the stories. The data were taken from the words, phrases and sentences that are written in Yorkshire dialect which are found in the stories.

1.5.2 Analyzing the Data

The analysis of grammatical features of Yorkshire dialect that is written in the work will be based on the theory described by K.M. Petyt about language variation of Yorkshire dialect. After the data are collected, the data are analyzed by firstly, categorizing the data into some groups based on the theory. The data will be analyzed based on two aspects; morphological and syntactical aspects. After the data are divided into groups, the data are translated into Standard English by

referring to Dyer (1891) for the meaning of the vocabularies. Meanwhile, the phonemic transcription are written by referring to Petyt (1985). The morphological features will be described by referring to Haspelmath (2010) while syntactical features will be referred to Wekker (1985) and Robert (2013).

1.5.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

After analyzing the data, the result of the analysis is presented descriptively in paragraphs in order to show the differences between the grammatical features of Yorkshire dialect with the Standard English. Furthermore, the number of the result of the analysis will be presented using table.

