

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

According to Wardaugh (2010 p. 335) gender is a significant component of identity. It is something people cannot avoid, it is part of the way in which societies are ordered, with each society doing that ordering differently. The research of women's language belongs to language and gender study. Language and gender is the study of how men and women speak a particular language in different ways. The differences arise from the structure of the language and also interact with other factors, for example, social class, race, culture, discourse type, group membership, etc. There is a relationship between the structures, vocabularies, and ways of using certain languages and the social roles of men and women who speak the languages. According to Qi Pan (2011) language and gender study are deals with linguistic gender differentiation reflected in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, as well as women's and men's speech interaction patterns.

Mesthrie et al (2000, p. 215) said that as man and woman do, there are differences between men and women in communication. They have their own way of using language in communication. For instance, as cited in Qi Pan (2011) in Koasati's language, there is a difference in verb form between men and women, lakawwilit for male and lakawwilic for female

which mean I am lifting it. Another example is the difference of pronouncing words. In Norwich (east England) men and women's pronunciations are different when they pronounce the initial [h]. As for the word home, women pronounce [hʒum] while men pronounce [ˈʒum]. Those varieties from men and women language represent the different characteristic of language.

Sociolinguistics has a very broad field, and it can be used to describe studying language from many different ways. Sociolinguistics is about how speakers use language and how people use it differently. The way people modifying the way they speak depending on who they are with and what the situation is. When people do this, they are drawing on their sociolinguistic knowledge, and if people change the way they speak with their interlocutor or change it because of the situation, it means they provide more sociolinguistic information that builds up the sociolinguistic knowledge in the community. Language and gender is one of the fields in sociolinguistics. According to Meyerhoff (2006, p. 201) language and gender is one of the most dynamic in sociolinguistics, because there are a lot of discussion about the pros and cons related to the differences between language and society, and also the interplay among language and different social and personal identities.

In this research, the writer chooses the conversation between Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey. The video has been downloaded on 2016, with the duration forty three minutes and eight second, taken from the youtube channel The Obama White House. This youtube channel is the

media to share the activity from the White House under the Obama era. This video is the last proper conversation which Michelle Obama hold as the First Lady because the president election in the United States was held at the end of that year which is 2016. The video is conducted by the well-known host Oprah Winfrey. Both of these figures has strong characteristic in empowering woman. It becomes one of consideration why the writer chooses women's language as objective study for this research.

The video of Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey is one of the most watched video than the other video found in the youtube channel The Obama White House, it has lot of viewers. This video is such an inspiring conversation especially for women. From the video the writer discovers language phenomenon throughout the conversation which is linguistic features as proposed by Lakoff uttered by women. In this research, the writer will analyze the linguistics features of women in the conversation between Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey found in youtube channel The Obama White House.

1.2 Research Question

This research is focuses on investigating women's linguistics features by referring to Lakoff's theory of women's language. This study is intended to answer the following questions:

1. What are the linguistics features of the language of Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey in the Conversation at the United State of Women Summit?

2. What are the functions of linguistic features of the language of Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey in the Conversation at the United State of Women Summit?

1.3 Objectives of the study

Based on the question above, this study is aim to:

1. To identify women's linguistic features of the language of Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey in the Conversation at the United State of Women Summit.
2. To explain the functions of linguistic features of the language of Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey in the Conversation at the United State of Women Summit.

1.4 Scope of the research

This research is limited to women's linguistic features by Lakoff (1975), the writer aims at identifying the women's utterances as found in the conversation between Michelle and Oprah. In addition, the writer uses theory of function of women's linguistic features by Holmes (2013). After that, the writer will explains the function of each linguistics features uttered by Michelle and Oprah in their conversation, and then the writer analyze it. By limiting the research, the writer gets easier to conduct the analysis.

1.5 Methods of the Research

In this research method the writer discusses about the method that the writer used in this research which consist of source of the data, method

of collecting the data, method of analyzing the data, and method of presenting the result of analysis.

The source of the data in this research is taken from www.youtube.com. The data is taken from youtube channel The obama white house. The data of this research is the utterances that Michelle and Oprah uttered in their conversation at the United State of Women Summit

There are several steps in collecting the data. First, the writer downloads the video from www.youtube.com. Then, the writer watch and listen to the video for several times, while watch and listen to the video the writer make the transcription and repeat the video many times to make sure whether the transcription is match with the video or not. In this analysis, transcription is one of the important things to know the accurateness of the data. And the last, the writer identifies the women's utterances which contain linguistics features by taking a note.

In analyzing the data, the writer analyzes the feature of women's language by referring to Lakoff's (1975) language and gender theory. Then the writer also explains its function as proposed by Holmes (2013). The analyzing data are taking from the conversation uttered by Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey in Conversation at the United State of Women Summit.

In presenting the result of analysis, the writer presents the data descriptively. It shows and explains women's linguistic features and its function uttered by Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey. Meanwhile the compilation of data is presented by using table. There are two tables

presented in this research. They are the percentage of women's linguistic features and the percentage of the function of women's linguistic features.

