CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Many research results discussed about women's linguistic features. Women's linguistic features are some of difference speech characteristic between men and women. Women have complicated using a language. As Lakoff (1975) said that sometimes women language shows their weakness. Woman are also claimed to have less confidence to talk than men because women are powerless. Women have to use a certain language to be accepted by their society. They sometimes use certain language to show their femininity. According to Wardhaugh (1986:304), women commonly used adjectives in their speech but only very rarely by men, example adorable, lovely, sweet and etc. Women also said to have their own vocabulary for emphasizing certain effects on them words and expressions but most men do not. Other example of language feature often used by woman as described by Hornby (1998) in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary is intensifier which is used to emphasize, amplify or downtone the meaning of the following words, for example so, very, totally and awful.

A feminist, Lakoff (1975) proposed woman's linguistic features that are characteristic of the way woman's speech. There are ten linguistic features of women's utterances. They are lexical hegdes and fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declaratives, empaty adjectives, color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect

garmmar, superpolite form, avoidance of strong swear and emphatic stress. Lakoff (1975) shifted the focus of research on gender differences to syntax, semantics and style. She suggested that woman's subordinate social status in American society is reflected in the language woman use, as well as in the language used about them. She identified a number of linguistic features which she claimed were used more often by woman than by men.

One of the ways to study about women language in communication is by looking at the movie. Movie is the reflection of the real condition in a society, because in making movie the directors always draw the real condition in a society. We can discover language phenomenon throughout the conversation because movie is the reflection of human's daily life. In this research, the writer chooses a movie as the source of data related to women language. The writer will analyze women's linguistic features that are used by Louisa, the main character of *Me Before You* Movie.

Me Before You is a 2016 American-British romantic drama film directed by Thea Sharrock. This movie is adapted by Jojo Moyes from her 2012 novel of the same name. Jojo Moyes is an English journalist and, since 2002, a romance novelist. She is one of only few authors to have twice won the Romantic Novel of the Year awarded by the Romantic Novelists Association and has been translated into eleven different languages. The film was released on June 3, 2016 in the United States, received mixed reviews and has grossed over $205 million worldwide. The movie is about a woman whose name is *Louisa Clark* (main character) must find a new job

after being laid off from a cafe. She finds work as a caregiver for *Will Traynor* (main character), a cynical former banker who was completely paralyzed by a motorcycle accident two years prior. At first, *Will* reacts coldly to her spunkiness, but they soon become friends and develop feelings for each other, even though *Louisa* has marathon-running boyfriend named *Patrick*. *Louisa* learns that *Will* has given his parents six months before they must bring him to Switzerland for <u>euthanasia</u>. *Will* cannot deal with the pain and suffering of his disability. Louisa secretly makes it her mission to change his mind and takes him on all the adventures that she can to prove that life is worth living. However, at their final trip to <u>Mauritius</u> with Will's nurse *Nathan*, *Will* confesses he intends to follow through with the euthanasia and asks for her to accompany him.

The circumstance of the movie is also why the writer decides to choose woman's language as objective study for the research. One often linguistic feature uttered by woman as seen in the movie, for example;

(a) Rising intonation on declaration, such as; *I'm a fast learner, I'm never ill.*

(b) Superpolite form, such as *Should we put them in the bag?*.

Based on the example, the writer found two women's linguistic features by Lakoff's in the movie. For those the reasons, the writer is interested in analyzing character Louisa using women's language features, proposed by Robin Lakoff framework (1975) and explain the function. The writer aims at examining women's language features, the most frequent features and the reason of using the features.