CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Language has many interrelationships with various aspects of human lives. This means that language plays a very important role in communication. To create good communication, the speaker should know the situation, the participant or addressee, and also the topic of conversation. To fulfill those requirements, language should be correlated with the Sociolinguistics, the study of the way people use language in social interactions of all kinds (Chaika, 1994:3). Sociolinguistics studies why and how people speak differently in different social contexts (Holmes, 2006). This means that Sociolinguistics concern on language in social and cultural context, how people with different social identities (e.g., gender, age, race, ethnicity, and class) speak and how their speech changes in different situations.

Different area will have different norms of speech, so that is the reason why the speakers should understand the norm and context of situation to create good communication skill, especially in using certain utterances. Politeness strategy can be used as a communication device. According to Holmes (1992:306), people will be polite if they know how to express a range of speech functions in a culturally appropriate way. There are two kinds of politeness strategy: positive and negative. Tag question is a kind of positive politeness strategy. Tag question is a question added to a declarative sentence, usually at the end, to engage the listener, verify that something has been understood, or confirm that an action is agreed. Common tags include won’t you? Wasn’t it? Don’t you?
Haven’t you? Okay? and right?. According to Lakoff in Holmes (1992:318) defines tag question as a syntactic device which may express uncertainty. But Holmes (1992:321) defines it as politeness device rather than as expressions of uncertainty. The example below may give more understanding about tag question:

Conversation in the kitchen between flat mates:

Thomas: *This isn’t Bridget’s egg beater is it?*

Michael: *No, it’s ours. We still haven’t found hers.*

(Holmes, 1992:320)

The example above is a tag question which shows uncertainty. Thomas thinks that the egg beater belongs to Bridget but he is still not sure about it. Therefore, he delivers a tag question to express his uncertainty. In general, tag question is regarded to serve a function as uncertainty which functions like the example above.

- *You’ve been there, right?*
- *Come on, Ross, you got to get back in the game here, okay?*

The first statement is an invariant tag which is used by the speaker to show her doubt about the truth of his statement, whether the second is an invariant tag which is used by the speaker to soften his order. This shows that there is no difference functions between the formal form and the invariant tag although they have different forms.

A linguist, Lakoff (1975) did some researches and pointed that women are more likely to use tag questions. If men want to express the same views, they will choose the direct way. Tag questions will make the speaker’s tone more euphemistic and modest. It also can avoid the speakers’ making mistakes and offer approaches to avoid the conflicts between speakers. Tag questions usually reflect speakers’ uncertain views and wishes to get others’ affirmation. Lakoff (1975) on “Language and Woman’s Place” explained the
deficit positions of women in language use in comparison to that of men in various ways: women are taught not to express themselves strongly, encouraged to talk in an uncertain ways, use more polite and weaker forms of directives while men’s speech is described as direct, forceful, authoritative, and confident.

From the explanations above, it can be seen that tag questions have several different functions and there is many researches that have different result about the tag question and gender. Based on the phenomena above, I consider that it is valuable to have a research about the function of tag questions used by men and women.

1.2.1 Research Questions
This study is aimed to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the functions of tag questions used by men and women’s characters in the three short stories?
2. Who most dominantly use tag questions?
3. Which tag questions mostly used by men and women?

1.3 The objective of the research
The aim of this research is to identify and analyze the use of tag questions by men and women’s characters in the three short stories by Ernest Hemingway The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber, The Snow of Kilimanjaro and The Last Good Country. However, it is also necessary to compare the quantities of tag questions and the functions of tag questions produced by men and women’s characters in the three short stories. The comparisons were made to find out who most dominantly use tag questions and which tag questions mostly used by each of them.
1.4 Scope of the Research

Sociolinguistics studies have many different angles concerning on language and its relations to the society. An aspect which is particularly interesting and still questioned is differences and similarities in men and women’s language. In this study, the writer discussed the tag questions used by men and women’s characters.

1.5 Method of the Research

This is a descriptive qualitative study of the tag questions of men and women. This research is library research that used three stories as the source of data. This research was conducted by applying the following steps: collecting and analyzing.

1.5.1 Collecting the Data

In the process of collecting the data, the writer follows several steps. First, the writer searched the source from internet and then downloaded them. After that, the writer chose 3 short stories from 72 short stories. Then, the three short stories were printed. The three short stories served as primary sources of this investigation. The main interest of this research was to examine language, not only in single-sex conversations but in cross-sex conversations. It is important that the short stories include both man and woman characters. In accordance with these criteria, the *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, *The Snow of Kilimanjaro* and *The Last Good Country* were selected.

The reasons why the short stories selected were because the others short stories in *The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway* (1987), for example, *Indian Camp*, *The Undefeated*, *Another Country*, *The Killers* and *Today is Friday*, completely lack of woman’s characters. In other ones, *The Good Lion* is no human characters at all. Short story like *A Very Short Story* is just narration or there is no conversation. Lastly, there are
short stories that contain of men and women characters but still cannot fit in the research, for example *The End of Something, The Sea Change*. This short stories are short of women characters, thus cross-sex conversations are rare. Since such conversations were crucial for this research, none of the short stories listed above were included.

The total number of all short stories which the writer chose was 69 pages. *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber* consists of 20 pages, *The Snow of Kilimanjaro* consists of 15 pages and *The Last country* consists of 34 pages. The next step, the writer read the three short stories.

1.5.2 Analyzing the data

There were some steps in analyzing the data. They are; underlines every statement that consists of tag Questions. Then, the tag Questions divided into two parts, which produced by men and produced by women. After that, every tag Questions were analyzed looked from the context of the tag occur. Next, the writer determined each tag questions into the function of tag questions based on Holmes (1992) theory. The total numbers of all tags questions used by men and women’s character compared to find out the most dominant use tag questions. Every tag question produced by men and women also compared based on the function. The comparison made to find out which tag questions mostly used by each of them in the three short stories by Ernest Hemingway.