

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Men and women are human beings who are socially and physically different. The differences between men and women are not only seen from their physical attributes but also in their speech communication. In other words, men and women speak. They have characteristics of the choice of words. Mary Crawford states the differences between men and women shape the way they talk. It is evident from their personality traits, skills, beliefs, attitudes, and goals (1995, p. 1). On the other hand, how men and women speak will be indicated in their language. They do not even use the same word when they are speaking.

The difference between men and women's language is studied in sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is a study of linguistics that is related to language and society, between that language used and the social structures in which the users of the language live. It means the language that people use can be clearly in delivery. According to (Holmes, 2013, p. 301; Trudgill, 2000, p. 64), sociolinguistics explains how people used language in their social context. Men and women used a different language so that men and women's language is different.

The way men and women talk can be seen in their gender. It means the language features used by women look different from language features used by men. Holmes states that gender is more appropriate for distinguishing people based on their socio-cultural behavior, including speech (2013, p. 159). In sociolinguistics, gender is

seen from the behavior of men and women in society. They are using a different language.

Lakoff (1975, p. 4) explained the differences in the use of language by men and women. When women in conversation, she frequently shows her linguistic features based on Lakoff's theory. According to (Lakoff 1975, p. 8-19), there are ten linguistic features of women's utterances. They are Lexical hedges and Fillers, Intensifier, Tag Questions, Rising Intonation on Declarative, Empty Adjectives, Color Terms, Hypercorrect Grammar, Superpolite forms, Avoidance of Strong Swear Words, and Emphatic Stress.

Linguistic features also indicate and reinforce women's image as a subordinate role in society since they use it more frequently than men. The reason why the writer's research linguistic features are people who know that language features have different functions and also to make it easier for people to use language. This is very interesting to research because every word in the language consists of a collection of unique meanings of features. In this research, the writer will analyze women's linguistic features and identify the functions that utterances by the guest in *Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries on Amy Schumer Interview*. The writer has been watched this video until the end, then Amy as the guest in Oprah's show to communicate with Oprah on YouTube. The writer observes that her language contains certain features that belong mainly to women, which are called women's linguistic features proposed by Lakoff's theory. From the behavior of the guest when interviewed by Oprah, she showed that the true meaning of gender, which is the language used by women will be different from the language used by men, and can be

seen from the daily behavior when they speak. It was clear from the behavior and style of language used by the guest when interviewed by Oprah. In this video, she showed the behavior that was never done by men when speaking. The guest also pointed out that the meaning of women's linguistic features is very true, seen in this video when the guest answers all questions and refutes statements from Oprah. She shows and reinforces her image as a woman on stage. It is the reason why the writer just focuses on the guest on Oprah's show. The writer found that Oprah is the most famous female in a host talk show and a female motivator that influenced America. Oprah is executive media, actress, host of talk show, and television producer (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Oprah-Winfrey>). The reason why the writer chooses Oprah is the research of data because other people influence the language that Oprah uses.

For example, from video *Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries on Amy Schumer Interview*:

1. Oprah: What's going on?  
Amy Schumer: This week was **really** tough.
2. Oprah: Did you get any advice?  
Amy Schumer: **Well**, it's not something that people have.
3. Oprah: Am I doing it right?  
Amy Schumer: Yeah, and **you know**, I'm working.

The example above is the linguistic feature in the guest utterances on YouTube. They are intensifiers and lexical hedges. For the first example, Amy uses "**really**" in her utterance as intensifier types. In the second one, Amy

uses "**well**" in her utterance as lexical hedges types, and the last Amy uses "**you know**," that can be categorized as lexical hedges too.

In *Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries on Amy Schumer Interview*, that video has already reached more than 64K subscribers and over 400K viewers on YouTube. The reason why the writer chooses YouTube as the source of data is that nowadays, YouTube is rated one of the most popular platforms that provide several audio-visual contents, such as vlog, television show, podcast, and broadcast, short film, etc.

