

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is used as media of communication by human beings in their daily social interaction. Language enables them to express their feelings, such as sorrow or happiness, and share their ideas or experiences.

The same person may speak in different ways. It depends on to whom the person talks, when, and where. As mentioned by Labov (1966), language use correlates with such social factors as social class, age, and gender. These social categories, to some extent, control individuals' linguistic behavior. Thus, in communication, one needs to consider various social factors of the counterpart because the way someone speaks reflects his social background.

The way people use language in communicating with others is called language style. The term refers to ways of speaking that are indexically linked to social groups, times, and places (Coupland, 2007, p. 2). Martin Joos (1962), in his book *The Five Clocks*, names language style with 'the clocks'. He divides the styles into five types: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate styles. The division is based on the levels of formality in spoken and written English. The degree of formality is determined by the intuition of the individuals involved in the communication.

Concerning this, Coupland (2007, p. 10) argues that formality or communicative 'carefulness' dictates a speaker's stylistic choices. Formality concerns with 'degree of precision' that subsumes various factors such as situation, social

familiarity, kinship-relationship, politeness, and seriousness. He also argues that most people are aware of the types of language styles, formality, and informality of particular linguistic variants in their language.

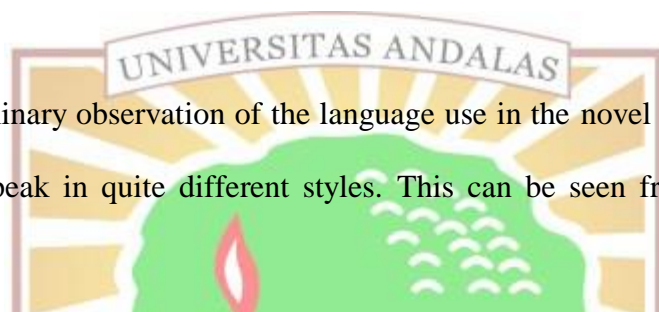
Besides formality, a person also needs to think of the social background of their counterparts. Language use correlates with social factors such as age, sex types, and education. Other social variables are social class, race and gender. These factors, to some extent, controlled individuals' linguistic behavior (Labov:1966). The relation of language use and social class of individuals in a communication is a social variable which is investigated in the present study.

Social class is a set of concepts commonly used in social and political sciences (Andrew, 2001). It centers on models of social stratification that exist in a class-based society. According to Sorokin (2005:60), social stratification is a difference in the population or society within layers in stratified class (hierarchical) (Sorokin (2005:60). People in this society are classified into a set of 'hierarchical social classifications', namely lower, middle, and upper classes people. Social class is one of the social variables that determine a speaker's word choices or language style.

The way people speak is not only found in spoken language but also in written one. Literary works, such as novels and short stories, are usually rich with different language styles. That is because literary works, to some degree, reflect the real-life situation in a particular time. Rene and Wellek (1948: 94) state that Literary work is "*a social institution that uses language as its medium.*" For this purpose, Jean Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is chosen as an object of research.

Pride and Prejudice is a romance novel. It portrays the social condition of the British people in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The society in this novel is classified into two classes: upper class and middle class. The stratification is based on the economy and lifestyle of the characters. The Darcy family belongs to the upper class while the Bennets to the middle class. This present study tried to describe that certain people uses certain language style and that they way individuals use language can reflect social classes.

A preliminary observation of the language use in the novel shows that people in the novels speak in quite different styles. This can be seen from the following dialogues:



#### **Dialogue 1**

Mr.Bennet : “If he had had any compassion for me,” cried her husband impatiently, “he would not have danced half so much! For God’s sake, say no more of his partners. Oh that he had sprained his ankle in the first dance!”.

Mrs.Bennet: “Oh! my dear, I am quite delighted with him. He is so excessively handsome! And his sisters are charming women. I never in my life saw anything more elegant than their dresses. I dare say the lace upon Mrs. Hurst’s gown!” (pg.9)

An informal language style (casual) can be seen in this dialogue. Both characters are described as people who belong to the middle class. It can be seen here that they speak differently from the way the upper-class character do. The dialogue seems to be less calm, and more exclamation marks are being used. A sentence ending in an exclamation mark represents surprise, shock, disbelief, excitement, fear and other emotional outbursts. Informally, exclamation marks may be repeated for additional emphasis ("That's great!!!"), but this practice is generally considered

unacceptable in a formal conversation. An exclamation is a construction that is mirative by virtue of its intonation. Mirativity is the linguistic encoding of the speaker's exceeded expectation or surprise towards the content of the sentence (DeLancey, 1997; Rett and Murray, 2013). In [linguistics](#), intonation is a variation in spoken [pitch](#) when used. It functioned such as indicating the attitudes and emotions of the speaker, signaling the difference between statements and questions, and between different types of questions, focusing attention on important elements of the spoken message and also helping to regulate conversational interaction (Crystal, 1975, p.11).

## Dialogue 2

Sir William : “My dear Miss Eliza, why are you not dancing? Mr. Darcy, you must allow me to present this young lady to you as a very desirable partner. You cannot refuse to dance I am sure when so much beauty is before you”

Elizabeth : “Indeed, Sir, I have not the least intention of dancing. I entreat you not to suppose that I moved this way in order to beg for a partner” (pg.18)

This is a dialogue between Sir William, who is described as someone from an upper-class family, and Elizabeth from the middle class. From this dialogue can be seen that the speaker from the middle class speaks in a way of an upper-class person. In order to gain certain social image, people often switch the language style in response to a context. Such style-shifting, according to Labov, is often referred to as responsive (produced in response to normative pressures). Style-shifting as an act of identity can be a creative process, in which speakers shape their speech to associate or disassociate themselves with specific social groups. According to Labov (1966, 1972), the selection of a given style is primarily dependent on the amount of attention

the speaker pays to what he is saying. In more formal styles he tends to be more aware of the way he speaks, and in less formal styles he does not concentrate on his linguistic performance. Furthermore, a speaker does not have an underlying style. Rather, the casual speech style that some sociolinguists consider fundamental is no more fundamental than any other style. The use of “Sir”, a very polite (formal) manner in speaking occurs in the conversation between two different characters that belong to different social classes.

### **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

As described previously, language use reflects social background of a speaker. This present study tried to language styles used by four main characters in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and how their styles reflect their social background.. Two research questions are raised here:

1. What are types of language styles used by the main characters in the novel?
2. How the main characters' language style reflect their social classes?

### **1.3. Objectives of the Research**

The research is aimed to:

1. identify and describe types of language styles used by four main characters in Jane Austen's '*Pride and Prejudice*'.
2. describe how the characters' language style reflects their social class.

### **1.4. Scope of the Research**

This research is focused on investigating the language used in the conversation among characters in Jean Austen's Novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The writer will only focus on studying the dialogues between the four main characters.



The main characters are Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Bennet, Fitzwilliam Darcy & Charles Bingley. Even though one's style in speaking may be affected by various factors, this study is limited to analyses the type of language style by the characters and the relationship between language use and the social class of the characters.

## **1.5. Method of the Research**

### **1.5.1 Source of the data**

Source data in this research was the novel entitled *Pride and Prejudice* written by Jane Austen (1813). The object of this research was the language style used by the four main characters. The reason why the writer chooses the language style of these four main characters as the data is because these four main characters are the representation of both upper and middle social class society. Elizabeth Bennet and Jane Bennet are the representation of middle class society, Fitzwilliam Darcy and Charles Bingley are the representation of the upper class society. The data were in the form of dialogues between the main characters and with different other characters.

### **1.5.2 Collecting Data**

The data of this research is limited to dialogues between four main characters which are Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Bennet, Fitzwilliam Darcy, and Charles Bingley, among them and with other characters. The writer reads the novel thoroughly to get a picture of the varieties of language used by different characters and learn the social condition of the society where the story takes place. All the dialogues spoken by the main characters in speaking between them or with other characters in the novel were used as the data source.

### 1.5.3 Analyzing Data

The methods of the data analysis are illustrated as follows:

1. The writer identified and described the language styles spoken by the main characters using the theory proposed by Martin Joos (1976).

2. The writer examined and described the relationship between language styles used by the characters with their social classes using the pragmatic identity method by referring to theories proposed by William Labov (1966).

### 1.5.4 Presenting of the Result Analysis

After analyzing the data, the result of the research is presented descriptively. The writer used the table and the explanation to find out how the use of language styles among characters in the novel, and how it reflected their social classes.

